

2025



## Regional AI growth

# The opportunity: AI as a driver of US economic opportunity

Artificial intelligence is a once-in-a-generation technology—one with the potential to accelerate innovation, productivity, and job creation across every sector of the U.S. economy. Already, we're seeing AI streamline freight logistics in Texas, drive high-tech manufacturing innovation in Wisconsin, and expand career-ready workforce training for rural communities in Virginia. When paired with the right tools and talent, AI can become a powerful engine for local economic development, driving competition, and opening new doors for students, entrepreneurs, and workers alike.

But the promise of AI is not just about national prosperity: it's also a deeply local matter. Whether AI unlocks opportunity in a given place depends on a region's capacity to train its workforce, adopt digital infrastructure, and cultivate an innovation mindset. In this way, AI is both a breakthrough technology and a litmus test for broad-based growth. To ensure the benefits of AI are widely shared, we must ensure that regions of all sizes—not just a few hubs—are ready to participate in, shape, and benefit from the AI economy.

## The challenge: Ensuring AI diffusion reaches communities of all sizes

Despite some early signs of economic diffusion, AI readiness remains highly concentrated in a few geographies. While a few "superstar" metros continue to attract outsized investment and talent, many other cities and towns—especially in regions historically underserved by tech investment—lack the infrastructure, training pipelines, and local networks needed to fully engage with AI's potential. Without intentional investment and cross-sector collaboration, these communities risk falling further behind in the digital economy.

Microsoft TechSpark<sup>1</sup> is working to solve these local challenges. TechSpark was launched to help expand access to economic opportunity by supporting the development of local tech ecosystems across the United States. From the beginning, the program has focused on breaking down barriers to participation by embedding in communities, identifying digital gaps, and co-creating solutions with local leaders. From workforce skilling in Eastern Kentucky to startup incubation in the Southwest, TechSpark has demonstrated that when communities are trusted and empowered to lead, they not only catch up—they leap forward. The challenge now is to replicate that momentum at scale, ensuring AI becomes a bridge, not a barrier, to local prosperity.

Making a difference across communities since 2017.

\$700M+

community funding to support local initiatives

4,500

jobs that help individuals and organizations thrive

65,000

individuals engaged in digital skills, opening new career opportunities

# Microsoft's mission: Empowering communities through innovation



Eight years ago, we launched Microsoft TechSpark with a simple but powerful idea: that innovation and opportunity should not be confined to a few zip codes. We believed then—as we do now—that when you invest in people who know their communities best, you unlock the kind of progress that lasts. Since 2017, TechSpark has partnered with local leaders across the United States. Together, we've helped advance emerging tech ecosystems in the communities they serve, grounded in trust, collaboration, and a shared vision for economic growth.

Over these years, TechSpark helped community leaders secure funding from other organizations to support accelerating AI skilling, innovation, and readiness across all 50 states and Puerto Rico. But the real story isn't in the numbers—it's in the people. It's in the public, private, and nonprofit leaders who saw potential where others saw barriers. It's in the Fellows who turned ideas into action. It's in the students, entrepreneurs, and workers who now see a future for themselves in the digital economy. This report reflects their work—and it serves as a reminder that when we listen deeply and lead with purpose, we can build a future that includes everyone.



**Mike Egan** General Manager TechSpark, Microsoft





This year, TechSpark equipped community leaders across America to launch AI programs, accelerating local digital transformation. From its start, TechSpark has empowered leaders with tools, knowledge, and hands-on support to drive change through personalized coaching, AI and digital workshops, and a network of 50+ peer communities. By fostering collaboration and sharing best practices, we've created a ripple effect of innovation, with leaders applying AI to real-world challenges and seeing tangible benefits. The 2025 TechSpark Impact Report captures these accomplishments, including the work of TechSpark Fellows, offering inspiration and practical insights for communities ready to harness AI for their own growth.



**Michelle Schuler** TechSpark, Microsoft



## Understanding AI readiness

"Al readiness" refers to an area's capacity to use and innovate with Al. Across the United States, Al readiness varies widely by region. While Al activity remains concentrated in a handful of major tech centers, local clusters of innovation and workforce skilling are emerging in communities of all sizes. This evolving landscape reveals the potential for Al to catalyze economic growth far beyond traditional tech hubs.

