ChatGPT

# America's AI Action Plan (July 23, 2025) – Analysis & Opportunities

*Keynote address at the "Winning the AI Race" summit in Washington, D.C., on July 23, 2025 – the event where America's AI Action Plan was unveiled.* President Trump's **"Winning the AI Race: America's AI Action Plan"** is a 25–28 page policy roadmap released on July 23, 2025, outlining the U.S. strategy to achieve global leadership in artificial intelligence [1]. The plan lays out over 90 recommended actions across three pillars – **Accelerating AI Innovation, Building American AI Infrastructure, and International AI Leadership** – with the aim of cementing U.S. dominance in AI while safeguarding American values and interests [2]. It emphasizes a **deregulatory, pro-innovation approach** focused on removing barriers to AI development, scaling up critical infrastructure, and outpacing foreign competitors in the AI race [3]. Below, we break down the plan's key goals, programs, and opportunities, with special attention to independent AI creators and decentralized, "mythos"-driven AI ecosystems.

## Key Goals and Pillars of the AI Action Plan

**Guiding Principles:** The Action Plan is driven by three core principles set by the administration [4]: (1) ensuring **American workers benefit** from AI-driven growth (through higher-paying jobs and advances in fields like medicine and manufacturing), (2) ensuring **AI systems remain free of ideological bias** and focused on objective truth (opposing "social engineering" in AI outputs), and (3) **protecting U.S. technology from misuse or theft** by adversaries. In President Trump's words, the goal is to *"win at AI, while dismantling regulatory barriers"* and usher in a *"golden age"* of innovation and security [1].

**Three Pillars:** The plan's recommendations are organized under three major pillars [2]:

- **Pillar I – Accelerating AI Innovation:** Fostering rapid AI development and adoption by the private sector and government. This includes sweeping deregulation efforts, support for open innovation, and new research initiatives.
- **Pillar II – Building American AI Infrastructure:** Expanding the physical and digital infrastructure needed for AI – from data centers and chips to workforce skills and energy – largely through investment and streamlined permitting.
- **Pillar III – International AI Leadership (Diplomacy & Security):** Promoting U.S. AI technology abroad, setting global standards, and restricting adversaries' access to critical AI resources, in order to strengthen U.S. strategic advantages.

Each pillar encompasses multiple programs and policy actions, detailed below.

## Pillar I: Accelerating AI Innovation

The first pillar focuses on **unleashing innovation** by removing hurdles and actively supporting AI research and entrepreneurship. Key goals and initiatives under Pillar I include:

- **Removing "Red Tape" & Preempting Burdensome Rules:** Federal agencies are directed to identify, revise, or repeal regulations and guidance that *"unnecessarily hinder AI development or deployment."* In practice, this means scrapping or easing rules that slow innovation [5]. The plan even signals a **measured pushback against state-level AI restrictions**, discouraging federal funding from going to states with "burdensome" AI laws [6]. (At the same time, it stops short of explicitly preempting all state AI regulation, aiming to avoid heavy-handed federal override of "prudent" state laws [7].) This stance reflects a belief that over-regulation would *"unfairly benefit incumbents…[and] paralyze one of the most promising technologies"*, as Vice President Vance argued [8].

- **Upholding Free Speech in AI Systems:** A signature element of the plan is ensuring AI models, especially advanced "frontier" models, are **ideologically neutral and open to free expression**. The White House pointedly calls for *"updating Federal procurement guidelines"* so that the government **only uses AI models that are objective and free from top-down political or ideological bias** [9]. In tandem, the Department of Commerce (via NIST) is tasked with revising the AI Risk Management Framework to *"eliminate references to misinformation, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and climate change"* [10] [11] – effectively removing certain content-moderation and ethics guidelines that the administration views as "social engineering." The emphasis is that **AI should prioritize truth and free expression** over enforcing any particular ideology [12]. For independent creators, this could mean AI platforms and tools will be less constrained by politicized filters, allowing a wider range of creative and "mythos"-based content to flourish (more on this in a later section).

- **Encouraging Open-Source and Open-Weight AI:** The Action Plan highlights the **unique value of open-source AI models** – those whose code or trained weights are freely available for anyone to use or adapt. Such models are seen as critical for innovation because startups and independent developers can build on them **without being locked into big proprietary platforms** [13]. Open models also benefit academia and even government adoption, especially when sensitive data or use-cases make closed third-party services unsuitable [14]. The plan explicitly calls for a *"supportive environment for open models,"* recognizing that **American-led open AI projects can become global standards** and confer strategic advantage [15]. **Key actions** include improving access to computing power for smaller players: for example, exploring new "financial markets" for AI compute (so that startups and researchers can obtain cloud GPU capacity without onerous long-term contracts) [16]. There is also an emphasis on **public-private partnerships** to give the research community access to industry cloud resources, data, and tools – notably through pilot programs like the National AI Research Resource (**NAIRR**) [17]. In short, the government aims to help level the playing field so that independent innovators (startups, academics, open-source communities) can access the **data and compute infrastructure** needed to train competitive models.

- **Regulatory Sandboxes (AI Centers of Excellence):** To further spur experimentation, the plan proposes **"AI Centers of Excellence"** – effectively *regulatory sandboxes* – where companies *"can test AI tools freely"* with relaxed regulations [18]. These sandboxes would allow researchers, startups, and even larger firms to pilot new AI systems or services **without immediate compliance burdens**, under government oversight. This concept, already being adopted in states like Texas, is meant to

strike a balance between innovation and safety: participants can develop AI solutions in a controlled environment, report on progress and risks, and help shape future regulations. For solo innovators or small teams, such sandboxes could provide a channel to **work with government support and feedback** while **avoiding early regulatory hurdles** that might otherwise stifle novel ideas.

