

Technology Modernization Fund Call for Proposals: Advancing American AI in Agencies

September 2026

Summary

The Technology Modernization Fund (TMF), working closely with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the General Service Administration's (GSA) USAi team, is seeking high-impact and shovel-ready projects that will accelerate agency adoption and implementation of current and evolving AI capabilities.

For this call, projects should do one or more of the following:

- **Prepare** agency data and infrastructure for the analytical, process, and capacity demands of applying leading-edge modern AI;
- **Pilot** specific applications of emerging AI tools or data science techniques to define or refine agency approaches and guardrails; and/or
- **Produce** modern and secure, future-enabled AI tools and solutions at agency enterprise scale

Initial Project Proposals (IPP) received **before October 20, 2026** can be considered for selection and announcement by December 11, 2026. [Start your IPP](#) as soon as possible, and contact tmfpmo@gsa.gov to ask questions or request a consultation!

Background

America's [AI Action Plan](#) notes that "transformative use of AI can help deliver the highly responsive government the American people expect and deserve." Federal agencies must continue to responsibly innovate to serve the public with greater efficiencies and provide first-rate service delivery. [Executive Order 14409. Promoting Advanced AI Innovation and Security](#), further charged agencies to more rapidly deploy AI-enabled defensive tools to enhance the security of critical government systems and infrastructure.

The pace of technological change means agencies urgently need to securely access modern AI capabilities; help staff translate program needs into code and workflows; and apply AI models and tools to high-quality, well-governed data. While the private sector has quickly developed an array of AI offerings for the public sector, many agencies' legacy technology infrastructure is not prepared to safely or optimally use those offerings.

Foundational challenges include:

- Data that isn't structured or contextualized in a way that can reliably yield meaningful, traceable, and trustworthy insight when processed by modern tools.

- Enterprise stacks (workflow, case management, payments, service, etc.) that aren't ready to handle AI agents engaging on a citizens' behalf or safely weaving AI into agency workflows – and commercial solutions that provide increased autonomy for AI to perform tasks on behalf of a human operator.
- Small agencies that have an outsized need for AI-enabled modernization (e.g., regulatory agencies, high-leverage departmental components) and similar readiness gaps to large agencies, but more limited buying power and capital flexibility.

Target projects

These challenges and developments create an urgent and important window of opportunity for agencies to improve readiness and accelerate responsible implementation. TMF is particularly interested in projects that would meaningfully transform agencies' data and capability maturity, adoption timeline, and ongoing delivery innovation – while paving a path towards deprecating legacy systems and technology debt.

Agency proposals should align with one or more of the following tracks:

Track 1: Prepare	• Enhance, refactor, or build translation layers for underlying data sets and bases • Develop tooling to ingest and process existing, syndicated, and/or new data • Upgrade core infrastructure to AI-ready capability and capacity
Track 2: Pilot	• Experiment with emerging tools or techniques – in a federal-scale delivery context (synthesized or sandboxed real-world data), applying robust and replicable guardrails and governance • Leverage unique agency datasets to support new tool development addressing common agency use cases
Track 3: Produce	• Embed generative AI in airgapped or low-risk active mission workflows – e.g., automate task routing, streamline case management, automate documentation • Adapt core products or tools for different agency use case archetypes (e.g., small independent agencies, specific functional components of programs) • Scale tooling to agency enterprise level, demonstrating best practices as well as early-stage deployment costs and challenges

The most competitive proposals will:

- Apply best and/or emerging development and modernization practices (e.g., RESTful APIs, modularization, containerization, multi-cloud architecture, skilling- or specification-led approaches)
- Strategically leverage current and emerging federal tools and practices designed to support AI adoption and broader modernization (e.g., [USAi platform](#), [cloud.gov Workshop](#), [GSA OneGov](#), [FedRAMP 20x](#), [OPM](#) and [GSA](#) technology talent programs)
- Establish agile and future-ready governance and guardrails, promoting near- and long-term innovation and security in equal measure

- Incorporate user input throughout the project lifecycle, using data to both qualify and quantify impact on federal productivity and service delivery
- Address needs and use cases shared by other agencies, developing reusable outputs that amplify our return on investment (architectural patterns, specifications, operational patterns, etc.)

Read more about [what makes a great proposal](#).

How to apply

TMF welcomes relevant proposals of all sizes from any federal agency (as defined in [5 USC 551](#)). Agencies must submit a brief [Initial Project Proposal](#) (IPP) to ombtmf@omb.eop.gov and tmf@gsa.gov by **October 20, 2026**. IPPs will be vetted by modernization and federal AI subject matter experts, and then considered by the TMF Board.

Early submission is strongly encouraged.

Read more about the rest of [the TMF process](#), including what happens after the TMF Board approves an IPP and how TMF funds and supports agencies after approved investments are announced.