## Microsoft TechSpark model

# Fostering economic opportunity and job creation in partnership with communities across the US

The promise of AI is expanding, yet the path to readiness is uneven—and many communities remain on the sidelines. But that doesn't have to be the case. In towns, cities, and rural regions across the country, local leaders are already proving that with the right partnerships, training, and tools, it's possible to close these gaps. Microsoft TechSpark¹ is one of the programs that help communities not only catch up but lead in the AI economy.

Microsoft TechSpark is a national initiative advancing inclusive opportunity, digital transformation, and job creation in overlooked communities. Built on the belief that innovation shouldn't be limited by geography, TechSpark partners with nonprofits, local leaders, and public/private organizations to strengthen tech ecosystems and expand access to Al.

TechSpark's mission is to close these gaps—not just observe them. Through regional hubs, a robust Fellows Program, and community-based pilots, TechSpark empowers communities to lead in the AI economy.

Over the past 20 months, TechSpark Fellows have catalyzed \$249+ million in funding and upskilled over 34,600 individuals across 46 communities.

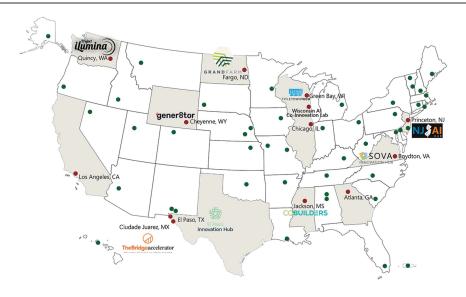
20 months of Fellows' impact across 46 communities

\$249M +million in funding

over 34,600 upskilled individuals

## TechSpark communities

- TechSpark Regions
- TechSpark Fellows



### Defining AI readiness: Indicators and metrics

Microsoft TechSpark understands AI readiness through three pillars—skilling, innovation, and adoption—acknowledging both current business activity and future adoption potential. By examining regional performance across these pillars, TechSpark identifies different pathways for local leaders in the public and private sectors to drive economic development through AI.

### Skilling:

Equipping individuals
—from students to
jobseekers—with digital and
Al skills to meet workforce
needs

### Innovation:

Empowering startups and organizations to build solutions using cloud and Al

### Adoption:

Supporting infrastructure modernization, broadband expansion, and tech integration through training and policy

TechSpark has become a catalyst for sustainable change through collaborative programming, digital workshops, coaching cohorts, and community-based pilots. Whether it's accelerating digital literacy in rural Maine or helping startups in El Paso leverage Al to transform logistics, TechSpark proves that when local leaders have the right tools, communities everywhere can build thriving, future-ready economies.



Microsoft's TechSpark program works closely with local community organizations to develop digital skills, support nonprofits and create jobs. Working with organizations like Microsoft will help realize the potential of technology and foster greater economic opportunity in Colorado, Wyoming and beyond.



Emily Wilson
Innosphere Ventures and Microsoft TechSpark Fellow, CO



# Skilling: Building regional AI pipelines through education and skilling

The TechSpark program helps bolster AI talent through local education and skilling initiatives that empower communities. From integrating AI into hands-on learning tools to expanding access to computer science and AI education in rural areas, the TechSpark program is providing tomorrow's workforce with the knowledge it needs now.

### CoBuilders, Mississippi

Microsoft celebrates <a href="three-years">three-years</a> of partnership² with Innovate Mississippi in supporting CoBuilders, a statewide startup accelerator dedicated to empowering Mississippi entrepreneurs. CoBuilders has supported 35 startups, providing over \$1.22 million in investments, mentorship, and training. Success stories like Food Scout and Home Tours Pro™ demonstrate how local talent, equipped with Microsoft tools like Azure and Copilot, has created innovative Al-driven solutions that scale businesses and transform industries. This collaboration has strengthened Mississippi's innovation ecosystem by cultivating a skilled entrepreneurial workforce.