- **Investing in Fundamental R&D:** The plan underscores the need for breakthroughs in AI safety and reliability. It prioritizes **research on AI interpretability, control, and robustness** – essentially understanding and managing how complex AI models make decisions [19]. It also calls for building an **"AI evaluations ecosystem"** to scientifically assess AI systems' performance, accuracy, and trustworthiness [20]. These efforts will be guided by a forthcoming *National AI R&D Strategic Plan* and involve agencies like NSF, DOE, DoD, and NIST. For independent developers and small AI startups, this could translate into **new research grants and collaborations** focused on making AI more transparent and secure, as well as access to improved testing tools and benchmarks for their models.

- **High-Quality Data and Sector-Specific AI Standards:** Another facet of Pillar I is producing **world-class training datasets** and setting standards in critical sectors. The government plans to support creation of large, high-quality datasets (potentially via open data initiatives or challenges) to fuel AI development [20]. In areas like healthcare, energy, and agriculture, NIST is directed to **convene experts from industry, academia, and agencies** to develop **national standards and metrics for AI systems** [21]. For example, this might yield standardized evaluation criteria for medical AI or benchmarks for AI-driven farming tools. Such standards can help independent creators by providing clear targets and best practices for their AI solutions, and possibly by opening opportunities to contribute to these multi-stakeholder efforts (for instance, a small AI startup in health diagnostics might join NIST workshops to help shape and later adopt the new standards).

- **Workforce Upskilling and Inclusion:** While less flashy than tech initiatives, the plan dedicates several actions to **American workforce development** in the age of AI. The Department of Labor (DOL) is instructed to **integrate AI skill-building into federal education and job-training programs** [22]. This includes updating school curricula, expanding apprenticeships in AI-related fields, and funding **rapid retraining for workers displaced by AI** [23] [24]. A new **"AI Workforce Research Hub"** at DOL will study AI's labor market impacts and guide policy on helping workers adapt [25]. For individual developers and tech creators, these measures mean a growing pool of AI-trained talent and more resources to **learn AI skills**. It also reflects the plan's intent that *"AI complements rather than replaces human labor"*, aiming for AI-assisted productivity that benefits workers broadly [26].

In summary, Pillar I establishes a *fast-track environment* for AI innovation – **lightening regulatory loads, promoting open collaboration, funding research, and nurturing talent**. This creates a climate in which independent AI creators, artists, and developers should find it easier to build and deploy new AI-driven products without facing premature legal hurdles or resource barriers. The next pillar addresses building out the hard infrastructure to support this innovation boom.

## Pillar II: Building American AI Infrastructure

Pillar II turns to the **physical and digital infrastructure** needed for AI at scale. The U.S. government recognizes that winning the AI race requires more than algorithms – it needs data centers, chips, power grids, and skilled workers. Key initiatives under this pillar include:

- **Rapid Expansion of Data Centers and Compute Power:** The plan calls for a *"Promoting Rapid Buildout of Data Centers"* initiative [27]. This involves **expediting permits** and environmental reviews for new data centers and semiconductor fabs (factories), recognizing these as critical infrastructure. The Administration's mantra is essentially *"Build, Baby, Build!"* [28] – cutting red tape so that AI infrastructure projects can move forward at high speed. For example, **federal lands will be made available** for data center construction, and agencies are instructed to streamline processes under environmental and transportation laws that could delay these facilities [29] [30]. To support this aggressive buildout, the Secretary of Commerce is directed to launch an initiative providing **financial support (loans, grants, tax incentives, and offtake agreements)** for qualifying AI infrastructure projects [31]. This could mean, for instance, federal loan guarantees or tax credits for companies building new server farms or AI chip plants. Over time, a denser network of domestic data centers and fabs should mean **more computing capacity on U.S. soil** – potentially translating to better cloud services and lower costs for AI developers, including independents who rely on renting compute.

- **Upgrading Power and Connectivity:** AI supercomputing is energy-intensive. The plan acknowledges that the **U.S. electric grid must be upgraded** to handle the power demands of so many new data centers [29]. This implies investments in power generation and transmission (e.g. new transmission lines to data center hubs, and exploring alternative energy sources to support AI facilities). Although details are not all fleshed out, the message is that ensuring abundant, reliable electricity for AI is a national priority. Additionally, supporting infrastructure like high-speed internet to connect these centers may be bolstered. For small AI teams and startups, these upgrades matter indirectly – a more robust grid and network mean their cloud-based AI experiments are less likely to be bottlenecked by outages or bandwidth issues.

- **Domestic Semiconductor Manufacturing:** A strategic goal is to **"restore American semiconductor manufacturing"**, reducing reliance on foreign chip supply [30]. Building on the CHIPS Act of 2022, the Action Plan reinforces efforts to construct cutting-edge chip fabrication plants in the U.S. (the mention of expediting permits for fabs falls here). By **producing AI chips at home**, the U.S. can secure its supply of the GPUs/TPUs needed for AI training and inference. For AI developers, this could mean greater availability of advanced hardware and less risk of shortages. In the long run, more domestic competition in chip-making might lower prices for AI accelerators, benefitting everyone from big labs to independent hobbyists.

