

Before You Apply:

Before you invest time in preparing an application, please review the following checklist. Competitive applicants should be able to answer **Yes** to each question below.

1. Organization Eligibility

Organization Type

- ☐ We are one of the following eligible organization types:
 - 501(c)(3)
 - Public library
 - Federally recognized tribal organization
 - State-recognized tribal organization located in Georgia, Nebraska, or Texas

Location

- ☐ Our project serves rural communities located in **Georgia, Nebraska, or Texas**.

Rural Community

- ☐ Our project serves a community that meets the Rural AI Catalyst Fund's rural eligibility criteria:
 - The community is either located in a nonmetro county with fewer than 50,000 residents **or**
 - Located within a metro county but classified as rural (RUCA code 4 or higher)
- ☐ We have verified our community's eligibility using the RUCA lookup tool.

Organizational Capacity

- ☐ Our organization has at least three full-time employees
- ☐ Our organization has an annual operating budget of **at least \$1 million USD**

Organizational Readiness

- ☐ Our leadership is committed to implementing AI or data-enabled solutions and participating in technical assistance and peer learning opportunities offered through the Rural AI Catalyst Fund.

2. Project Eligibility

AI Component

- ☐ Our proposed project includes a meaningful use of **AI or data tools**. (The AI component should be central to the project, not simply an add-on or incidental activity.)

Examples:

- AI workforce training
- AI literacy education
- AI-powered service delivery
- AI-enabled organizational operations
- AI-supported agriculture
- AI-supported healthcare
- AI-supported education
- AI tools for small businesses

Strategic Focus Area

- ☐ Our project primarily supports at least one of the following sectors:
- Agriculture
 - Education
 - Healthcare
 - Small Business

Community Benefit

- ☐ Our project addresses a clearly identified challenge or opportunity facing rural communities.

Workforce Impact

- ☐ Our project helps prepare people or organizations for an AI-enabled economy by doing one or more of the following:
- Building AI literacy
 - Developing workforce skills
 - Increasing organizational capacity
 - Improving service delivery
 - Supporting economic opportunity

Appropriate Scale

- ☐ Our project is appropriately scoped for a grant of **\$250,000 or \$500,000** and includes realistic goals, staffing, and implementation plans.

3. Application Readiness

Before you apply, be prepared to provide the following:

- ☐ Project description
- ☐ Project budget
- ☐ One- to two-minute organizational video (this must be a produced video; shot on a camera phone is fine)
- ☐ Letters of support- required only if the applicant:
 - Is not located in the geographic area where work is being done and/or
 - Does not have demonstrated work in the community of the proposed project
- ☐ Organizational information
- ☐ Contact information for project leadership

If you answered **Yes** to all of the questions above, your organization is likely a good candidate to apply.

If you answered **No** to one or more questions, we encourage you to review the eligibility requirements carefully before you submit an application, or you can contact the Rural AI Catalyst Fund team with questions.