***This document is a preview only*.**

Applications are accepted only through the online application at **mzl.la/humanscaleai**, and must be submitted by **Friday, November 20, 2026 at 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time (UTC-8)**. Responses shared through this document, by email, or any other channel cannot be considered.

Read the full call for proposals here.

Human-Scale AI Incubator: Initial Project Proposal

Application Questions Preview

All questions are required unless marked optional. Word limits are listed after each question where applicable. Depending on your answers, some sections may not apply to you, and the online application will skip them automatically. If anything in this preview differs from the online application, the online application takes precedence.

Applicant Information

Main contact name and email address

Applicant type (select one)

- Individual
- Nonprofit or NGO
- Fiscal sponsorship
- For-profit
- Governmental unit
- Other

If applying as an organization:

- Organization legal name
- Popular name used by the organization, if different from the legal name (optional)
- Organization mailing address, including country

If applying through a fiscal sponsor:

- Fiscal sponsor organization name
- Fiscal sponsor country
- Fiscal sponsor contact and signatory

If applying as an individual:

- Individual mailing address, including country

Country/region(s) your organization or this project serves:

How did you hear about this opportunity? Select all that apply. (Optional)

- Bluesky
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Word of mouth
- Mozilla Foundation staff member
- Mozilla Festival
- Newsletter
- Foundation website
- Other

If a specific person, organization, or network referred you, please let us know their name here. (Optional) *This lets us know how people are hearing about our opportunities. Referrals are not part of our application review criteria.*

Eligibility Acknowledgements

- ☐ I acknowledge that the Human-Scale AI Incubator cohort will run for 12 months beginning in April 2027. By completing and submitting this application, I confirm that I am able to participate fully in the Incubator program as detailed in the call for proposals.
- ☐ I acknowledge that I have read the full eligibility guidelines. I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, I am legally able to receive grant funding from Mozilla Foundation.

Project Overview

Proposed project title (10 words)

Project summary (50 words)

Which Human-Scale AI principles does your project exemplify? Select all that apply..

- Small
- Intentional
- Tailored

Project stage (select one)

- Concept or wireframe only
- Working prototype
- Deployed with early users (less than 100 users)
- Deployed at scale (100+ users)

Which of these early signals of product-community fit does your project have? Select all that apply. *You don't need all of these. We're looking for early evidence that people value what you're building and want to be part of where it goes next.*

- **Users:** People are using your technology and coming back to it.
- **Contributors:** People outside your core team contribute code, content, data, or expertise.

- **Community:** The people you serve help shape your product, priorities, or governance.
- **Partners:** Organizations are piloting, deploying, collaborating on, or funding your work.
- **Downstream adoption:** Other builders use what you've created in their own work.
- None of these yet.

Approximately how many users does your project currently have? (select one)
- Less than 100
- 100–1,000
- 1,000–10,000
- 10,000–100,000
- 100,000+

Primary project output(s) Select all that describe your project.
- Technology platform or tool
- Research publication
- Dataset
- Policy framework or recommendations
- Community organizing tools
- Educational resources
- Creative or artistic work
- Other

Does your project incorporate accessibility or disability-inclusive design? (select one)
- Yes, it is central to the project: the technology is built with and for people with disabilities.
- Yes, it is a significant part of our design approach.
- We have considered it, but it is not yet a focus.
- Not at this time.

This helps us understand your project's context. All projects are welcome to apply and considered for funding regardless of your answer.

Does your project's core functionality depend on calling the API of a frontier AI model? (Yes/No) *Some examples of frontier models are the following model families: GPT, Claude, Gemini/DeepMind, Llama.*

What is the largest parameter count of any AI model core to your project's functionality? (select one)
- 10 billion or fewer
- 10–20 billion
- 20–30 billion
- 30–40 billion
- More than 40 billion
- My project does not use AI models directly

Does this project serve a charitable purpose and create meaningful public benefit? (Yes/No) *For more details on what we mean by "charitable purpose," see our grant eligibility guidelines.*

Briefly describe the public benefit of this project and who will benefit from this work beyond your organization. (150 words)

How do you plan to work in the open? Select all that apply.

- Open sourcing code or other assets
- Publishing educational materials
- Publishing research papers
- Openly sharing datasets
- Public workshops or presentations
- Another public-facing resource
- None of the above

Project Details

What technology are you building and how does it address this cohort's theme? (200 words) *Using clear, simple language and a minimal amount of technical jargon in this description can help your project stand out.*

Small: What models, hardware, and infrastructure does your project use, and why are they the right fit for the problem and context you are addressing? (100 words)

Intentional: How do users understand and control how their data is collected, stored, and used? What agency do they or their community have over the system and its governance? (100 words)

Tailored: How have the people, problem, and context you're designing for shaped the technology itself, including what it does, how it works, or how it's deployed? (100 words)

Describe your project's traction. What evidence do you have of early product-community fit? (150 words)

What challenges are you facing in advancing your project? What are your biggest blockers right now? (150 words)

Who is the team building this? What relevant experience does your team have? (150 words)

Impact and Openness

What would success look like in 12 months and in 36 months for your project? How will you measure it? (150 words)

What do you need to make this project sustainable in the long term? What are the biggest barriers to sustainability for your work? (150 words)

What would this $300,000 grant unlock for your project? (150 words)

Tell us more about how you plan to work in the open. How will you share your code, learnings, and data with others? (150 words)

What novel approaches to building AI systems does your work introduce to the field? (200 words)

Link to code repository, demo, or website

Link to a two-minute video showing the project and the team's vision (Optional, but strongly encouraged). *The video does not need to be polished. Reviewers want to see the technology working and hear directly from the team about why it matters.*

AI and Translation Disclosure

We recognize that applicants may use tools such as AI to help brainstorm ideas, clarify language, or assist with translation. These tools can support the application process, especially for non-native English speakers or those seeking to improve clarity.

However, all submitted content must ultimately reflect your own original work, ideas, and voice. The use of AI or translation tools should be limited to supportive functions, not to generate full responses or replace your personal input. Applications that appear to be heavily or entirely AI-generated, or that do not demonstrate authentic engagement with the application questions, may be subject to further review.

Were AI or translation tools used to complete this application? (Yes/No)

If yes, how were AI or translation tools used in completing this application?

Acknowledgements and Terms

Mozilla Foundation regularly collaborates with other funders and organizations who fund similar work. If your project could be a good match, would you like us to share the information you've provided with other funders? (Yes/No, optional) *By selecting yes, you're giving us permission to share your application and contact information with peer funders and aligned organizations. Your response won't affect your application with us.*

Submission terms

- I agree to Mozilla Foundation handling my info as explained in this Privacy Notice. We will use the application information you provided to process and evaluate your application, and communicate with applicants about opportunities.