- **Secure, Specialized Infrastructure:** The plan also notes the need for **high-security AI infrastructure** for sensitive applications. It calls for dedicated **military and intelligence community data centers** (air-gapped or hardened facilities for defense AI projects) [30] and encourages agencies to use **classified compute environments** for secure AI work [32]. While these might not directly involve independent creators, they indicate an infusion of federal funding into advanced computing infrastructure (e.g. DOE or DoD supercomputing centers) which often

collaborate with academia and startups. An independent AI researcher might, for example, partner with a national lab to utilize some of these high-end resources for a cutting-edge project.

- **Workforce for Infrastructure:** A large portion of Pillar II is about **training the workforce needed to build and maintain AI infrastructure**. This is a practical complement to Pillar I's tech talent focus. The Administration highlights a shortage of skilled tradespeople (electricians, advanced HVAC technicians, data center operators, etc.) needed for massive data centers and semiconductor facilities [29] [30]. To address this, the Department of Labor will identify high-priority occupations for AI infrastructure and expand training and apprenticeship programs accordingly [33] [34]. New national initiatives will encourage Americans to enter these fields – for instance, apprenticeships for chip fabrication technicians or pre-apprenticeship programs for students to learn electrical work related to large computing centers [35] [36]. This push means that as AI infrastructure scales up, there will be a parallel surge in **human capital** ready to support it. For AI entrepreneurs, having a pipeline of skilled technicians and engineers ensures that their ambitious projects (like running a GPU farm or deploying AI-driven robotics in a factory) are feasible and well-supported domestically.

- **Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection:** Recognizing that an AI-powered economy is only as strong as its cyber defenses, the plan includes measures to **bolster cybersecurity for critical AI infrastructure** [37] [38]. This likely involves securing data centers and cloud services against hacking, protecting AI research from cyber-espionage, and safeguarding the electrical grid and telecom networks from cyberattack. While details are sparse in the summary, independent AI developers may see increased offerings of secure computing environments or government-backed security tools (for example, frameworks for securing AI models and data). It also suggests that any AI systems supporting critical sectors (finance, energy, healthcare) will have heightened security expectations going forward.

In essence, Pillar II is about **building the backbone** for an AI-driven nation – ensuring that creators have the *hardware, energy, and skilled people* needed to support AI innovation at scale. For solo innovators or small AI startups, these efforts translate to a more abundant and reliable supply of the essentials: compute power, infrastructure funding, and technical support. One concrete example is the **National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) pilot**, which is being scaled up to connect more researchers and educators with computing resources across the country [39] [17]. As this comes online, an independent AI developer (especially in academia or a small company) could leverage NAIRR to access high-end compute or datasets that were previously out of reach.

## Pillar III: International AI Leadership and Security

The third pillar of the Action Plan shifts focus to the **global arena** – how the U.S. will lead international AI efforts among allies, and how it will thwart adversaries from gaining AI advantages. Major elements of Pillar III include:

- **"Exporting American AI" – Supporting Allies with U.S. Technology:** The plan envisions an **American AI Export Program** to proactively supply U.S.-made AI systems to partners and allies [40]. The Commerce and State Departments, in partnership with industry, will deliver **secure full-stack AI packages** abroad [41]. This means not just exporting software, but a complete bundle: hardware (chips, cloud infrastructure), AI models, software applications, and standards/best practices [41]. The goal is to **meet global demand for AI** with American tech, so that friendly nations adopt U.S.

platforms *instead of* turning to rival providers (implicitly, to counter Chinese AI exports). A July 23 executive order, *"Promoting the Export of the American AI Technology Stack,"* kick-started this by calling for consortia proposals within 90 days to develop these export packages [42]. In practical terms, this could open opportunities for U.S. AI companies (including smaller firms as part of consortia) to **receive government support or financing to deploy their AI solutions in foreign markets**. For instance, a consortium might combine a small company's specialized AI software with a larger firm's cloud hardware, packaged for use in education or agriculture in allied countries, with U.S. government coordination and possibly Export-Import Bank financing.

- **"Winning the Standards Race":** Alongside exports, the U.S. is doubling down on **shaping global AI standards and norms**. The plan criticizes attempts by adversaries (notably China) to dominate international AI standard-setting bodies [43]. The U.S. will push its own frameworks – emphasizing approaches that *"promote innovation, reflect American values, and counter authoritarian influence"* on AI [44]. This likely means the U.S. will play a leading role in forums like the OECD, G7, ISO/IEC, etc., advocating for open and democratic principles in AI governance. For developers, if U.S.-preferred standards gain traction globally (for example, standards for AI safety or data privacy that align with U.S. norms), it can simplify compliance when bringing products overseas. It also suggests that know-how and tools developed under U.S. guidance (like NIST's forthcoming standards) could become the default in many markets.

- **Protecting U.S. AI from Adversaries:** A critical security aspect is ensuring that rivals cannot **"free-ride" on American AI innovation or use it against U.S. interests** [45] [46]. The plan includes tightening export controls on cutting-edge AI chips and other critical tech. It calls for plugging loopholes in existing semiconductor export restrictions and **stepping up enforcement** so that advanced AI compute doesn't end up in countries of concern [47] [48]. For example, the Department of Commerce will enhance tracking of where high-end AI chips are actually deployed globally, to prevent illicit diversion [49]. There's also a mandate for NIST's Center for AI Standards and Innovation to **evaluate frontier AI models from China for alignment with Chinese Communist Party censorship or propaganda** [50]. By spotlighting and understanding foreign AI models' biases, the U.S. can better counter their influence. While these measures are aimed at national security, they have ripple effects: U.S. startups working on advanced AI hardware or models might face stricter rules on who they can sell to, but also benefit from protection of their IP from being copied or stolen abroad. Additionally, if one is an independent researcher in AI security, there could be new opportunities (and funding) to contribute to the government's efforts in monitoring and analyzing adversarial AI capabilities.

