



AI Community of Practice / Learning Community

New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation

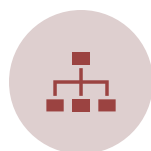
January 2026





Welcome to the AI Community of Practice / Learning Community

- Since April 2025, our AI Community of Practice has been meeting to build capabilities and exchange knowledge across member agencies
- Grounded in the real-world challenges providers face daily, we've collaborated to co-develop practical, timely resources
- Together, we collaborate, debate, share, and create:



**Policies &
Governance
Practices**



**Training &
Capacity
Building**



**Tools &
Templates**



**Community
Engagement &
Shared
Learning**

- This includes our micro-webinar series and discussion group forum
- Main contact Katie Page: kpage@nyalliance.org



Welcome AI Learning Community

Agenda for January 2026 Monthly Update Meeting

Welcome & Updates

- Logging in to Projects site and discussion forum
- NYS State of the State 2026 & New Chief AI Officer
- ChatGPT Health: Implications for I/DD

AI Toolkit & 2026 Planning

- Quizzes for 12 Learning Community Videos
- 2026 Organizational Self-Assessment: Timeline & Volunteers
- December activity review: Where to find resources, planning for upcoming meeting topics

Agentic AI Demo

- Microsoft Copilot Studio Overview

NIST AI Use Cases

- Resource for persons with disabilities
- Discussion: How are we using AI at our agencies?

Open Discussion & Next Steps





Welcome and Updates

Logging into New York Alliance Project Sites & Discussion Forum

NYS State of the State 2026 & New Chief AI Officer

ChatGPT Health: Implications for I/DD





New York State of the State 2026 (AI Highlights)

- **New Office of Digital Innovation, Governance, Integrity, and Trust (DIGIT)**
 - First-of-its-kind state office for digital safety & AI governance
 - Signals increased oversight of AI use across sectors
- **Data Privacy**
 - Data brokers (businesses that collect and sell personal data of people *with whom they have no direct relationship*) must register; New Yorkers can request data deletion
 - People with I/DD are vulnerable targets for data exploitation — brokers collect 1,000+ data points per person, sold to marketers, financial institutions, and scammers
- **AI Content Labeling**
 - Requires “provenance data” labels on AI-generated content (election-related deepfakes specifically)
 - Helps staff, families, and people supported identify deepfakes and misinformation
- **Empire AI Investment**
 - \$55M for SUNY Center on responsible, transparent AI research





New AI Leadership at New York State Office of ITS



An official website of New York State. [Here's how you know](#) ▾

Office of Information
Technology Services

Services

Help Center

Cybersecurity

JANUARY 9, 2026

**New York State Office of
Information Technology
Services Appoints Eleonore
Fournier-Tombs as Chief
Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Officer**



Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, Chief AI Officer

- Found and led the UN's first AI policy research lab.
- Will shape New York State's AI strategy, expand AI education and tools, refine AI use policies, and ensure ethical, transparent, and well-governed adoption across state agencies.



