

Leading 4-H Forward

Enhancing 4-H Reach and Resources through AI

Extension and LGU Resources

- 2025 Extension Foundation National AI Report
- Extension Essentials: Things to Consider about Using CRMs in Extension
- National 4-H Council and Microsoft Extend $10M Partnership to Expand AI Education for Rural Youth and Educators Press Release

Professional Development Experiences

- The **Extension Foundation** sponsors, *"Artificial Intelligence Fundraising and Grants Use Cases for Extension Professionals,"* a professional development series focused on practical applications for Cooperative Extension professionals. Free Registration can be found on their website. The series is delivered via Zoom on the third Thursday of each month through July 2026. Each 75-minute session is designed as a standalone workshop, while also building sequentially for participants who choose to attend the full series. Upcoming topics and dates are as follows, beginning at 1:00 PM Central Standard Time:
    - Mar 19, 2026 - Grant Writing & Fundraising with AI: From Prospecting to Reporting
    - Apr 16, 2026 - Smarter Fundraising Communications & Marketing
    - May 21, 2026 - Organizational Efficiency: Freeing Up Time for Fundraising
    - Jun 18, 2026 - Leading Fundraising Strategy & Creativity with AI
    - Jul 16, 2026 - Future-Proofing Fundraising: Tracking AI Trends & Adoption Choices
- University of Maryland Online Certificate in AI and Career Empowerment through the Smith School of Business equips learners with the foundational understanding needed to navigate—and strategically position themselves within—the rapidly evolving AI-enabled economy. It provides a practical introduction to artificial intelligence and examines how AI is reshaping major functional areas and career pathways across industries. The course features expert instruction from professors and industry professionals, offering both academic grounding and practical, market-relevant perspectives.



External to Extension/LGU

Resources

- Grant Professionals Association Statement on Artificial Intelligence

Podcasts, Videos, and Online Learning

- IBM SkillsBuild – Power your future in technology with job skills, courses, and credentials with free courses and resources. There is also an option for educators to prepare students for the workforce of the future.
- Microsoft Learn - Official learning platform for building skills across its technology ecosystem. It's designed for self-paced, hands-on learning—from fundamentals to advanced, role-specific expertise. Professionals at any level (beginner to advanced) can learn Data & AI (Power BI, Fabric, Azure AI, Copilot concepts) for upskilling or reskilling.
- DeeplearningAI - Online education platform with a free membership option founded by Andrew Ng that provides practical training in artificial intelligence, taught by leading engineers and researchers from organizations such as OpenAI, Google, and Replit. Designed for learners at all levels, the platform emphasizes foundational AI principles that transfer across tools and vendors, helping professionals build durable skills rather than dependence on a single system. Courses combine clear explanations with hands-on projects, enabling participants to immediately apply what they learn to real-world challenges such as program innovation, data analysis, grant writing, and organizational efficiency.
- OpenAI Academy -OpenAI Academy equips learners with the knowledge, skills, and real-world use cases needed to harness AI effectively in their work and communities. The focus is on practical application—moving beyond theory to show how AI can improve productivity, decision-making, creativity, and problem-solving—while emphasizing responsible, ethical, and inclusive use of AI technologies.
- PragmaticWorks -Their cheat sheets under Resources offer a comprehensive collection of Microsoft Copilot resources designed to help users maximize productivity and strategic impact. Their library includes practical tools, implementation guides, and applied use-case examples that support a wide range of Copilot functionalities across projects and daily workflows. The resources are structured to move beyond basic features and help professionals integrate Copilot effectively into data analysis, reporting, content development, and operational tasks—ensuring users have the guidance and technical insight needed to translate AI capabilities into measurable results.