Data and Society Accelerator Program:
2023 Data Governance Cohort

The Data and Society Accelerator Program aims to support nonprofits as they make progress on their respective data journeys, while equipping nonprofit teams with the mentorship, tools, and expertise they seek to develop and test proof-of-concept data approaches that rely on large, complex datasets.

Digital transformation has led many nonprofits to a surge in the use of data across their organizations; new datasets and insights are shaping decisions on everything from programs and implementation to finance, human resources, and operations. Amidst this growth in datasets and expansion of data use within the social impact sector, the need to expand organizational capacity for data security, privacy, sharing, and cloud-based technology has never been greater. Alongside new and advanced ways to analyze data comes the challenge of data governance, which includes managing responsible and ethical data use against requests from partners and communities, or empowering staff with flexible and adaptable data practices while maintaining appropriate policies and processes.

Yet through its engagement with nonprofit organizations around the world, The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation (PJMF's) Data and Society team has found that data strategies across the nonprofit sector remain predominantly focused on teams, projects, and initiatives, rather than on organizations. Accordingly, Data and Society has encountered a common request from many of these nonprofits for support in strengthening their organizations-wide data governance.

As a result, in 2023 the Data and Society Accelerator program will expand to include a Data Governance cohort. Data and Society's in-house team of cloud engineers and data scientists will share their expertise in data governance practices to address the combined need for funding, skills building, and technical capacity augmentation to improve the protection, management, and use of nonprofit data. The program will run for 12 months through a cohort model of training, direct support, and shared learnings. Each participating organization in the cohort will receive hands-on training, support, and funding to make a catalytic investment in their organizational data capacity.

A core component of this cohort will be engaging with staff members across a variety of roles within each nonprofit. These staff members will be expected to serve as an implementation team during the grant period. The implementation team should be composed of an executive leader(s), data and technology professionals, and program staff that represent organization members with

varying levels of experience and exposure to different data use cases within the organization. We expect participating organizations in this learning cohort to have existing buy-in and leadership commitment towards improving data governance before applying to participate, including financial and personnel resources.

Over the course of 12 months, organizations will learn alongside other nonprofits working to improve their own data governance through a focus on six key elements: data ethics, roles, processes, technology, policies, and security. The program will address modern approaches to complex challenges in how we work with data in nonprofit organizations that can empower our work, protect communities and beneficiaries, and maximize the efficiency of our resources. With customized training from experts, combined with direct support from the PJMF Data & AI Services team, the Data Governance Cohort participants will:

- Gain a deep and <u>practical</u> understanding of data governance and best practices through a guided "learning and doing" practicum
- Create an <u>actionable</u> data governance plan/strategy with key stakeholders within their organization
- Apply new knowledge and best practices to improve their organizational data practices
- Work alongside various teams within their organization to define and improve data governance roles, policies, and processes
- Develop a roadmap for <u>continued</u> data governance improvement into the future

Beyond our in-kind contributions of infrastructure and expertise, we may also provide supplementary support to cover expenses associated with improving organizational data governance of up to $200,000.

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Actionable outcomes and learning. We define success through the individual advancement of data governance within each organization and measurable progress towards your priorities – whether that entails updating organizational guidelines and policies on data protection for vulnerable populations, improving and automating processes that ensures better data quality and formatting for sharing, or aggregating and curating datasets in the cloud to improve transparency and accessibility.

Expected Time Commitment: Accelerator projects are high-touch grant engagements. Our in-house technical team will likely dedicate over 100 hours of facetime to your organization for scoping and prioritization, onboarding, practicum exercises, technical syncs, and peer learning activities during the course of the twelve-month grant period. We expect each Data Governance grant partner to drive their project forward through their core team, but our in-house technical team will work alongside your team to provide added guidance and expertise in different related

areas of data governance as well help troubleshoot issues as needed along the way.

Application process: The call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) in the 2023 Data Governance cohort will run from Aug 23, 2022 - Sep 19, 2022 , during which we will review submissions on a rolling basis. Those organizations who meet our initial criteria for impact potential and technical fit will be asked to join a series of exploratory and technical project scoping conversations prior to being invited to submit a formal proposal for consideration.

Final decisions around the Data Governance cohort will be made in November 2021, with 4-6 organizations to be selected to begin work in 2023.

To submit an Expression of Interest, <<**click here>>**.

Contact us. Have a question not covered here? Send us an email at accelerator@mcgovern..org