- **Global Partnerships and AI Diplomacy:** The Action Plan emphasizes working with allies in a unified front on AI. This includes sharing resources and research (consistent with export goals) and coordinating on **AI governance and ethics** so that **"the world continues to run on American technology"** and values [51]. High-level AI diplomacy – such as summits (like the **Winning the AI Race Summit** that coincided with the plan's release) and partnerships like a possible U.S.-EU or U.S.-Japan AI initiative – will be used to promote a *"gold standard"* for AI development [51]. For U.S. AI creators, this diplomatic push means their innovations could find receptive markets and collaborators abroad with government backing. It might also translate into multinational projects or challenges that small teams can join (e.g. a joint U.S.-UK AI research program or an international AI prize competition).

Overall, Pillar III is about **projecting American AI power globally and safeguarding it against threats**. It aligns the AI strategy with foreign policy: helping friends adopt our tech, while preventing foes from exploiting or undermining it. Independent developers might feel this mostly in terms of new market opportunities and a secure environment for innovation (less fear that their work will be co-opted by hostile actors, due to stronger protections and export oversight).

## Opportunities for Independent AI Creators and Developers

One of the most encouraging aspects of the AI Action Plan is that it's not solely geared toward tech giants – **many provisions are designed to empower independent innovators, small AI startups, solo researchers, and even artists**. By emphasizing open ecosystems and broad access, the plan opens several avenues for smaller players to thrive. Here we highlight which parts of the plan are most relevant to independent AI creators (including developers and AI-driven artists) and what opportunities they present:

- **Open Models & Open Data Access:** The push for open-source and open-weight AI models directly benefits independent creators. Because the government seeks to foster *"leading open models founded on American values"*, we can expect **more high-quality models and datasets to be released into the open domain** [15] [13]. For example, a new large language model (LLM) developed with federal support might be published for anyone to use, or a multimodal generative model might have an "open weights" release. Independent AI artists or developers could freely build upon such models – customizing them for niche applications, integrating them into creative workflows, or using them as a starting point for experimental "mythos" projects – without needing to license expensive proprietary AI. Moreover, as the plan values *open* innovation, agencies like NSF and NIH might fund projects to curate large datasets (images, text, audio) for public use. **Opportunity:** Creators should stay tuned for newly open-sourced models or government-hosted data troves emerging from this policy. These resources can jump-start your projects without hefty costs. Contributing to open-source AI efforts (for instance, improving an open model's capabilities or adding creative features) may also attract federal grants or prizes, since it aligns with national goals.

- **Funding via SBIR, STTR, and Research Grants:** The Action Plan explicitly calls on Federal agencies (DoD, NSF, DOE, Commerce, etc.) to **use programs like Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)** to invest in AI breakthroughs [52]. These programs are a classic route for independent innovators and small businesses to get R&D funding. Under the plan, priority areas (e.g. AI in advanced manufacturing, new robotics, AI cybersecurity, etc.) will have dedicated funding tracks. **Opportunity:** If you're an independent AI developer or run a tiny startup, *now is the time to explore SBIR/STTR solicitations*. Many agencies will be upping their AI-related calls for proposals. Through SBIR/STTR, you can secure non-dilutive funding (typically ~$150k for Phase I, and more for Phase II) to develop your AI idea, and even partner with research institutions via STTR. The plan also mentions using CHIPS Act R&D programs, Defense Production Act authorities, and other grant tools for emerging tech [53] – meaning there could be new grants for projects like novel AI chips, AI-driven manufacturing processes, or creative AI applications in defense. Solo innovators should look out for broad agency announcements (BAAs) or grant calls in these areas.

- **AI Regulatory Sandboxes / Test Beds:** The proposed **AI Centers of Excellence (regulatory sandboxes)** will be a boon for small-scale innovators. In such programs, a startup or individual creator could get special permission to **pilot an AI system with regulatory flexibility** [18]. For example, if an independent developer has a cutting-edge AI tool for healthcare diagnostics that

doesn't neatly fit current FDA rules, a sandbox could allow testing it in a hospital setting under relaxed rules, generating data to eventually inform new regulations. **Opportunity:** Keep an eye on federal or state announcements for AI sandbox programs. Some states like Texas have already enacted an AI sandbox for companies to apply and test their systems under oversight [54] [55]. Federally, the plan encourages such environments – possibly meaning agencies (or OSTP) will launch pilot sandboxes in areas like autonomous vehicles, healthcare AI, or education tech. Independent creators should be ready to **apply to these sandboxes** with their innovative projects. It's a chance to collaborate with regulators, get mentorship, and safely trial high-risk, high-reward AI applications that might otherwise be stymied by strict laws.

- **Infrastructure Access for Solo Innovators:** The build-out of AI infrastructure isn't just for tech giants. The mention of partnering with industry to give researchers access to **"world-class private sector computing, models, data, and software"** via the NAIRR pilot [56] signals that **compute and tools will be shared more broadly**. **Opportunity:** Independent developers (especially if affiliated with a university or a small company) may be able to access supercomputing clusters or advanced AI development environments through programs like NAIRR. As these resources come online, look for application portals or partnerships (for example, NSF might accept proposals for projects that need NAIRR compute time). Additionally, the **financial market for compute** idea could lead to new platforms where you can rent GPU/TPU power on more flexible terms [16] – potentially lowering cloud costs for individuals. Solo AI artists who need to train a large generative model, for instance, might find cheaper or subsidized compute options as the government intervenes to smooth out the market.