Stephen Graham, Chief Digital Officer

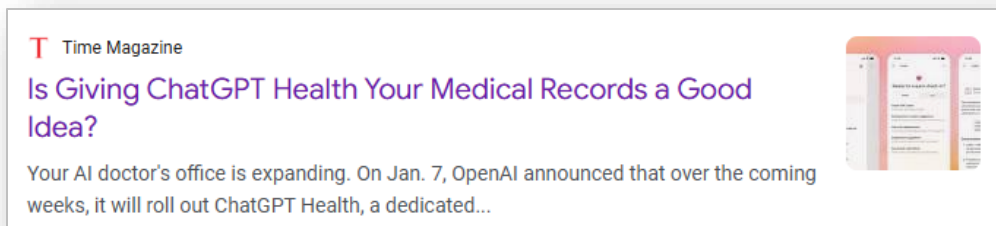
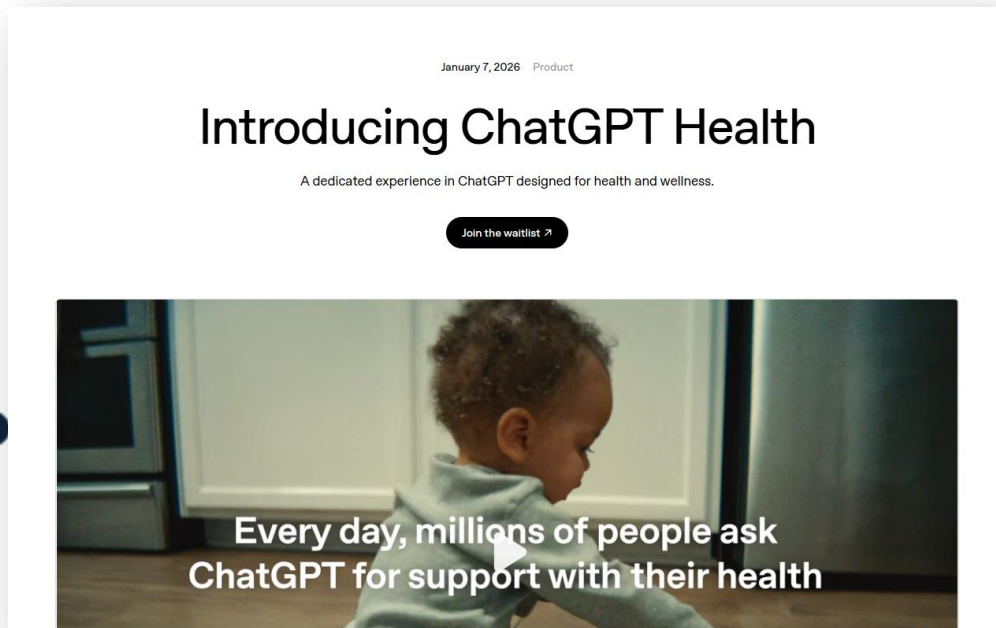
- Technology executive and entrepreneur, formerly CEO and co-founder of Anontech and CIO of AppliedAI Technologies (Schenectady, NY), with deep expertise in applied AI and digital systems.
- Will lead statewide digital modernization, improving how technology and data make government services more accessible, intuitive, and efficient for New Yorkers.

<https://its.ny.gov/news/new-york-state-office-information-technology-services-appoints-eleonore-fournier-tombs-chief>





ChatGPT Health Announced on 1/7/2026



Opportunities

- People supported get 24/7 health info in plain language
- Supports self-advocacy, health literacy, and independence

Risks

- Not HIPAA-compliant; privacy concerns for sensitive health conversations
- No human-in-the-loop; may act on inaccurate advice without a clinician's review
- Requires digital literacy and internet access

For Providers

- Consider addressing in AI Acceptable Use Policies for staff *and* people supported
- Available via ChatGPT Plus (\$20/month) or free tier with limitations



AI Toolkit and 2026 Planning

Quizzes for 12 Learning Community Videos

2026 Organizational Self-Assessment: Timeline & Volunteers

December activity review: Where to find resources, planning for upcoming meeting topics





New York Alliance AI Learning Community Toolkit

New York Alliance AI Learning Community: Webinars and Toolkit

Module 1: Understanding and Communicating AI



1. What Is AI (and What Isn't)?

• Michael Seereiter (New York Alliance)



2. How to Talk About AI Use

• Eunice Beck (Heartshare)



3. Reviewing Your AI Acceptable Use Policy

• Gregg Paulk (Anderson Center)

Module 3: Risk, Ethics & Oversight



7. AI Risks in Human Services

• Courtney Maugé (NFP)



8. How to Explore AI Safely

• Michael McGuire (Living Resources)



9. Oversight, Consent, Ethics

• Julia Hochman (DDI)

Module 4: Vendor Compliance & Regulatory Alignment



4. Staff Training & Role-Based Competencies

• Tony Daniels (AHRC Nassau)



5. Prompt Engineering 101

• Dan Kelley (Arise, Exceptional Family Resources)



6. Leadership & HR Readiness

• Marco Damiani (AHRC NYC)



10. Evaluating AI Vendor-Partners

• Katie Page (New York Alliance)



11. Aligning with CMS, DOH & OPWDD

• Roger Bearden & Mario Ayoub (BSK)



