



Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Sexual Assault Service Providers:

INTRODUCTION TO AI

CONSIDERATIONS:

[The Ethics and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence in the Nonprofit Sector](#)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here to stay. Whether viewed as a powerful tool or a source of concern, AI is becoming increasingly common across all sectors – including nonprofits, where staff are often stretched thin and under-resourced. When used thoughtfully, AI tools can improve efficiency, assist with content creation, and support day-to-day operations.

However, it's essential to understand the risks, limitations, and ethical considerations that come with using AI, especially in the sexual violence field. AI systems are not neutral. They reflect the data and values of their creators and can unintentionally replicate or amplify existing harms – including those rooted in racism, sexism, ableism, and other forms of oppression.

In our work, where trust, safety, and survivor-centered values are fundamental, we must approach AI with a commitment to ethics, transparency, and accountability. This includes being intentional about how and when we use AI, understanding where it falls short, and prioritizing human judgment and lived experience.

We must also recognize the environmental costs of AI. While our sector's use is small compared to broader trends, it's still part of a larger system with significant climate implications. Raising awareness about these concerns can foster deeper ethical conversations and lead to more responsible and intentional practices.

Key Considerations for Using AI in Our Work

While there are many complex ethical issues with AI, these are particularly critical in the sexual violence prevention and response field:

1. **Privacy:** Confidentiality is non-negotiable in our work. Never input any personally identifying, sensitive, or survivor-related data into AI tools – even if the tool says it's secure. These systems may store and learn from your data, and you have limited control over where it ends up.

Tip: Use AI for general tasks like writing drafts of outreach materials, generating training outlines, or summarizing public documents – never for case notes, client records, or private communications.

2. **Accuracy:** AI is not a replacement for lived experience, professional expertise, or survivor voices. These tools can generate confident-sounding text that includes factual errors, outdated practices, or culturally inappropriate assumptions.

Tip: Always fact-check AI-generated content. Use it as a starting point, not a final product – and make sure materials reflect the complexity and context of your work.

3. **Bias:** AI models are trained on large amounts of online data, which means they can reproduce the same biases found in society – often reinforcing stereotypes or excluding marginalized perspectives – so responsible use is essential in human centered work.

Tip: Review AI-generated content for bias. Ask: Whose perspective is centered here? Who is missing? Would this language resonate with or harm survivors of different backgrounds?

Unique Harms in the Sexual Violence Field

In addition to ethical use within organizations, it's important to acknowledge the growing harm caused by AI in society – especially AI-facilitated sexual abuse. Deepfake pornography accounts for an estimated 96% of deepfake content online, often featuring non-consensual imagery of women and girls. These violations can retraumatize survivors and create new forms of abuse. More information on tech safety can be found on the [Technology](#) page of the WCASA website.

Meanwhile, the tech industry has largely failed to take accountability. Many companies and platforms continue to profit from tools that cause harm, leaving social justice organizations with difficult questions about whether and how to use those same tools.

Moving Forward with Intention

Despite these challenges, AI can be a helpful resource when used thoughtfully. For nonprofits working to end sexual violence, it can assist with routine tasks, improve access to information, and support capacity in a field that urgently needs it – if we stay grounded in our values. AI is evolving rapidly. Let's engage with it critically, creatively, and with our ethics at the center.

Before using AI, ask yourself:

- Is this task appropriate for AI?
- Am I protecting the privacy and dignity of the people we serve?
- Have I reviewed the content for accuracy, inclusivity, and bias?
- Does using this tool align with our mission and values?

AI POLICY:

[How Nonprofits Can Create Ethical AI Policies](#)

More than half of nonprofits are already using AI in some form – from drafting communications to analyzing data. Yet, fewer than 10% have a formal policy in place to guide ethical and responsible use. As AI use grows, so does the need for clear, values-based policies that ensure transparency, protect privacy, and provide consistent guidance for staff.

Every nonprofit should create an AI policy – no matter your size, mission, or tech capacity. In addition to promoting transparency and accountability, a policy gives your team the clarity and confidence to navigate this rapidly evolving landscape safely and ethically.

Why an AI Policy Matters

Whether or not you personally use AI tools, it's increasingly likely that someone in your organization does. A proactive policy should:

- Set clear expectations for how AI can and cannot be used.
- Ensure sensitive or confidential data is protected.
- Help staff understand risks, limitations, and ethical concerns.
- Align new technologies with your mission and work.

A Tool to Help: The Nonprofit AI Policy Builder

To support nonprofits in drafting their own policies, Fast Forward developed the [Nonprofit AI Policy Builder](#) – a free, user-friendly tool that walks you through creating a custom AI policy for your organization. Features include:

- Conversational interface that helps you think through key decisions.
- Three levels of depth depending on your time, capacity, and goals.
- Customizable outputs that adapt to your agency's voice and needs.

PLATFORMS:

[AI for Nonprofit Empowerment](#)

To date, ChatGPT is the most widely used platform offering basic AI functionality through a free version. In addition to its conversational capabilities, ChatGPT can be integrated with commonly used tools such as PowerPoint and Canva, making it easier to develop high-quality materials for education, training, and outreach.

When exploring platforms, it's important to choose tools that are not only effective, but also accessible, transparent, and appropriate for the sensitive nature of our work. The tools listed here offer free versions or trials. While many platforms also offer premium upgrades, we emphasize free and accessible tools to support resource-strapped teams. Based on expert guidance and hands-on experience, the following platforms are recommended for common nonprofit tasks:

- [CapCut](#): For video editing and captioning, useful in creating accessible digital content.