CoBuilders underscores the critical role of skilling in driving innovation and economic growth. By offering targeted training and resources, the program builds a pipeline of skilled professionals, addressing talent gaps outside larger tech hubs and fostering equitable AI readiness. CoBuilders showcases how such programs can unlock innovation potential, positioning Mississippi as a replicable model for advancing emerging regions in the AI economy.





Innovation knows no boundaries, but for many entrepreneurs, access to funding and opportunity remains a steep hill to climb. Our partnership with Innovate Mississippi has proven that with the right support and resources, those challenges become stepping stones.

JJ Townsend TechSpark Manager, MS



### Integral Youth Services, Oregon



Integral Youth Services, based in southern Oregon, developed the Spark Lab and DigiSpark app to help close the digital divide for at-risk youth. By integrating Al into hands-on learning tools through Minecraft Education and Microsoft Learn Platform, the organization supported over 300 students and partnered with 15 local organizations to expand access to digital skills. This program shows that community-anchored, Al-driven education solutions can rapidly scale opportunity in rural and underserved areas.

When the program was launched, IYS had 30 students and a 25% attendance rate. By implementing insights learned from the TechSpark Fellow Program, AI Learning Sprints and collaborating with other Fellows in the program, participation grew to 300 students with an 80% attendance rate.

Beyond the numbers, the program created a profound impact on students, particularly those facing poverty. Through partnerships 15 students secured permanent housing, 10 pursued higher education, 11 advanced their careers, and 8 became community Al ambassadors. Additionally, two interns earned scholarships and enrolled in a Master's program, showcasing the transformative power of this initiative.



Being part of the TechSpark program and learning alongside other fellows has been both insightful and inspiring. I've gained knowledge from leaders across the country, and their support has uplifted a community of youth that otherwise would never have had the opportunity to achieve so much.

### **Taylor Hampton**

Integral Youth Service and TechSpark Fellow, OR



### STEAM Train, Connecticut



STEAM Train<sup>3</sup>, Inc. addressed the digital skills gap and underrepresentation in tech by launching its Fast Track Academy and hosting Al-infused community workshops. These programs reached more than 150 individuals and 35 organizations, with support from a network of 20 partners. By embedding Al training into locally driven workforce programs, STEAM Train demonstrated how community-led skilling efforts can create inclusive tech pipelines.

STEAM Train's AI training materials were adopted by a local college to train faculty on prompt engineering, leading to partnerships with the NAACP, YMCA, and Veterans Affairs to expand AI education. Graduates of the Fast Track Academy have completed all program requirements, including LinkedIn Learning Certifications. Many have launched careers in information technology, continued their education, and contributed to the growth of the local economy. The apprenticeship program has also helped connect individuals from diverse backgrounds with employers. These accomplishments show the strength of community-based talent development in promoting innovation, inclusion, and more equitable communities.



STEAM Train has leveraged several Microsoft resources in the creation of our program. We took full advantage of training and mentoring opportunities to grow our AI knowledge and enhance our ability to deliver digital skills training. Funding helped us expand capacity, bring on an AI intern, and launch internal and community-focused AI training across Connecticut, using LinkedIn Learning and Copilot as key tools.

**Donna Hylton**STEAM Train and TechSpark Fellow, CT



### NOLAvate Black, Louisianna

NOLAvate Black's<sup>4</sup> Explore Tech Talent Accelerator has empowered over 400 individuals nationwide from 2024–2025, bridging the gap between training and employment in tech. By incorporating Al-driven strategies, mentorship, and certifications, the program addressed critical gaps in talent readiness while expanding career pathways in high-demand industries. Partnerships with 20 organizations, including Microsoft and the NFL, enabled participants to engage with advanced Al tools and explore creative applications in fields like gaming, music, and design.

The program's focus on Al literacy, mentorship, and career readiness has created opportunities for underrepresented talent to connect with industry leaders, gain practical skills, and access high-wage, in-demand tech careers. Through events like Black Tech NOLA and Al workshops, participants gained valuable exposure to the intersections of Al and creative industries, fostering both personal and professional growth.