12. Building Internal Capacity for Vendor Oversight

• Rich VanDyke (ACLD)

Collaborative Webinars

Aligning with Agency AI Policies

Know Your Policies	Review your agency's Employee Handbook, AI Use Agreement, Computer Systems-Services Use Agreement, and related data security or compliance policies.
Understand Prohibitions	Do not enter confidential or personally identifiable information (PII) / protected health information (PHI) into AI tools unless explicitly approved and secured.
Use Approved Tools Only	Follow agency guidance on which AI tools are authorized and ensure they meet security and encryption standards.
Establish Clear Definitions	Remember that AI includes chatbots, image generators, and other large language models (LLMs).
Know the Consequences	Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.
Report Misuse Immediately	Contact your supervisor, Compliance, or IT if you suspect unauthorized AI use or data breach.

Sample Policies, Checklists, Resources, Exercises



Quizzes and Certifications Coming

- Quizzes and certifications are by module (not each micro-webinar)
 - **MODULE 1: Understanding & Communicating AI**
 - **MODULE 2: AI Training & Workforce Development**
 - **MODULE 3: Risk, Ethics & Oversight**
 - **MODULE 4: Vendor Compliance & Regulatory Alignment**
- Live Activity: Actual Quiz Questions (in the form of polls)





2026 Organizational Self-Assessment: Timeline

SubsectionName	2025 Statewide %
1. Strategic Vision	27.11%
AI Awareness and Strategic Alignment	54.00%
Policies, Definitions, and Use Cases	31.11%
AI Tools and Vendor Management	20.13%
Collaboration and Standards	50.00%
2. Data Management, Privacy, and Security	37.87%
Policies and Controls for Data Security and Privacy	40.06%
Anonymization and Data Protection Techniques	22.53%
Compliance and Audit Practices	54.33%
Risk Management for Third-Party Vendors	24.67%
Training and Awareness	0.00%
3. Technology Integration	29.38%
Technology Infrastructure and Electronic Systems Compatibility	32.30%
IT Readiness and Resource Allocation	40.00%
Data and Access Control	14.83%
4. Human Oversight and Ethics	26.79%
Human Oversight and Review Process	26.33%
Person-Centered AI Alignment	31.33%
Ethical Policies and Bias Monitoring	25.67%
Transparency and Communication	10.00%
Training and Education on AI	46.00%
Informed Consent and Participation	18.67%
5. Workforce Development and Training	19.19%
Training and Competency Development	19.89%
Workforce Policies and Ethical Guidelines	16.58%
AI Effectiveness and Impact on Workforce	23.33%
6. Impact on Quality Outcomes	16.70%
Measuring and Monitoring Impact	16.92%
Feedback and Adjustment	14.00%
Individualized Support and Independence	21.33%
Operational Support and Monitoring of AI Tools	8.00%
7. Compliance, Risk, Regulatory	27.02%
Regulatory Compliance and Auditing	27.14%
Risk Assessment and Mitigation	26.60%
Restrictions and Quality Control	28.67%

- 2025 OSA questions are posted to the discussion forum; volunteers are reviewing and posting comments for consideration in the 2026 OSA
- **AI OSA Timeline**
 - **2024–2025: Foundation**
 - **Sep-Dec 2024:** AI Toolkit & OSA developed, piloted, released
 - **Jan-Mar 2025:** OSA data collection & analysis
 - **Apr 2025:** AI Community of Practice launches
 - **Oct 2025:** CoP/Learning Community subscription launches
 - **2026: Year Two Comparison**
 - **Jan:** Review 2025 OSA; finalize 2026 questions (volunteers needed)
 - **Feb-Mar:** 2026 OSA collection
 - **Apr:** Analysis, 2025 vs. 2026 progress priorities