- [ChatGPT](#): For writing, editing, and content development, including reports, emails, and workshop materials.
- [Claude](#): For writing and editing, often praised for its clear, supportive tone.
- [Gamma](#): For creating presentations, websites, and visual materials.
- [Perplexity](#): For research support, summarizing complex topics and pointing to credible sources.

When choosing a platform, more features doesn't always mean better. Task-specific AI models, which are trained only on specialized data needed to complete a select number of tasks, are faster, more accurate, and often more energy efficient than general-use models. It may seem intuitive to select a platform that can do many things but you may find that a more focused tool produces better results

Evaluating AI Platforms for Safety, Privacy, and Equity

When selecting or using any AI platform, it's essential to look beyond convenience and features. Consider how a tool aligns with your organization's values, privacy responsibilities, and equity commitments. Just because a tool is popular or free doesn't mean it's right for your organization. Approach each platform with curiosity and caution – and make decisions that reflect your mission, protect your communities, and support long-term trust and safety. Here are some key questions to ask before adopting a new platform:

1. Privacy & Data Use

- Does the platform store or reuse the data you input?
- Can you control what happens to your data?
- Does the tool comply with confidentiality requirements?

Tip: Avoid entering any sensitive, personal, or survivor-related data into AI platforms — even if they claim to be secure.

2. Equity & Inclusion

- Who built this tool, and who benefits from it?
- Does it reproduce or amplify bias in its outputs?
- Is it accessible to users with different languages, abilities, etc.?

Tip: Review outputs critically for bias, stereotypes, or exclusion of marginalized voices.

3. Accountability & Transparency

- Does the company disclose how their AI models were trained?
- Are there clear terms of service and user protections?
- Is the tool responsive to community feedback or harms?

Tip: Favor platforms that are transparent about their methods and open to accountability.

USING AI:

[Responsible AI for Nonprofits: Smart, Ethical Ways to Use New AI Technology](#)

AI does not and cannot replace the work and value of a living person on staff or in community, but it can be a useful tool to assist nonprofits in reducing the time and effort it takes to produce high-demand work – especially for small teams with limited capacity. Below are examples of how AI can support common areas of nonprofit work:

Grant Writing & Reporting:

Grant writing is time-consuming, and many small programs don't have dedicated staff for it. AI can function like a writing assistant – helping draft, edit, and format content for applications or reports. It can also help refresh old content or translate technical concepts for specific funders.

Examples:

- Paste existing language into the AI and ask it to “refresh this text for a grant report” or “review for grammar and clarity.”
- Include scoring criteria or funder guidelines and ask the AI to review your text accordingly for a more tailored edit.
- Paste in a grant question and ask the AI to “draft a response to this question” or “enhance this answer by including trauma-informed language.”
- Use AI to develop SMART objectives, workplans, logic models, budget narratives, evaluation measures, and other technical components.
- Ask AI to “reduce this section to 300 words” or “make this text fit within a 1,000-character limit” to meet application restrictions.

It is important to note that some grants – both reports and applications – may ask about your AI usage in the development of the submission. Especially with the unreliability of AI detection software, it is important to understand how you and your team are using AI in grant related tasks. We recommend you clarify the intent behind these funding requirements to advocate for the best interests and practices of your agency.

Outreach & Communications:

Outreach is essential in sexual violence work — whether you're raising awareness, reaching survivors, or educating the public. AI can help brainstorm and generate communication strategies for social media, websites, and other platforms.

Examples:

- Ask AI to “create 30 social media messages for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) for Facebook and Instagram.”
- Use AI to adapt your tone for different audiences (e.g., “rewrite this message for youth ages 13–18”).
- Develop messaging campaigns for specific goals, like promoting services in rural areas or responding to community events.

- Combine AI-generated messaging with platforms like Canva for easy visual design.

Resource Development:

Whether updating existing materials or creating new ones, AI can help generate content, identify gaps, and present complex ideas clearly. It can also help adapt content for different formats like trainings or handouts. Due to limitations in translation, AI should not be used for this purpose.

Examples:

- Upload an existing toolkit, article, or handout and ask AI to “suggest improvements” or “summarize this in one page.”
- Ask AI to “develop a one-hour training on trauma-informed care for new advocates” or “create a lesson plan for a general audience about health equity.”
- Convert long resources into usable formats by asking AI to “create a slide deck, one-pager, or infographic” (AI may even offer options unprompted.)
- Generate interactive learning tools such as discussion questions, case studies, or scenarios for training sessions.

Collaboration:

AI doesn’t just make individuals more productive—it can also help teams work better together. By capturing key details and keeping projects on track, AI reduces the time teams spend coordinating so they can spend more time creating. The most effective approach is to use integrated tools (chat, file sharing, project tracking) where AI features can automatically connect the dots and support collaboration in real time.

Examples:

- Utilize features in meeting platforms to take notes; it can also be prompted to “summarize meeting notes”, “suggest next steps”, or “pull out important tasks”.
- Employ AI for brainstorming sessions by generating idea prompts, exploring alternatives, or clustering similar ideas.
- Ask AI to combined multiple documents or ideas from your team, with requests like “create one document with the main ideas and concepts from these documents”.
- AI can also be used to coordinate schedules, create task boards, and develop shared calendars to support team logistics.

The more you use AI, the better it can reflect your agency’s tone, language, and values. You can share previous examples of your work to help it learn your writing style, preferred terminology, and audience. With regular use and clear instructions, AI can become a personalized support system that saves time while maintaining your unique voice.

***While not experts in AI, WCASA staff are actively engaging in AI use in our work.
In fact, we used it to help us develop this resource.***

If you need support, please reach out: wcasa@wcasa.org