Sparking digital transformation in underserved communities demands a unified effort—nonprofits, businesses, advocates, educators, and community leaders working together to establish equitable access to tools and resources that drive economic opportunity for everyone. The Microsoft TechSpark fellowship isn't just about workshops or training on products and services; the program has equipped us to lead a movement for digital equity, ensuring no one is left behind.

#### Sabrina Short

NOLAvate Black and TechSpark Fellow, LA



### Educate Maine, Maine

Educate Maine<sup>5</sup> scaled its Project>Login initiative to expand access to computer science and Al education in rural areas. Through partnerships across 12 rural communities, over 500 learners gained access to tech career pathways and handson digital learning. As Educate Maine shows, regionally tailored efforts can open doors in areas that are often overlooked by mainstream skilling programs.

An 8th-grade student from Old Town attended two Girls Who Code summer camps and, with her STEM teacher, started a Girls Who Code club at her school. She's now participating in the Al + Sustainability Challenge, growing her Al literacy and empowering peers to pursue STEM.

Initiatives like Microsoft Farmbeats<sup>6</sup> for Students demonstrate the profound impact of community-driven efforts, providing 100 tech kits and equipping educators with the tools to ignite curiosity and inspire learning in classrooms. The Mobile BioLab connected computer science with life sciences, sparking hands-on learning that brought students closer to the world of innovation. With \$198,385 in funding secured and a \$300,000 NSF grant on the horizon, this work is changing lives and proving that local talent, when nurtured, can create a ripple effect of opportunity and hope.





As a 2-year Microsoft TechSpark Fellow and Director at Educate Maine, I'm particularly excited about how the advancements in AI can support rural communities and expand access to lifelong learning. The opportunities to bridge gaps and create sustainable change have never been greater.

**Angela Oechslie**Educate Maine and TechSpark Fellow, ME



# Innovation: Applying new and emerging technologies to solve local challenges and spark progress

The TechSpark program ensures entrepreneurs, startups, and local organizations have what they need to build and scale innovative AI solutions. By making advanced tools accessible to local entrepreneurs, the TechSpark program empowers communities to pursue and advance AI at large, as well as in their own regions.

### TitletownTech, Wisconsin

TitletownTech<sup>7</sup>—an early-stage venture capital firm based in Green Bay, Wisconsin, launched the inaugural Startup Draft in April 2025<sup>8</sup>—a national pitch competition aligned with the NFL Draft. Designed to spotlight startups in sectors like advanced manufacturing, energy, digital health, and sports, the event drew nearly 1,000 applicants. Two local finalists, Ateios Systems and Ubicept, each received \$1 million in investment from TitletownTech and Microsoft, plus \$350,000 in Azure credits, catalyzing their early-stage growth. Aligning innovation efforts with cultural milestones like the NFL Draft can unlock visibility, partnerships, and capital in powerful ways.





Strong ecosystems don't just happen—they're built through intentional collaboration, shared vision, and a commitment to unlocking potential in every corner of the community. At TitletownTech, we believe that when entrepreneurs are connected to the right resources, mentors, and partners, innovation flourishes and entire regions can thrive. We're pleased to partner with Microsoft through TechSpark to help make that vision a reality.

### **Craig Dickman**Managing Director, TitletownTech



### Innosphere Ventures, Colorado

Innosphere Ventures leads the Colorado–Wyoming Climate Resilience Engine and launched the Digital Twins Deployment Accelerator to help startups build digital twin technologies for climate resilience. The program is supporting 10-12 startups working on solutions for renewable energy, carbon tracking, water management, and regenerative agriculture. The program illustrates how targeted tech accelerators can catalyze regional solutions to global environmental challenges

"The collaboration with Microsoft aligns with the CO-WY Engine's long-term objectives of fostering innovation, driving economic growth, and enhancing climate resiliency. We look forward to collaborating with Microsoft to ensure the success of this visionary initiative. Microsoft's involvement will provide critical resources and bolster the accelerator's capacity to support startup ventures that are poised to make a significant impact on the digital twins ecosystem. The \$50,000 investment from Microsoft will advance digital twin technology and contribute significantly to regional economic development," says Emily Wilson, CO-WY Engine Administrator and Microsoft TechSpark Fellow, CO

### Innovation Depot, Alabama

Innovation Depot in Birmingham embedded AI into its early-stage founder programs, Voltage and Boost, making advanced tools accessible to non-technical entrepreneurs. These efforts helped startups in Alabama prototype faster, gain confidence, and build smarter from the start. This approach demonstrates that demystifying AI and integrating it into foundational programming can create more inclusive and capable startup ecosystems.