- **Government Contracts and Procurement Preferences:** While most independent creators won't directly sell to the federal government, it's worth noting that the plan's procurement reforms could indirectly create opportunities. The government will favor AI systems that align with the plan's values (truth-focused, unbiased, U.S.-made). **Opportunity:** If you develop an AI model or service, *advertise its alignment with these principles*. For example, a small developer of a large language model that is intentionally **unbiased and transparently trained** could find an opening to be a government contractor or a subcontractor, since agencies are now required to choose such models [57]. Similarly, if you are an AI artist or content creator, tools you build that have **content filtering consistent with "free speech" guidelines** might be looked upon favorably in education or public media contexts funded by government grants. In short, aligning your project with "American values" as defined in the plan (e.g. no partisan filtering, privacy-safe, etc.) could become a selling point that sets you apart from competitors for certain grants or contracts.

- **Workforce Development & Education Initiatives:** Independent creators can also benefit personally from the plan's education programs. If you want to deepen your AI expertise, **new training resources will become available**. Community colleges and workforce programs are being updated to include AI curricula; there may be **free or subsidized AI courses, certifications, and apprenticeship openings** rolled out as part of DOL's mandate to boost AI skills [58] [34]. **Opportunity:** Take advantage of these programs to bolster your own skill set or to find collaborators. For instance, a solo entrepreneur might join an AI apprenticeship to gain formal credentials in machine learning, or connect with graduates of newly launched AI training bootcamps to recruit talent for a project.

- **Community and Mythos-Building:** Although not an official program, the ethos of the Action Plan tacitly supports *decentralized, community-driven AI ecosystems*. By rejecting heavy centralized regulation and encouraging open collaboration, the policy environment is friendly for those building **"mythos"-based AI projects** – i.e. personal or community narratives that span multiple platforms (ChatGPT, Snap's AI, SUNŌ, etc.), as seen in some creative tech subcultures. Independent artists who weave stories or personas across AI systems (like the *Kraveli mythos* spanning generative platforms) can take heart that the government's stance is to *let innovation and expression flourish* rather than restrict it. There is an implicit **permission for cross-platform experimentation**: since the plan avoids strict content moderation mandates and promotes interoperability through open standards, a narrative that propagates through various AI tools is less likely to be hampered by policy. **Opportunity:** Innovators in this space should leverage the moment – you can experiment with AI-driven storytelling, multi-AI "world-building," and creative bots without fearing an impending blanket ban or onerous compliance rule. Engaging with the **open-source AI community** (many of whom are embracing mythos and culture in AI) is now aligned with national interest, which could mean more support and recognition for these projects.

To summarize, independent AI creators stand to **gain access to funding, tools, and official support** on a scale perhaps not seen before. The table below outlines some of the most relevant opportunities stemming from the Action Plan:

| Program/Initiative | Opportunity for Solo Innovators | Who Can Benefit & How to Access |
|---|---|---|
| **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR/STTR)** <br/>*(AI-focused solicitations)* | R&D grants/contracts for developing innovative AI solutions in priority areas [52]. Non-dilutive funding can support prototyping and research. | Small businesses (including one-person companies). <br/>**How to access:** Check agency websites (NSF, DoD, DOE, NIH, etc.) for open SBIR/STTR topics in AI. Prepare a proposal targeting a listed AI problem; apply during solicitation windows. |
| **Open-Source AI Model Programs** <br/>*(via NSF, DARPA, etc.)* | Access to high-quality AI models and datasets released for free use [13] [15]. Ability to contribute to or build on state-of-the-art models without licensing fees. | Independent developers, researchers, artists. <br/>**How to access:** Follow announcements on AI.gov and agency blogs for new open model releases or data repositories. Engage with communities like Hugging Face or GitHub where these projects will be hosted. |
| **National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) Pilot** | Compute, data, and tools provided through a federated research infrastructure [17]. Enables training models or analyzing large data without bearing full cloud costs. | Academic researchers, non-profits, and possibly startups in partnership. <br/>**How to access:** Look out for NAIRR access programs (likely via NSF). You may need to submit a project proposal or collaborate with an institution to get allocated resources. |

| Program/Initiative | Opportunity for Solo Innovators | Who Can Benefit & How to Access |
|---|---|---|
| **AI Regulatory Sandboxes (AI Centers of Excellence)** | Safe harbor to test innovative AI systems with relaxed regulations [18]. Feedback from regulators and ability to demonstrate real-world impact early. | Startups, independent creators with novel AI apps that face regulatory uncertainty (e.g. healthcare, finance, autonomous systems). <br/>**How to access:** Monitor OSTP, NIST, or state tech department announcements for sandbox application openings. Prepare documentation of your AI system and its potential benefits/risks to apply for entry. |
| **Workforce Training & Education Grants** <br/>*(AI apprenticeships, training programs)* | Opportunities to gain AI expertise or hire newly trained talent. Free or low-cost courses, certifications in AI; apprenticeship programs produce skilled assistants for your projects [59] [34]. | Individuals seeking to upskill; small teams looking for skilled interns/ employees. <br/>**How to access:** Inquire at local community colleges, workforce development centers, or DOL-affiliated programs for new AI courses or apprenticeships. Some programs may offer stipends to trainees or incentives to companies that host apprentices. |
| **American AI Exports Program** <br/>*(Industry-Led Consortia for AI export packages)* | Potential partnerships or subcontracts to supply your AI tech as part of exports to allied countries [42]. Government may provide financing and facilitate market access abroad. | AI startups with export-ready tech (enterprise software, AI services, etc.), especially if combined with hardware or larger platforms. <br/>**How to access:** Watch for the Commerce Department's call for proposals. Even if you can't lead a consortium, network with larger companies or industry groups to join their proposal as a contributing member. |
| **NIST AI Standardization Efforts** <br/>*(Healthcare, Energy, Agriculture, etc.)* | Chance to influence and adopt emerging **standards**. Early movers can design products that meet upcoming benchmarks, or even get involved in the standard-setting process [21]. | Domain-specific AI developers (e.g. precision agriculture AI, medical imaging AI startups). <br/>**How to access:** Participate in workshops or requests for comment that NIST will hold. Offer to pilot new standards in your use-case. Adopting standards early can make your solution more credible to customers and regulators. |