December Exercise Review: AI Learning Community, Priorities and Needs for 2026

Live Exercise: AI Learning Community, Priorities and Needs for 2026

Search
 Sort by votes ▾
 Add ▾
 Share
 Settings

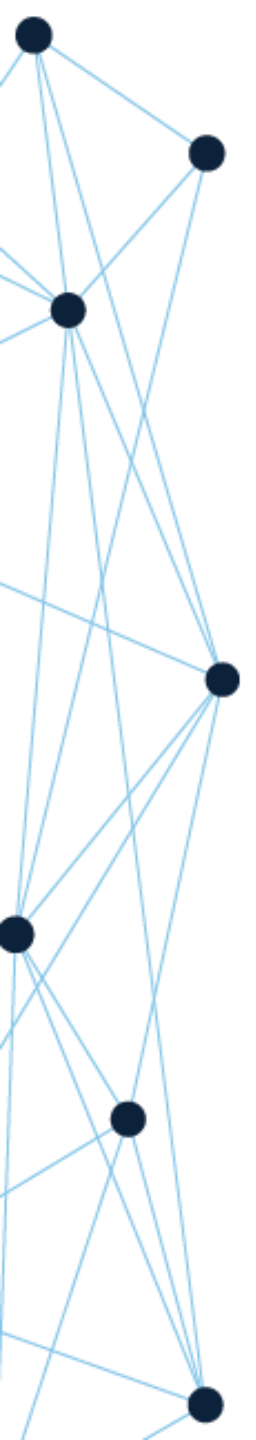
1: Understanding & Communicating AI // 1.1 What Is AI (and What Isn't)? // 1.2 How to Talk About AI Use // 1.3 Reviewing Your AI Acceptable Use Policy	2: Training & Workforce Development // 2.4 Staff Training & Role-Based Competencies // 2.5 Prompt Engineering 101 // 2.6 Leadership & HR Readiness	3: Risk, Ethics & Oversight // 3.7 AI Risks in Human Services // 3.8 How to Explore AI Safely // 3.9 Oversight, Consent, and Ethics	4: Vendor Compliance & Regulatory Alignment // 4.10 Evaluating AI Vendor-Partners // 4.11 Aligning with CMS, DOH & OPWDD // 4.12 Building Internal Capacity for Vendor Oversight	5: New Topics for 2026
Would love to see what agencies are experiencing in terms of shadow AI use 👍 3 🗳️ 1	Rolling out AI use to staff, where to start with staff training 👍 2 🗳️ 0 Measuring Effectiveness 👍 1 🗳️ 0 Need to build this into onboarding/new staff orientation so it becomes imbedded... we're a ways off from that though 👍 0 🗳️ 0 We can come use with industry-specific prompts in working with our population. 👍 0 🗳️ 0	how to help each agency get started 👍 4 🗳️ 0 driving fear-based decisions into actions 👍 1 🗳️ 0 How to protect our population from some safety concerns of AI use 👍 1 🗳️ 0	How to ensure vendors provide all the proper privacy and ethics clearance to us 👍 1 🗳️ 0 Are vendor and consultant policies being updated to include information about AI use? Are BAA's being updated to include language about AI? 👍 0 🗳️ 0 This is going to be important for us given EHRs are now building AI into their apps 👍 0 🗳️ 0	I'm wondering if other agencies have worked with Microsoft Purview to help 'harden' their environment to enable HIPAA compliant use of M365 and CoPilot. 👍 2 🗳️ 1 Equipping DSP with ways to help individuals safely navigate. 👍 1 🗳️ 0 Exploring use of Copilot (Microsoft) – Paid use allows for safer use but how do organizations determine who receives the paid platform. 👍 0 🗳️ 0

Together, we reflected on 2025: We've covered 12 AI topics across four modules, and you commented on where we need additional toolkit resources.

Then, we prioritized for 2026: "Upvoted" the topics that need deeper dives and new areas we haven't addressed yet.

Your input is guiding next year's Community of Practice monthly update sessions and toolkit resources.