The TechSpark Fellowship pushed me to really lean into AI at the right time. It helped me stay ahead of the curve and made it clear how important it is to bring others along for the ride. Our AI Meetup has grown into a vibrant community, and integrating AI into our founder programs couldn't have come at a better moment. It's exactly the update our ecosystem needed to keep up with this major shift in technology.

### Ritchie Kruunenberg

Innovation Depot and TechSpark Fellow, AL



### Grand Farm, North Dakota

Grand Farm, a TechSpark signature initiative, continues to redefine agriculture through partnerships with John Deere, Bobcat, and others. Since Microsoft's \$1.5M pledge in 2019, the project has hosted thousands of visitors and become a national showcase for agricultural innovation. During her 2024 visit, Secretary Brooke Rollins called Grand Farm "a showcase for the next iteration of American innovation," underscoring its role in advancing food security and technology. Grand Farm is powered by 87 active partners and a growing network of more than 2,500 organizations advancing the future of agriculture. Its Innovation Campus spans 590 acres, serving as a living lab for AgTech research, development, demonstration, and validation.



In partnership with the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Grand Farm is building the UGA Grand Farm—a 250-acre innovation site in Perry, Georgia. In 2025, Grand Farm will host field trials from 18 partners at its Innovation Campus near Casselton, North Dakota, and will expand trials to Georgia for the first time. Through collaborative partnerships and competitive proposals, Grand Farm has secured over 10 federal and state grants, awards, and appropriations to fuel AgTech innovation.

Reflecting on Grand Farm's impact, Taya Spelhaug, TechSpark Manager for North Dakota and Grand Farm board member, emphasized the personal and generational significance of the initiative. Grand Farm brings together future farmers, technologists, and leaders to shape the future of agriculture. "It gave me goosebumps to see these students get this opportunity. As someone who took tremendous pride in wearing that [FFA] jacket, it was powerful to witness," Taya Spelhaug stated.

### AizenFlow, Texas

AizenFlow, based in the El Paso del Norte region—a longtime hub for trade and cross-border commerce—was born out of a local hackathon sponsored by Gamer Logistics and Microsoft TechSpark. The startup developed an Al-powered software platform that uses <u>Microsoft Azure</u><sup>9</sup> to reduce freight brokerage tasks from 24 hours to just 15 minutes, while also improving security, compliance, and efficiency. The solution addresses key pain points for small carriers and has already begun transforming logistics operations for local manufacturers and brokers. AizenFlow's success highlights how grassroots tech collaborations can drive high-impact innovation and strengthen regional economic ties.



Communities thrive when emerging technologies are used to solve real-world challenges—not adopted for novelty. AizenFlow is a powerful example of how pairing AI with deep customer focus can turn innovation into meaningful outcomes. By centering real needs and local priorities, we ensure that technology becomes a tool for empowerment, not just promotion.

J.J. Childress TechSpark Manager, TX



# Adoption: Advancing AI readiness through trusted local leadership

Helping communities modernize infrastructure, expand broadband, and adopt new technologies through training, policy support, and capacity-building efforts, the TechSpark program equips local leaders with the tools and skills they need to support a thriving AI workforce.

### SOVA, Virginia

Microsoft TechSpark's collaboration with the <u>SOVA Innovation Hub</u><sup>10</sup> and gener8tor continues to transform Southern Virginia by equipping residents with the skills needed for sustainable careers in the digital economy. Through programs like the gener8tor Skills Accelerator, over 170 participants have gained industry-recognized certifications and personalized job placement support, with a 70% local job placement rate and an average starting salary of \$60,802. These efforts have fostered inclusive economic growth by aligning training with real-world opportunities, enabling participants to stay and thrive in their communities.