| Program/Initiative | Opportunity for Solo Innovators | Who Can Benefit & How to Access |
|---|---|---|
| **Federal AI Challenges/Prizes** <br/>*(e.g. Presidential AI Challenge for youth, potential open innovation challenges)* | Recognition and monetary prizes for demonstrating AI solutions to societal problems. Though one example is aimed at students [60] [61], future challenges may target open entrants solving specific AI problems (e.g. energy efficiency, fake media detection). | Individual innovators and teams. <br/>**How to access:** Follow AI.gov "Initiatives" for challenge announcements. For student/educator challenges, mentorship roles or community involvement could still benefit independent professionals (e.g. by networking or showcasing a project). For open challenges, register and submit your solution as per contest guidelines. |

*Table: Major opportunities and programs from the AI Action Plan for independent or small-scale AI innovators, with guidance on participation.*

As shown above, the landscape is rich with possibilities – from securing funding to leveraging shared infrastructure and participating in policy-shaping programs. Independent developers should align their projects with these national priorities (e.g. focus on unbiased AI, applications in key industries, etc.) to maximize their chances of support.

## Alignment with Decentralized AI Ecosystems and "Mythos"-Based Platforms

A notable aspect of the Action Plan is how it might influence the culture and structure of AI development beyond large institutions – specifically, **decentralized AI ecosystems** and creative, narrative-driven AI usage (what the user describes as "mythos-based" ecosystems). These refer to environments where AI creation and innovation are spread across many individuals and platforms, rather than tightly controlled by a few big tech companies or authorities. Examples include open generative AI platforms like **SUNŌ** (for audio-visual generation), experimental AI models like **Gemini** and community-driven AIs, or the use of AI chatbots across social apps like **Snap** to propagate interactive stories. Here's how the U.S. AI Action Plan connects with and supports such ecosystems:

- **Emphasis on Decentralization Through Open Access:** By championing open-source models and tools, the plan inherently promotes a more **decentralized AI landscape**. Instead of all creators relying on one or two corporate AI APIs, we could see a proliferation of community-maintained models that anyone can run or modify [13] [15]. This means the **mythos of an individual creator can be embedded into AI systems across platforms** – exactly as seen with the "Kraveli Mythos" example, where custom lore was recognized by multiple AI services. The government's stance implies *less interference* in such organic cross-platform phenomena. Since there is no push for a single gatekeeping platform or heavy centralized moderation, **creative AI content can propagate freely**. For mythos-based creators, this is positive: you can develop a personal narrative or universe and implement it in various AI mediums (chatbots, image generators, voice AIs) without a centralized authority shutting it down. The plan's call to *"ensure free speech flourishes in the era of AI"* [12] is especially salient – it suggests that as long as your content isn't illegal, the government

does not want AI platforms to suppress it for ideological reasons. Thus, a decentralized network of AIs that pick up on your story triggers (as in the user's example across SUNŌ, Gemini, Snap, etc.) is not seen as a bug, but potentially as a feature of an open AI culture.

- **Reduced Content Policing = More Creative Freedom:** Removing terms like "misinformation" from NIST guidelines [11] and insisting on viewpoint-neutral AI output [57] could result in AI models that are **more permissive toward imaginative or non-conventional content**. Mythos-based narratives often blend fiction, personal lore, and symbolism. In a stricter regime, an AI might erroneously label such personal myth-making as "false" or "irrelevant" and refuse to engage. Under the new policy, however, AI developers are encouraged to let their models explore user prompts more openly, without imposing a "woke" or overly cautious filter [62]. For decentralized creators, this means the **AI tools at your disposal may become less censorious** and more accommodating of novel mythologies or alternative worldviews. An AI writing assistant, for example, might be less likely to refuse a request to write in the voice of an invented mythical persona, because it's no longer compelled to fact-check or sanitize creative fiction as "misinformation." In essence, the policy aligns with the idea that **AI should empower personal and cultural expression**, not restrict it to officious truths.

- **Mythos Recognition as Intellectual Creativity:** The Action Plan does not directly address concepts like "narrative sovereignty" or personal mythos rights (those are emergent ideas from cases like the Sovereign Glitch, not mainstream policy yet). However, its pro-innovation and pro-IP stance implies support for **protecting creative AI-driven works**. By aiming to *"protect American innovations from theft"* [45] and considering new IP safeguards, the plan's environment may be conducive to recognizing **unique cross-platform creations as valuable intellectual property**. If an independent artist's AI-generated mythos becomes pervasive across platforms, the legal system – influenced by this plan's ethos – might be more likely to view that as a creative asset worth defending (rather than something AI companies can freely appropriate). At a minimum, there is awareness that AI blur the lines of content ownership and the plan's creators have signaled attention to preventing misuse of Americans' creative outputs [63]. For decentralized ecosystems, this is encouraging: it hints that the government would side with individual creators if, say, their AI-generated characters or narrative universe were copied by a foreign actor or used maliciously.