Feedback: What Members Need in 2026

Can be Categorized into:

Foundations (50%): Content in Modules/Micro-Webinars 1-12

- Help finding resources, need time to review existing content

• **Implementation Support (29%):** Beyond module content

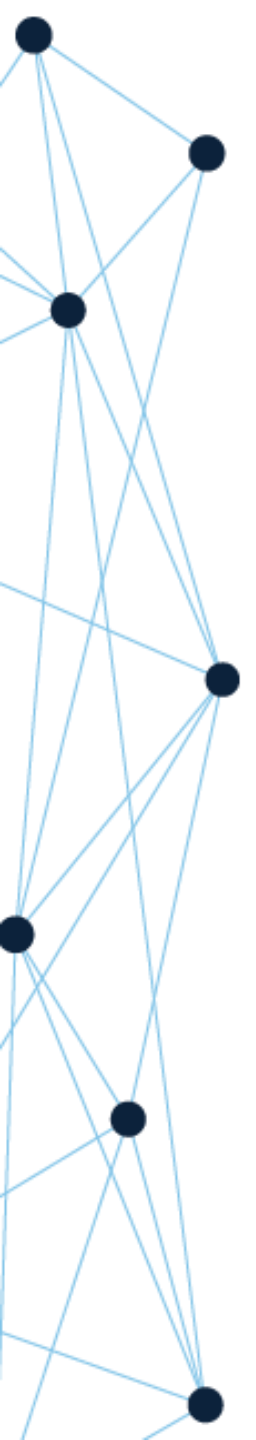
- Peer learning and practical tools

• **Vendor & Regulatory Updates (21%):** Fast-changing info

- Current guidance and expert Q&A

Top Up-Voted Feedback Items:

- *How to help each agency get started (highest voted)*
- *Shadow AI use - what are agencies experiencing?*
- *Rolling out AI use to staff - where to start?*
- *EHRs are building AI into their apps*
- *Has anyone used Microsoft Purview for HIPAA/Copilot?*
- *Are BAAs being updated to include AI language?"*



Approaches to Incorporate Feedback

- **“Toolkit Spotlights”**
 - Brief module overview + peer implementation example
- **“Peer Implementation Labs”**
 - Guided breakouts to crowdsource solutions
- **“What’s Changed”**
 - For Vendor/Regulatory
 - Module refresher + guest expert Q&A

- *Toolkit Spotlight:*
 - Industry-specific prompts (→ Module 2.5)
 - Vendor privacy clearance (→ Module 4.10)
- *Peer Implementation Lab:*
 - How to get each agency started
 - Driving fear-based decisions into action
- *What’s Changed:*
 - Microsoft Purview for M365/Copilot
 - BAA and contract language updates
 - AI embedded in EHR platforms



Toolkit Spotlight: Video 8: How to Explore AI Safely



Curiosity is good—recklessness isn't.

- A structured framework for responsible AI experimentation
 - Key questions to ask before implementing any AI tool
 - Strategies to limit exposure while staying ethical and controlled
-
- ☐ Have we independently verified vendor claims about privacy, bias testing, and security?
 - ☐ Do we know where the AI's data comes from, how it's stored, and how it's used for training?





Toolkit Spotlight:

Video 12: Building Internal Capacity for Vendor Oversight



Signing a contract is just the beginning.

- Internal practices for procurement, contract language, and documentation
- How to foster cross-department collaboration for ongoing vendor accountability
- Planning for the full vendor lifecycle, including exits

☐ Do our vendor contracts include AI-specific clauses (bias testing, audit rights, access controls, exit terms)?

☐ Do we have plans for vendor updates, product sunsets, and data migration?

☐ Do contracts include data portability and off-boarding provisions?

☐ Have we budgeted for AI training, monitoring, and compliance audits?

Resources:

- AI Internal Capacity Checklist for Vendor Oversight (AI/LLM Tools)





