

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

AI LITERACY FOR LOW AND NO-INCOME COMMUNITIES IN AMERICA

NATIONAL PRIORITY INITIATIVE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

America stands at a critical inflection point in the artificial intelligence revolution. While AI technologies promise unprecedented economic growth and innovation, our research reveals a dangerous and widening AI literacy gap that threatens to leave our most vulnerable communities behind.

This comprehensive initiative addresses this urgent national priority by establishing a nationwide network of AI Centers of Excellence (AICE) and AI Action Mobile Centers (AIAMC) to bring AI literacy directly to America's 38 million citizens living in poverty.

Our data-driven approach targets the states and communities with the highest poverty rates, leveraging existing infrastructure while creating new pathways for digital inclusion. This initiative will not only bridge the AI literacy gap but also create economic opportunities, strengthen national competitiveness, and ensure AI benefits are equitably distributed across all American communities.

THE CHALLENGE: AMERICA'S AI LITERACY DIVIDE

Our extensive research reveals a stark reality:

- **Geographic Concentration:** Poverty is heavily concentrated in Southern states (Mississippi: 19.6%, Louisiana: 19.0%, New Mexico: 18.2%) and urban centers (Detroit: 33.4%, Cleveland: 30.8%)
- **Digital Divide:** Approximately 20% of American households lack internet access at home, with rates as low as 67.3% among American Indian/Alaska Native populations
- **Educational Barriers:** Strong correlation between poverty and lower educational attainment, creating compounding barriers to AI literacy
- **Resource Gaps:** Significant disparities in access to AI education resources, with 76% of low-income communities lacking adequate AI literacy programs

Without immediate intervention, these disparities will widen as AI technologies accelerate, potentially creating a permanent underclass excluded from the benefits of the AI revolution.

THE SOLUTION: A NATIONAL AI LITERACY INFRASTRUCTURE

We propose establishing a nationwide network of AI Centers of Excellence (AICE) and AI Action Mobile Centers (AIAMC) supported by the U.S. Department of Education:

AI Centers of Excellence (AICE)

- **Three-Tier System:** 5-7 state-level centers, 15-20 regional centers, and 50-75 community satellites
- **Mandatory Engagement:** Structured programs for community leaders, K-12 education, HBCUs, and workforce agencies

- **State Integration:** AICE representatives on each State Education Coordination Board
- **Measurable Outcomes:** Comprehensive metrics tracking participation, skill development, and economic impact

AI Action Mobile Centers (AIAMC)

- **Mobile Deployment:** 15-20 full-service mobile centers, 30-40 community engagement units, and 50-75 rapid deployment units
- **Rural Reach:** Strategic deployment to communities distant from fixed centers
- **Accessibility Focus:** Bringing AI literacy directly to communities with transportation barriers

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Our six-month action plan provides a detailed roadmap for implementation:

Month 1: Foundation Building

- Establish project infrastructure
- Form community advisory boards
- Conduct localized needs assessments
- Develop strategic partnerships

Month 2-3: Capacity Building and Expansion

- Train community facilitators
- Develop culturally relevant resources
- Establish physical and digital access points
- Launch initial pilot programs

Month 4-5: Deepening Impact and Integration

- Scale successful approaches
- Integrate AI literacy into existing institutions
- Develop policy recommendations
- Facilitate cross-community learning

Month 6: Sustainability Planning

- Implement community ownership structures
- Create expansion strategies
- Establish long-term governance
- Develop diverse funding mechanisms

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

This initiative will deliver substantial returns on investment:

- **Workforce Development:** Training 25,000 job seekers annually with AI skills certification
- **Economic Mobility:** 15% average wage increase for program completers
- **Educational Advancement:** AI literacy components integrated into 30% of courses across disciplines
- **Community Empowerment:** 50-75 community leaders trained as AI literacy ambassadors per state annually
- **Digital Inclusion:** Significant reduction in digital access disparities in target communities

FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The initiative requires an initial federal investment through the Department of Education, with a sustainable funding model including:

- Multi-year federal appropriations
- State matching requirements
- Public-private partnerships
- Foundation grants
- Community development block grants

The phased implementation approach ensures efficient resource allocation while building toward long-term sustainability.

CONCLUSION

This initiative represents a critical investment in America's future. By ensuring AI literacy reaches our most vulnerable communities, we can prevent a new form of technological disenfranchisement while strengthening our national competitiveness in the global AI race.

The time to act is now. With proper leadership and commitment, we can ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the AI revolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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