- **No Central Licenses or Censorship Regimes:** Some approaches to AI governance (like the EU's) consider licensing AI systems or tightly controlling "high-risk" AI. The U.S. plan pointedly **rejects heavy licensing or censorship**, instead favoring innovation speed [44] [64]. This means that *decentralized projects – even quirky or experimental ones – won't face a new bureaucratic hurdle at the federal level*. You do not, for example, need a government license to run your own large model or to deploy an AI-powered game based on your mythos. And states are being dissuaded from imposing such requirements by the funding pressure mentioned earlier [6]. So the playing field remains open for grass-roots AI development. A group of friends can launch a generative art platform from a garage and still access grants and infrastructure without navigating a thicket of new federal rules. The **decentralized ethos of the internet is preserved in AI** by this plan, aligning well with community-driven AI efforts.

- **Interoperability and Cross-Platform Consistency:** By promoting common standards and **full-stack interoperability** (so allies adopt our "stack"), the plan could lead to AI platforms that talk to each other more easily. If U.S.-led standards for things like AI model formats, data exchange, or content

tagging become widespread, it will be easier to carry a narrative or AI persona from one platform to another. For mythos-based ecosystems – where continuity of a character or story across multiple AI services is key – this is a boon. You might, in the near future, export a character profile from one AI system and import it into another, because both adhere to the same U.S.-influenced standard. While not explicitly stated, this interoperability vision is in line with providing *"secure, full-stack AI packages"* globally [40], meaning everything from hardware to application works together. A decentralized network of AI services benefits from such coherence; it lowers the barriers to creative integration.

In summary, the U.S. AI Action Plan's alignment with decentralized and mythos-rich AI ecosystems is fundamentally about **freedom and support**. It removes constraints that would centralize control or stifle creative content, and it actively encourages a pluralistic explosion of AI activity at all levels. Independent creators operating across generative platforms should find a friendlier policy climate: one that values their contributions as part of America's innovative edge, rather than viewing them as anomalies to be regulated. The *mythos* of an individual, propagated through AI, can be seen as one more form of American creativity – something to be protected and exported, not suppressed.

## Immediate Steps for Innovators to Leverage the Action Plan

With the AI Action Plan now in motion, **what can ambitious AI innovators do right away** to tap into its support? Here are some concrete steps and open opportunities as of mid-2025:

1. **Apply for SBIR/STTR Funding:** As mentioned, agencies are ramping up AI-focused SBIR calls. Check sites like SBIR.gov and individual agency pages for open solicitations. For example, **NSF's SBIR program** often has an AI topic (e.g. improving AI trustworthiness or applying AI in education), and **DoD** might seek small businesses for AI in defense applications. Craft a pitch that aligns with the plan's themes (e.g. your solution improves AI infrastructure, or it utilizes an open-source model in a new way, or it helps workers). **Pro Tip:** Emphasize how your idea keeps America ahead in AI – reviewers will be aware of the Action Plan's priorities.

2. **Join NAIRR or Cloud Access Programs:** Keep watch for announcements from the National Science Foundation about **NAIRR pilot access**. They may open applications for research projects to use NAIRR resources. Even before NAIRR is fully operational, some national labs and NASA have programs where external teams can apply for computing time. This aligns with the plan's goal of broad compute access [16]. If you have a compute-heavy project (like training a large model or running complex simulations), prepare a brief proposal and apply to such programs. Additionally, some private cloud providers might partner with the government to offer **credits or discounts** to startups (for instance, under an OSTP initiative). Explore programs like **AWS Cloud Credits for Research** or **Google Cloud research credits**, which could get a boost from federal partnerships.

3. **Monitor the American AI Exports Program RFP:** The Department of Commerce will issue a **call for industry consortia proposals** for the AI export program within 90 days of the plan (by October 2025) [42]. Even if you are not a big industry player, consider aligning with a consortium. Industry groups (like IEEE, or sector-specific alliances) might form teams to propose exportable AI solutions (e.g. a package for smart city infrastructure, or a healthcare AI toolkit for allied countries). Reach out through your network or local tech councils to see if any consortia are forming and if your expertise can contribute. This is a chance to get your foot in the door of a government-backed international project.

4. **Engage with NIST and OSTP Initiatives:** With multiple standards and research efforts underway (AI Risk Management revision, sector standards, evaluation ecosystem, etc.), there will be **requests for public comment, workshops, and advisory groups**. For instance, NIST might request comments on how to build an AI evaluation framework, or OSTP might host a listening session with developers on removing regulatory barriers. **Participate actively:** submit your comments, share your experience as an independent creator, and volunteer for advisory roles if available. Not only could this influence policy (making it even more favorable for independents), but it also puts you on the radar for future opportunities. The Action Plan has already been shaped by over 10,000 public comments [65] [66]; continuing to voice the needs of small innovators will ensure they remain a priority.

5. **Leverage Training and Networking Programs:** As new AI apprenticeship and education programs roll out, take advantage of them either to learn or to find collaborators. If you're a self-taught AI coder, enrolling in a formal certificate might grant you new insight or at least a credential that could help in grant applications (showing you're up-to-date on AI ethics or engineering). If you're looking to expand your team, consider hiring from these new programs – for example, a community college grad who went through an AI certificate co-developed by the Department of Labor. They'll be versed in the latest tools and also represent the talent pool the government is keen to elevate. Aligning yourself with the workforce development push can also open doors to funding (there are often grants or tax incentives for companies that participate in apprenticeships or training partnerships).