Al adoption and workforce development require a deliberate focus on talent, infrastructure, and regional collaboration. By integrating Al education into programs and driving local adoption, Southern Virginia has demonstrated that even rural regions can become hubs of innovation and productivity. This approach highlights the significant potential of community-driven strategies to scale Al readiness and economic transformation nationwide.

"Microsoft's TechSpark Virginia signature project, the SOVA Innovation Hub, and its various partners have worked together for the last several years to bring upskilling opportunities into the region, to help meet the growing demand of its employer base," said Jeremy Satterfield, TechSpark Manager, Microsoft. "As AI becomes more integrated into our economy, it is crucial to prepare workers across industries with the skills needed to succeed."



### SOAR, Kentucky

Shaping Our <u>Appalachian Region</u><sup>11</sup> (SOAR) is addressing unemployment and underemployment in Eastern Kentucky through the Eastern Kentucky Runway Program, a transformative initiative designed to empower individuals disconnected from the workforce. By providing personalized coaching, wraparound support, and access to Al-driven tools, the program is paving the way for dignity, stability, and long-term economic mobility.

This initiative addresses immediate employment needs while building long-term capacity, empowering participants to become AI creators and problem-solvers. By positioning AI as a tool for empowerment, SOAR transforms individuals from passive users to active innovators, fostering stabilized families, stronger communities, and a skilled local workforce.





Being part of the Microsoft TechSpark Fellowship has been transformational—not just for me, but for Eastern Kentucky. It's given us the tools, network, and momentum to dream bigger about what's possible in rural America. From exploring how AI can close skills gaps to rethinking digital access as a foundation for economic mobility, this experience has helped me lead with more clarity, creativity, and purpose.

Colby Hall SOAR and TechSpark Fellow, KY





### TechBuffalo, New York

TechBuffalo launched the <u>Innovation Fellowship</u><sup>12</sup> to equip K-8 educators across western New York to teach AI, STEM, and computer science. Fellows led classroom instruction, family tech nights, and regional coding clubs. By empowering teachers, the program seeded long-term digital literacy and helped build a future-ready talent pipeline in underserved communities.

"Being part of the TechSpark journey has opened doors to meaningful collaborations and invaluable resources that have directly strengthened our regional impact. From building connections with statewide leaders to leveraging Microsoft's local network, this experience has empowered us to scale our tech talent initiatives and foster a more inclusive, future-ready workforce in Western New York."—Rachel Eastlack, TechBuffalo and TechSpark Fellow, NY

### Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber, Pennsylvania



The greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber created TechCelerator in Luzerne County that has catalyzed significant growth in Northeastern Pennsylvania's tech ecosystem. Over ten weeks, the <u>program empowered</u><sup>13</sup> seven early-stage tech startups with education, mentorship, and resources, enabling participants to refine their business models, incorporate emerging technologies like AI, and pitch their ventures to industry leaders. This work has fostered regional collaboration, strengthened economic development, and positioned Luzerne County as a hub for tech innovation.

A powerful takeaway from this program is how adopting Al and digital tools can profoundly impact individuals and their communities. By incorporating Al into workflows and guiding participants in its use, TechCelerator has not only helped entrepreneurs enhance their business productivity but has also inspired innovation and fostered meaningful change. This program has shown how emerging technologies can empower people to turn their ideas into reality, creating lasting opportunities for growth and transformation in their local communities.



Microsoft's support through coaching, peer fellows, communication tools, and expertise made it possible to launch our TechCelerator test cohort and amplified our efforts, uniting our local entrepreneurial ecosystem around a shared mission.

#### **Shanie Mohamed**

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber and TechSpark Fellow, PA



### Apparo, North Carolina



Apparo has successfully empowered nonprofits to integrate AI tools and strategies, driving efficiency and amplifying their impact. Over the past eight months, through initiatives such as AI-focused workshops, the AI for Social Good Playbook, and customized training sessions. Apparo has supported 531 nonprofit staff across 427 organizations in adopting AI to streamline workflows, save time, and better achieve their missions.

