



The AI-amplified future of work in public sector funding

AI can streamline grant processes, detect fraud, and help government leaders identify resources with greater precision and impact



Today, grants manager roles exist across multiple government domains

Here’s a small sampling of them:

Health care	Social services	Education	Research and development	Infrastructure
Disaster relief	Arts and culture	Veteran’s affairs	Public safety	Space
Defense	Treasury			

Tasks common to most grant management roles:

- Plan and issue Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Review and evaluate applications
- Detect fraud and risk
- Address applicant queries and communicate with grant recipients
- Conduct post-grant award compliance activities and evaluations to track performance outcomes

How AI and gen AI can help:

- Generate drafts of NOFO documents using simple instructions or prompts and historical NOFOs of similar characteristics
- Triage and categorize applications based on predefined criteria, reducing manual workloads
- Flag noncompliance, detect fraud, and predict risks by analyzing recipient behaviors and financial data
- Provide personalized applicant support in real time
- Analyze performance data for deeper insights

Outcomes: freed-up worker capacity and time, better applicant experience, and improved compliance

Source: Deloitte analysis.



In the future, here’s how work could evolve with the arc of change AI technology is creating

Gen AI can be a force multiplier for roles like grants manager by guiding decision-making processes and allowing human workers to concentrate on critical tasks, such as strategy and relationship building.

	AI/gen AI capability	Some examples of tasks where AI and gen AI can support grants managers
Automate	Automate routine, repetitive administrative tasks to free up capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screen and categorize applications against specific criteria• Generate automated alerts for recent policy changes that could affect grant programs
Augment	Supplement available tools and resources to increase productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use chatbots to answer questions from grant applicants and the public• Consolidate complex data into intuitive dashboards, providing real-time insights for decision-makers
Extend	Execute and expand activities humans are unable to perform at scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screen grant applications to assess strengths and weaknesses• Analyze past grant projects to identify patterns and factors contributing to success or failure
Create	Generate new content, analyses, and ideas using gen AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft personalized communication to grant recipients and applicants, including reminders and other guidance• Create research reports on broad sector trends and challenges to help identify project opportunities



This evolution provides insight into the technical and human-centric skill sets a grants manager should consider building ...

AI and tech skills

- Fact checking
- Prompt engineering
- Rule set and AI supervision
- Fraud identification and mitigation

Human-centric skills

- Relationship building
- Critical thinking
- Decision-making
- Emotional intelligence
- Situational awareness

... and what role they play in interacting with AI

AI Consumers They use AI tools in daily work to boost productivity, make data-driven decisions, and streamline tasks—all without needing deep technical expertise.	AI Builders These technical experts design, develop, and maintain robust AI solutions that meet organizational needs.	AI Pathfinders They focus on strategic implications and opportunities, fostering an AI-enabled culture by identifying new applications instead of relying on deep technical skills.
Expert: Certain members of each group have higher levels of expertise and proficiency.		
AI Ambassadors Proficient in using AI tools, they promote AI adoption within their teams, provide guidance and training, and bridge the gap between technical groups and end users.	AI Architects They design and manage complex AI projects, considering enterprisewide impacts and the integration of various systems.	AI Visionaries They set the enterprise and external strategic direction for AI initiatives, leading the organization toward innovative AI adoption.



AI-AMPLIFIED GRANTS MANAGER | REFRAMING THE ROLE

With AI changing the nature of work, what might the grants manager role look like if it were reframed?

From grants manager to innovation catalyst

From identifying complex problems that could be addressed through innovation, to then convening players working on those issues, grants managers can play an instrumental role in supporting new innovations across the research ecosystem.

From grants manager to outcomes strategist

In the future, grants managers will likely rely on AI systems to manage routine administrative tasks and processes.

They focus on taking an outcomes-driven approach by defining long-term goals, fostering partnerships, and ensuring that funding systems remain responsive to emerging challenges.



AI-AMPLIFIED GRANTS MANAGER | VIGNETTE

Putting the pieces together, what might an AI-amplified grants manager look like in action?

Site visits made easy

“Upcoming site visit on 08/24—your prep document is ready.” Erica sees the notification on her screen and clicks to launch the content. AI has already summarized compliance reports, flagged outstanding documentation, and summarized project milestones for the research lab she is visiting. She reviews the budget and financial data, now visualized as slick, easy-to-read charts. She identifies a few questions for the research team and continues her review with the AI assistant, who compiles notes and answers questions on the report content as they go. Once finished, the AI automatically generates and sends an email to the research team, reminding them of the upcoming meeting and including helpful resources on site visit procedures to help them prepare.

Thanks to this exercise, Erica feels better equipped to conduct the site visit and work with the research team to advance their project goals.



AI-AMPLIFIED GRANTS MANAGER | REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES

Here's where some of this is starting to make an impact today

NIH's use of AI in research grants

In 2022, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) introduced the Automated Referral Tool. By using data from past review cycles, this AI-driven tool assists NIH referral staff in accurately directing applications to the appropriate review branches, ensuring each submission is evaluated promptly and fairly. This innovation can streamline the grant review process, ensuring the most promising research projects receive necessary funding.

In early 2024, NIH removed 243 duplicate applications, preventing redundant funding and allowing resources to be better allocated to innovative ideas.

Sources: NIH Grants & Funding, “NIH extramural news,” accessed Aug. 18, 2025; CITI Program, “Enhancing NIH grant management operations with AI and digital technology,” Nov. 21, 2024.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is working on an AI chatbot to streamline grant search

The chatbot aims to streamline the National Science Foundation (NSF) grant search process and assist the research community in navigating NSF program websites and matching their ideas with current solicitations. By leveraging user inputs regarding their identity and research interests, the chatbot provides information on relevant grants and addresses inquiries about the application procedure.

Source: CDO Magazine, “NSF working on an AI chatbot to streamline grant processes,” May 19, 2024.



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