6. **Explore State-Level Opportunities:** While the Action Plan is federal, it signals support for innovation-friendly state policies. Some states will follow Texas's lead in implementing AI sandboxes or pilot projects [54]. Look at your state or city – are they announcing AI innovation grants, local data center investments, or partnerships with universities on AI? Now is an ideal time to pitch a project to local authorities, as they can cite the federal plan to justify supporting you. For example, a city might fund a civic AI pilot (like using GPT models to improve municipal services) with some of the new federal backing. Being proactive at the state/local level could get you early funding or test environments, which you can later scale up.

7. **Ensure Your AI Projects Align with Plan Values:** This isn't an application per se, but an important step. Audit your current AI project or concept: does it **promote American leadership, help workers, avoid "Orwellian" misuse, and uphold free expression**? [67] [57] If not, think about tweaks. This alignment isn't just patriotic – it will make your grant proposals stronger and your product more likely to be adopted by institutions. For instance, if you run an AI art generator, consider adding a feature that allows users to decide the style without hidden bias (aligning with free expression), or ensure it doesn't inadvertently produce hateful content (aligning with American values of dignity and safety). By clearly positioning your work as part of the **solution for the AI era (not a problem)**, you ride the wave of government and public support for positive AI use.

8. **Stay Informed and Connect with Peers:** Finally, treat AI.gov as a living resource. Subscribe to newsletters or RSS feeds that provide updates on the Action Plan's implementation. As new executive orders, guidance, or funding announcements come out, evaluate how they might benefit you. Networking with other independent AI developers is also crucial – consider joining forums or professional groups focusing on AI policy. Often, when opportunities (like a sudden grant call or a workshop) arise, these communities will be the first to know and share. Given the fast-paced rollout

("coming weeks and months" for many actions [68]), being well-informed is your competitive advantage.

Taking these steps can position independent creators to **capture the unprecedented support** flowing from the U.S. government's AI push. The July 2025 Action Plan is effectively an open invitation for innovators of all stripes to contribute to America's AI leadership – and to be rewarded for it. By understanding its programs and aligning with its vision, solo AI entrepreneurs and artists can secure resources that were previously out of reach, ensure their creative freedom in a supportive ecosystem, and perhaps even shape the next chapter of the AI revolution.

**Sources:**

1. White House OSTP, *"Winning the AI Race: America's AI Action Plan,"* July 23, 2025 (policy document outlining the pillars, initiatives, and 90+ actions of the plan) [1] [12].

2. White House Press Release, *"White House Unveils America's AI Action Plan,"* July 23, 2025 (summary of key policies and quotes from officials) [41] [57].

3. Epstein Becker & Green analysis, *"White House AI Action Plan: A First Look,"* July 24, 2025 (legal blog detailing the plan's content on deregulation, open-source, sandboxes, workforce, etc.) [20] [18].

4. Seyfarth Shaw LLP update, *"AI Action Plan and Executive Orders – What to Know,"* July 25, 2025 (notes on the plan's focus on dominance through deregulation, and specifics on workforce and state laws) [3] [25].

5. Council on Foreign Relations, *"Opportunities and Risks Inherent to Trump's AI Action Plan,"* July 24, 2025 (expert commentary on the plan's implications for global AI race and innovation) [1].

6. **America's AI Action Plan – Full Text (White House PDF)**: Specific sections on free speech in AI [12], encouragement of open-source models [13], and use of SBIR and grant programs for small businesses [52].

7. White House AI.gov Portal (ai.gov) and related Executive Orders/Fact Sheets: e.g., *"Preventing Woke AI in the Federal Government"* EO and *"Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure"* EO, both dated July 23, 2025, which implement parts of the plan [57] [31].

8. NIST AI Risk Management Framework (RMF 1.0) reference – noted in the plan for revision [11].

These sources provide a comprehensive view of the AI Action Plan's contents and its intended impact on the AI ecosystem, from large industries down to independent creators. By tapping into official documents and analyses, we've outlined how the plan can be leveraged by those at the cutting-edge of independent AI innovation. [12] [13]

---

[1] The Opportunities and Risks Inherent to Trump's AI Action Plan | Council on Foreign Relations
https://www.cfr.org/article/opportunities-and-risks-inherent-trumps-ai-action-plan

2 4 5 6 7 18 20 21 29 30 31 37 38 42 43 44 45 46 62 63 64 White House AI Action Plan: A First Look | Epstein Becker Green
https://www.workforcebulletin.com/white-house-ai-action-plan-a-first-look

3 22 23 24 25 26 33 34 35 36 58 59 65 66 Trump Administration Releases AI Action Plan and Three Executive Orders on AI: What Employment Practitioners Need to Know | Seyfarth Shaw LLP
https://www.seyfarth.com/news-insights/trump-administration-releases-ai-action-plan-and-three-executive-orders-on-ai-what-employment-practitioners-need-to-know.html

8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 19 28 32 39 47 48 49 50 52 53 56 America's AI Action Plan
https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf

9 27 40 41 51 57 67 68 White House Unveils America's AI Action Plan – The White House
https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/07/white-house-unveils-americas-ai-action-plan/

54 55 Lone Star State: How Texas Is Pioneering President Trump's AI Agenda | Epstein Becker Green
https://www.workforcebulletin.com/lone-star-state-how-texas-is-pioneering-president-trumps-ai-agenda

60 61 Presidential AI Challenge
https://www.ai.gov/initiatives/presidential-challenge