Apparo's work demonstrates that Al adoption transforms nonprofits, even with limited resources. Tools like Microsoft Copilot and ChatGPT have saved time, improved decision-making, and boosted efficiency, reducing training development by 66%. By fostering collaborative learning, Apparo has empowered nonprofit leaders with confidence and adaptability, helping them focus on their missions and amplify their community impact.



Being part of TechSpark for two years has been transformative. This year, I focused on upskilling nonprofits on how AI can save time and boost impact—sparking ideas, building confidence, and inspiring new ways of working. Hearing feedback like, 'I created cybersecurity awareness training in one day instead of three,' underscored the real, tangible benefits AI brings to our communities.

**Stephanie McKee**Apparo and TechSpark Fellow, NC



## Our partners

Recognizing and thanking our partners who are making a difference across the US:





























































































# Growing AI readiness in your community



Al readiness is defined by a community's ability to cultivate talent, drive innovation, and adopt Al technology across its industries and sectors. TechSpark has long understood that closing any technological divide requires investment across these three key pillars: talent, innovation, and adoption. Today, TechSpark is working diligently with local communities to ensure they are Al-ready as well. The impact we've seen across our Fellows and partner programs shows that Al readiness needn't be confined to traditional tech hubs. When communities lead, real progress follows, and with the right partnerships, that progress can be inclusive and beneficial for everyone.

## Get the resources you need to build AI-ready communities

With the right talent, innovation, and adoption, any community, not just tech hubs, can lead in Al. Together, we can turn potential into progress for everyone. Learn how at https://aka.ms/TSPlaybook<sup>14</sup>

### **Endnotes**

1 Microsoft TechSpark program:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/corporate-responsibility/techspark?activetab=pivot1:primaryr4

2 CoBuilders, Mississippi Innovate Mississippi partnership:

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/celebrating-3-years-cobuilding-jj-townsend-rujrc/

3 STEAM Train, Inc. article:

 $\frac{https://www.linkedin.com/posts/omar-saucedo-50083a67\_microsoft-techspark-connecticut-activity-7138966455240327168-vi0w/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co$ 

4 NOLAvate Black's Explore Tech Talent Accelerator:

 $\frac{https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/microsoft-techspark-fellow-nolavate-black-champions-ai-darrell-booker-t4hfe/?trackingId=yVS8XAITRP-WeY4nm32fncQ%3D%3D$ 

5 Educate Maine:

 $\frac{https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/talent-everywhere-using-technology-unlock-potential-rural-schuler-mh6ac/?trackingId=bZRXQGpx-T%2B%2B%2FsZq9IGGKiA%3D%3D$ 

6 Microsoft Farmbeats for Students:

 $\underline{https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/project/farmbeats-iot-agriculture/?msockid=0bb455c631aa623009d740eb30c5636f}$ 

7 TitletownTech Startup:

https://www.titletowntech.com/newsroom

8 Titletown Startup Draft story:

https://unlocked.microsoft.com/nfl-titletowntech/

9 AizenFlow use of Microsoft Azure:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/corporate-responsibility/aizenflow-gamer-logistics?msockid=245172bcce2369aa2ae661facfad68ff

10 SOVA Innovation Hub:

 $\frac{https://news.microsoft.com/source/2019/04/29/mid-atlantic-broadband-communities-corp-and-microsoft-to-build-the-sova-innova-tion-hub-in-southern-virginia/$ 

11 SOAR, Kentucky:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LOCX4NiYog&t=2s

12 TechBuffalo Innovation Fellowship:

https://unlocked.microsoft.com/techbuffalo/

13 Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber created TechCelerator in Luzerne County:

 $\frac{https://www.linkedin.com/posts/jeremy-satterfield-0072427\_last-week-i-had-the-opportunity-to-visit-activity-7315371177764401152-VL-hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm\_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm\_source=share&utm_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm_source=share&utm_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm_source=share&utm_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm_source=share&utm_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7\_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm_source=share&utm_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm_source=share&utm_member\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFIL2kBJZlwpBaEy47WfQl7_L_VAf8k3Co}{\frac{hU/?utm_source=share&$ 

14 TechSpark Playbook:

https://aka.ms/TSPlaybook