

From AI Readiness to Public Value:

How State Governments Are Using AI for Social Impact

Amanda Renteria

CEO at Code for America



Silicon Valley

Woodlake, CA

**The 1930s debate over government's purpose:
serve enterprise or serve the people?**

CODE *for* **AMERICA**

We work shoulder to shoulder with
community organizations and government to
**build digital tools and services, change
policies, and improve programs.**



POLITICO

How sick is sick enough? New Medicaid work rule worries patient advocates, states

Trump administration wants ill recipients prove they can't work every six months. Disability advocates and state officials wonder how

 **PBS NEWSHOUR**

How people with disabilities could bear the burden of Medicaid funding cuts

The New York Times

Faced With Piles of New Paperwork, People Are Losing Food Stamps

Arizona's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program rolls have plummeted, offering a possible preview of national trends as states try to avoid new federal penalties.

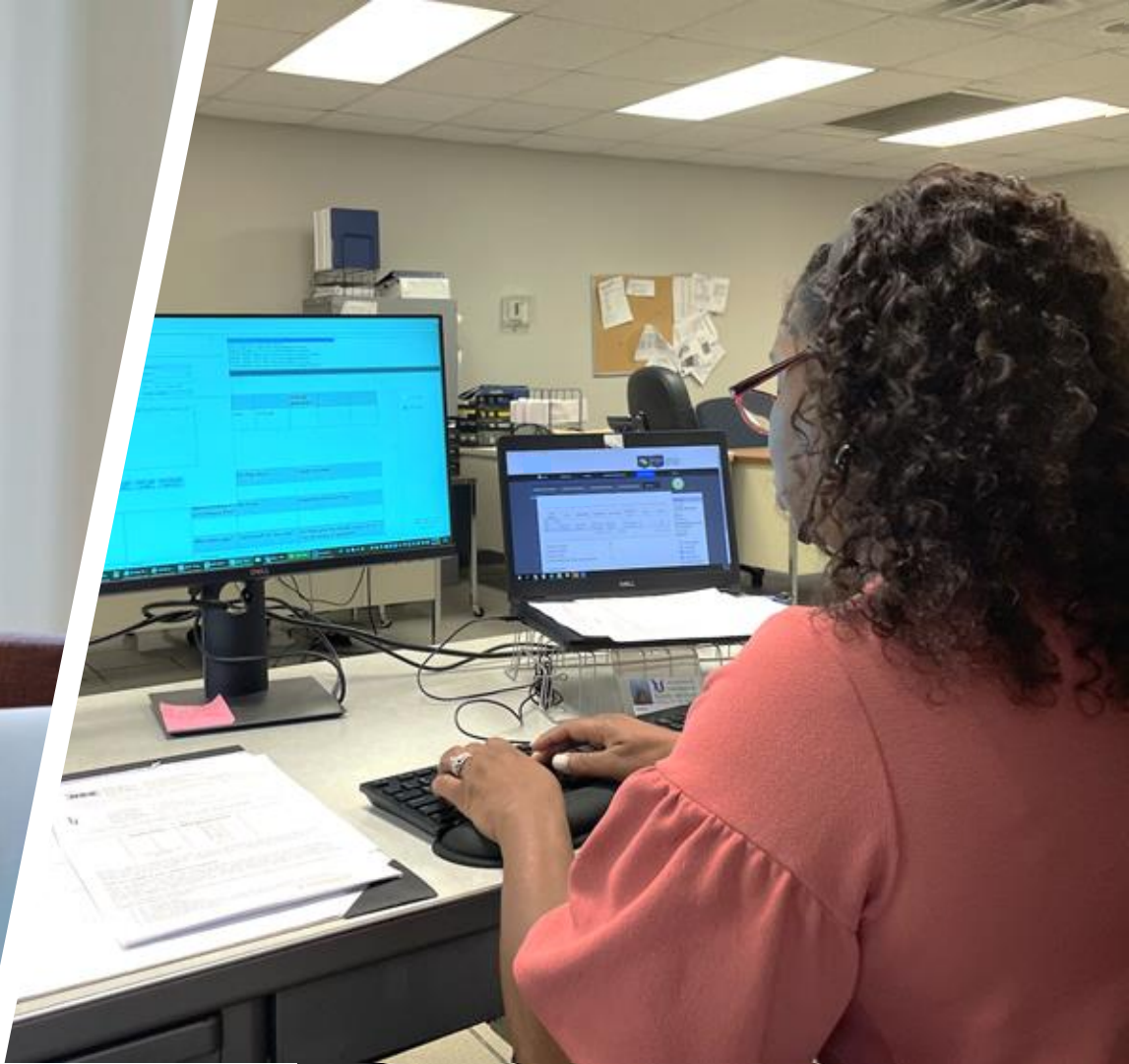
npr

Over 4 million people are no longer receiving food aid amid sweeping changes to SNAP

 **abc NEWS**

Millions dropped from SNAP food assistance as funding faces September uncertainty

Starting Oct. 1, states will have to cover 75% of program administrative costs.





Inside the Dirty, Dystopian World of AI Data Centers

The race to power AI is already remaking the physical world.



Data centers are booming. But there are big energy and environmental risks



Is this how the world ends? Extinction scenarios are taking over the AI debate.

As nightmare thought experiments shape the fight over how to govern a multitrillion-dollar industry, some experts say the parables may lead decision-makers astray.



Fox News Poll: Voters question whether AI's promise outweighs its risks

Majorities favor banning Flock cameras and AI in classrooms



Bill Gates issues stark warning about AI's impact on American jobs



How Far Will A.I. Go Before Elected Officials Regulate It?

The A.I. researcher Jacob Coxon resigned from Anthropic last week, sounding alarms for A.I. safety. Coupled with A.I. leaders' recent call for a slowdown on A.I. progress, Casey Newton hopes that government officials pursue regulation more urgently.

Can AI help us solve it better?

Can AI help us solve it better?

- What problem are we trying to solve?
- Who is most affected, and how will they have a voice?
- How will we measure the results?

**Success should be
judged by outcomes
people can feel.**

CODE *for* AMERICA