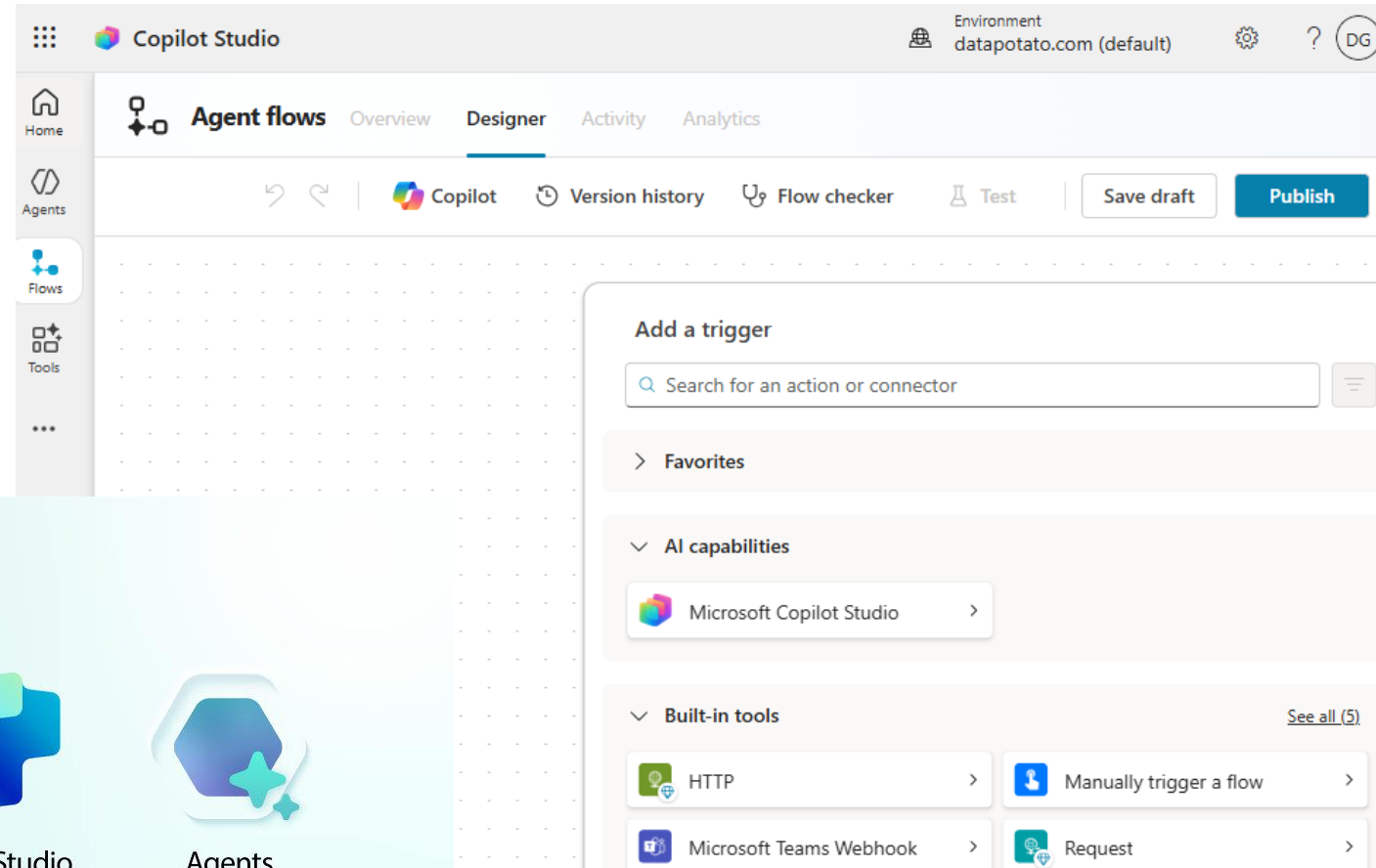
Agentic AI

Microsoft Copilot Studio Overview





Agentic AI High Level Overview (Copilot Studio)



Copilot



Copilot Studio



Agents





AI Use Cases

- *NIST Risk Management Framework (RMF) encourages organizations to document specific use cases, assess risk for each use case individually, and tailor safeguards based on the context and potential impact of each application.*
- Resource for persons with disabilities
- Discussion: How are we using AI at our agencies?





Disability AI Learning Community

Padlet

Disability AI • 35 • 1mo [Template](#)

Disability AI Learning Community (Post Your Success Stories, Prompts, Resources, and Ideas!)

Click on the plus + sign at the top of any column to add your post to that column.

How AI Helps People

Friendly Moose
a month ago

A smartphone with AI capabilities that is designed for people with visual impairment

blindshell.com 't choice for you?

0

Oma
2 months ago

How AI helps people

It is fantastic how AI can help me to personalize my plans to work with trainees in LEND.

0

AI Prompts

Sarvesh Chandran
5 months ago

Write a social story about AI for preschool.

