

Artificial Intelligence Funders

Prospect	Alignment
Future of Life Institute	<p>Future of Life is a non-profit charity and outreach organization working to ensure that tomorrow's most powerful technologies are beneficial for humanity. With less powerful technologies such as fire, we learned to minimize risks largely by learning from mistakes. With more powerful technologies such as nuclear weapons, synthetic biology and future strong artificial intelligence, planning ahead is a better strategy than learning from mistakes, so we support research and other efforts aimed at avoiding problems in the first place.</p> <p>in 2018, the organization granted its second round of investments- \$2M in research grants in response to an open competition. This fund at Future of Life was established by Elon Musk with \$10M in 2015. In 2018, funded projects included training multiple AIs to work together and learn from humans about how to coexist, training AI to understand individual human preferences, understanding what "general" actually means, incentivizing research groups to avoid a potentially dangerous AI race, and many more. Paul Christiano from UC Berkeley was awarded \$50K.</p> <p>It is anticipated that another competition for research grants will open in 2020/2021. In the past, this grants competition focused on Artificial General Intelligence, specifically research for safe and beneficial AGI. Successful grant proposals will either relate directly to AGI issues, or clearly explain how the proposed work is a necessary stepping stone toward safe and beneficial AGI.</p>
Wellcome Trust	<p>Wellcome has partnered with think-tank Future Advocacy to produce a report in 2018: "Ethical, social and political challenges of artificial intelligence in health".</p> <p>The report outlines in detail the major ethical, social and political questions that need answers if the benefits of AI are to be shared as widely and as equitably as possible. To help answer these questions, the Humanities and Social Science department at Wellcome launched a themed Seed Awards call in 2018. These awards support researchers who are transforming great ideas into digital healthcare innovations that could have a significant impact on human health. Examples of digital technologies that Wellcome is interested in include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - intelligent: artificial intelligence and machine learning - data driven: data analytics and informatics - immersive: virtual and augmented reality - connected: internet of things (IoT), networks and sensors <p>With this new program area, Wellcome hopes to bring a cross-discipline approach to the challenge that includes ethics, advocacy, behavioural change, education and public engagement.</p> <p>The data for health programme is still in its planning stages so there won't be any funding calls in the near future. Wellcome is currently working with Hetco Design on a landscape analysis to identify and classify the key contributors – software developers and thought leaders – in this sector.</p>
Open Philanthropy Project	<p>"Potential risks from artificial intelligence " is a major area of interest to the Open Philanthropy Project.</p> <p>Past grants from OPP has been to:</p> <p>Georgetown University — Center for Security and Emerging Technology UC Berkeley — Center for Human-Compatible AI Ought — General Support GoalsRL — Workshop on Goal Specifications for Reinforcement Learning Machine Intelligence Research Institute — General Support OpenAI — General Support</p> <p>The Open Phil AI Fellowship for full-time PhD students focused on artificial intelligence or machine learning. This program supports a small group of the most promising PhD students in AI and ML who are interested in making the long-term, large-scale impacts of AI a central focus of their research. Fellows receive a \$40,000 stipend, \$10,000 in research support, and payment of tuition and fees, each year, starting in the year of their selection until the end of the 5th year of their PhD.</p>
Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence Fund	<p>Recognizing the vast potential of artificial intelligence to affect the public interest, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Omidyar Network, LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman, Hewlett Foundation, and others have formed a \$27 million fund to apply the humanities, the social sciences and other disciplines to the development of AI.</p> <p>The MIT Media Lab and the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University serve as founding academic institutions for the initiative. The fund will support a cross-section of AI ethics and governance projects and activities, both in the United States and internationally.</p> <p>The goal of the Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence Fund is to support work around the world that advances the development of ethical AI in the public interest, with an emphasis on applied research and education. The activities supported through this fund will aim to bridge the gap between the humanities and social sciences with computing by addressing the global challenges of AI from a multidisciplinary perspective—grounded in data, code, and rigorous academic analysis. In addition, the work supported by the fund will advance the public understanding of artificial intelligence and enable the creation of networks that span disciplines and topics related to artificial intelligence.</p>