Government AI Landscape Assessment

📅 May 2026



Readiness

Piloting

Implementation

Impact

● Readiness

● Piloting

● Implementation

● Impact

Readiness:

- Who is responsible for AI?
- What rules govern it?
- Does the workforce understand the technology?
- Is the data reliable?
- Can agencies test new tools without exposing sensitive information or creating unacceptable risks?

● Readiness

● Piloting

● Implementation

● Impact

AI Readiness: North Carolina

- Appointed an AI Governance and Policy Executive to oversee AI strategy and implementation.
- Set up an AI Task Force that studies AI systems.

● Readiness

● Piloting

● Implementation

● Impact

Piloting:

This is where states test possible uses in a controlled setting, with clear guardrails, human oversight, and a defined period for evaluation.

● Readiness

● Piloting

● Implementation

● Impact

AI Piloting: Connecticut

- Established an internal AI Enablement Lab within its IT division.
- 20+ AI use cases in areas like document summarization in child services, automated Q&A for citizen inquiries, and predictive analytics in healthcare.

● Readiness

● Piloting

● Implementation

● Impact

Implementation:

This is where a successful experiment becomes part of an actual government workflow.

● Readiness

● Piloting

● Implementation

● Impact

AI Implementation: Pennsylvania

- Uses intelligent document processing in its benefits application system to check whether uploaded documents are blurry, unreadable, or irrelevant.
- Tool reduced illegible or incorrect documents by 80% and saved county assistance office staff more than 700 hours of work.

Code for America – 2026 Government AI Landscape Assessment

● Readiness

● Piloting

● Implementation

● Impact

Impact:

This is where government moves beyond asking whether a tool was deployed and begins asking whether it created lasting public value.

● Readiness

● Piloting

● Implementation

● Impact

AI Impact: Vermont

- Its virtual assistant, ChatVT, answers common questions about state programs in plain language and at any hour.
- Also created an inventory of automated decision systems that requires recurring updates and performance reviews.



**Impact from AI is the
next frontier.**

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

– Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt

**AI's success should be
measured by how it
improves people's lives.**

Thank you!



Scan for more information
about the 2026 Government
AI Landscape Assessment

CODE *for* AMERICA

Government AI Landscape Assessment

📅 May 2026