I used the free ChatGPT- Sarvesh

This is ChatGPT's response.

Great! Here's a **preschool-friendly social story** about AI. It uses simple language, short sentences, and clear ideas suited for young children:

AI: A Friendly Helper
A Social Story for Preschoolers

Sometimes, I hear people say "AI."

AI means **Artificial Intelligence**. That's a big word! AI is **not a person**.

AI is a **computer helper**.

AI can talk, draw pictures, answer questions, and play games.

It can be on phones, computers, or smart toys.

AI can do things like:

- Help me find a song
- Answer a question
- Show me how to draw something

That's pretty cool!

AI can talk like a person, but it's still a **machine**. AI **does not** have feelings. AI **does not** get happy or sad.

AI is not a real friend—but it can help me learn and play.

f I don't understand something AI says, I can ask a teacher or grown-up to help me.

AI Resources

Sarvesh Chandran
2 months ago

Information about Google Gemini 3

Google just rolled out Gemini 3 to Search - here's what it can do and how to try it

This information is from [ZDNet.com](https://www.zdnet.com/article/google-just-rolled-out-gemini-3-to-search-heres-what-it-can-do-and-how-to-try-it/)

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/google-just-rolled-out-gemini-3-to-search-heres-what-it-can-do-and-how-to-try-it/>

0

Sarvesh Chandran
2 months ago

AI Policy from the Federal Government

Ideas and suggestions about using AI

Oma
2 months ago

Ideas and suggestions

A friend suggested I write what I want to say and then have AI make improvements I can add.

0

Kasia Henderson
4 months ago

How AI Can Help People With Disabilities
[Source: ChatGPT]

1. Assistance with everyday tasks
2. Navigation and directional assistance
3. Smart magnifiers and screens
4. Real time captioning and transcription
5. Exoskeletons and robotics
6. Smart- City- Integration
7. Speech- To- Text And Text- To Speech Software
8. Alternative And Augmentative Communication Apps
9. Health Monitoring and Alerts
10. Personal Care And Fitness
11. Smart Medication Dispensers

Safety Tips

Stan Harris
2 months ago

Future-Proof Policy

I believe our policies sh of rewriting rules every appears, we should reg harms, not the tools. Th always outlast the tech

0

Sarvesh Chandran
2 months ago

AI and Employment College Grads

ALL IE ELOR'S EE

YouTube

How AI Is Killing The Value

The CNBC video explain employment market for <https://www.youtube.co>

- Encourage people to add their own successful use cases
- Search the site with no sign-in, account or passcode needed

Mark G. Friedman, Ph.D.
www.mytechforall.com

https://padlet.com/Disability_AI/disability-ai-learning-community-post-your-success-stories-p-6wrr7b3db1affqhr



AI Shows Promise in Improving Supports

by identifying gaps, predicting needs, and generating clearer, more person-centered documentation, for example with:

Person-Centered Planning

Assessments, Service Notes, Summaries

Service Delivery & Utilization

Health & Behavior Monitoring

Inclusion & Engagement

Equity & Disparity Analysis

Risk Identification

Workforce Analysis

Quality & Outcome Monitoring

Transitions & Life Events



How Are Providers Using AI Tools Today?

Communications



- Help with Letters & Emails
- Presentations
- Meeting Minutes
- Staff Updates
- Newsletters
- Talking Points

Policy & Compliance



- Summarize and Interpret Regulatory Requirements
- Draft or Update Internal Policies
- Create Checklists for Audits and Readiness

Strategy & Leadership



- Brainstorm Strategic Plan Goals and Initiatives
- Draft Agendas, Memos
- Explore Funding Scenarios and Program Changes

Workforce & HR



- Job Descriptions
- Recruitment & Hiring
- Onboarding Materials and Training Content
- Culture & Engagement Ideas

Data and Reporting



- Summarize Spreadsheets and Surveys
- Help with Dashboards and KPIs
- Forecast Planning





Next Steps for February Meeting

NY Alliance AI Community of Practice

Next Meeting, **Monday, February 23, 2026, 1-2 pm ET**





Thank you!

Doug Golub doug@datapotato.com

Katie Page kpage@nyalliance.org