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Ford Foundation	<p>Future of Work(ers) focus area seeks to leverage new technologies to create new industries, occupations, and jobs. Rather than simply replacing human labor, technology can be a boon to people with disabilities, and has the potential to help increase human productivity as well as job quality.</p> <p>To strengthen the emerging Future of Work field as a whole, Ford hopes to make connections across issues and areas of focus. With that in mind, we seek to bridge the gaps between consumers' hopes and needs, workers' experiences, changing business models, evolving technology, and political strategies, with an eye to shaping a collective agenda. By bringing together unlikely partners, we aim to seed strong coalitions that can devise powerful solutions to the challenges wrought by the changing nature of work today. We support efforts to bring together technologists, workers, researchers, policy experts, private sector leaders, and social justice advocates to leverage existing collaborations and create new ones.</p>
AI For Good Foundation	<p>The foundation applies Artificial Intelligence research for global sustainable development. Current projects are helping to advance the global sustainable development agenda — a set of goals adopted by 150 countries to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. Current projects include: Ocean Life Protector, Education, Urban Development Architect, Traffic Safety Guide, Media Bias, Corruption- Transparency in Government, Carbon Sequestration, Food Energy & Water, and Health Sleep & Nutrition</p> <p>The AI for Good Foundation addresses three principal issues that exist today, and that are preventing Artificial Intelligence from having its most beneficial impact on society.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The lack of a common vision in the AI research community, and a fragmented body of scientific work that is difficult to reproduce and build upon; 2) The absence of mechanisms and forums of communication between researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, and the public, to educate and engage on the opportunities and threats of emerging capabilities, both from a technology and socio-economic perspective; 3) The unbalanced nature of incentives and funding for Artificial Intelligence research, that end up favoring defense and military applications, at the expense of directly socially beneficial projects
Volkswagen Foundation	<p>The Artificial Intelligence and the Society of the Future initiative focuses on joint, integrative research approaches in the social sciences and the engineering sciences. The foundation looks to support projects dealing with the development of new perspectives and insights with a view to shaping the future of society as well as technology. The aim is to enable novel project constellations and interdisciplinary cooperations in a scientific and socially highly topical area through a shift in thinking towards new perspectives and solutions. An essential challenge lies in the joint development of a specific topic and the associated research issues as well as in the necessary expansion of the respective range of methods.</p>
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative	<p>While CZI does not have any official program area in AI, the organization seems to be more interested in AI-related projects in recent years.</p> <p>In 2018, CZI gave UMass Amherst a \$5.5M grant for the Computable Knowledge project. The project's goal is to create an intelligent and navigable map of scientific knowledge using a branch of artificial intelligence called "knowledge representation and reasoning." The project will make possible new ways for scientists to explore, navigate and discover potential connections between millions of new and historical scientific research articles. Once complete, the service will be accessible through Meta, a free Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) tool, and will help scientists track important discoveries, uncover patterns and deliver insights among an up-to-date collection of published scientific texts, including more than 60 million articles. CZI is building a team of artificial intelligence scientists to collaborate on the project.</p> <p>CZI is also a major supporter of AI4ALL, an Oakland-based nonprofit that opens doors to the artificial intelligence industry for underrepresented talent through education and mentorship. They nurture a global community of students who learn AI fundamentals, then apply those principles to solve society's most pressing problems in deeply innovative and ethical ways.</p>
Hewlett Foundation	<p>Hewlett supportst much of its AI work through their Cyber Initiative, which seeks to cultivate a field that develops thoughtful, multidisciplinary solutions to complex cyber challenges and catalyzes better policy outcomes for the benefit of societies. They are also a major funder of the Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence Fund.</p> <p>Here are some 2019 grants related to AI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$550K Sunbird AI, a new nonprofit organization in Uganda focused on translating artificial intelligence and data technologies into usable products for societal good in Africa. - \$1M to WeRobotics, which enables local experts in low- and middle-income countries to use drone imagery and artificial intelligence to provide high-quality data and analysis to solve humanitarian, development, environmental, and health problems locally

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<p>Microsoft</p>	<p>Microsoft has an AI for Good program which aims to provide technology, resources, and expertise to empower those working to solve humanitarian issues and create a more sustainable and accessible world.</p> <p>Within AI for Good, there are subprograms:</p> <p>AI for Earth grants support organizations who are working to solve global environmental challenges using artificial intelligence. Microsoft supports the following projects: data-labeling grants, Azure compute credit grants, and special grants (which support environmental technology projects). To date, they have awarded 435 grants to projects with impact in 71 countries. Microsoft has partnered with the Leonardo Dicaprio Foundation for this grant area.</p> <p>AI for Accessibility: Leveraging the power of AI to amplify human capability for the more than one billion people globally with a disability.</p> <p>AI for Humanitarian Action: partners with nonprofit and humanitarian organizations working to support disaster recovery, address the needs of children, protect displaced people, and promote human rights.</p> <p>AI for Cultural Change: AI empowers people and organizations dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of cultural heritage.</p>
<p>Amazon Web Services (AWS)</p>	<p>Machine Learning Research Awards (MLRA) assists faculty, PhD candidates, and graduate students with research to advance the frontiers of machine learning (ML) and its application across a wide range of problems---from finding new therapies for cancer to solving climate change and exploring outer space.</p> <p>MLRA provides eligible researchers and university programs cash awards and AWS Promotional Credits so that they can do more faster using the most advanced compute, analytics, and machine learning tools available in the cloud.</p>
<p>The RAAIS Foundation (The Research and Applied AI Summit)</p>	<p>The Foundation awards financial grants for open source AI research and projects anywhere in the world. Grants are awarded on the basis of their potential for common good impact. Each grant is for a discrete 3 month project and awards are given on a rolling basis during the year.</p> <p>In particular, we support communities that would otherwise not have a chance to participate in advancing AI.</p> <p>FIRST GRANT RECIPIENTS (2019)</p> <p>Climate Fix is a newly established non-profit research and development organisation entirely focused on using open-science to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at scale. The organisation is led by Jack Kelly, formerly of DeepMind, and Dan Travers. It operates an open and collaborative approach to engage domain experts, researchers and volunteers to collectively find scalable and practical solutions to climate change.</p> <p>OpenMined is an open-source community focused on researching, developing, and promoting tools for secure, privacy-preserving, value-aligned artificial intelligence. The organisation is led by Andrew Trask. We have created several RAAIS OpenMined Scholarships to fund full-time work on the OpenMined codebase to deliver open-source projects commissioned by United Nations, The Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, and the University of Oxford.</p>