

Non-Technical AI Onramp Program

14-Day Beginner Track · No Coding Required

CivicOS Learning Track

AI Literacy · Governance · Public-Sector Readiness

Purpose

This onramp is designed for learners with little or no coding background who still need to understand AI deeply enough to participate in CivicOS discussions, publishing, and decision-making. No technical prerequisites are required.

Program Format

TIME	45–60 minutes per day	STYLE	Reading + video + guided reflection · No coding required	OUTPUT	Short daily notes · 5–10 bullet points
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Outcome by Day 14

You will be able to:

- Explain core AI concepts in plain language
- Understand what models can and cannot do
- Read technical discussions without getting lost
- Ask better questions about risk, bias, accountability, and governance
- Transition into the technical prep track with confidence

WEEK
1

AI Literacy Foundations

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What AI Is (and Isn't)

Focus: AI vs software vs automation

Deliverable: 1 paragraph — "What AI is in my own words"

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How AI Learns

Focus: Training data, patterns, predictions

Deliverable: Explain training with a real-life analogy

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3

Model Types at a Glance
Focus: Classification, regression, generation
Deliverable: Match 6 real-world tasks to model types

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Why Accuracy Isn't Enough
Focus: False positives/negatives, tradeoffs
Deliverable: Identify risk of being wrong in a public-sector example

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5

Bias and Fairness Basics
Focus: Data bias, representation, harms
Deliverable: List 3 ways bias can enter AI systems

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6

Explainability and Transparency
Focus: Black box vs interpretable systems
Deliverable: Define "acceptable transparency" for civic use

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7

Human Oversight
Focus: Human-in-the-loop and accountability
Deliverable: Checklist — when humans must override AI

WEEK
2

CivicOS Policy + Practical Readiness

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y
8

AI in Government Use Cases
Focus: Permits, benefits, triage, service delivery
Deliverable: Pick one use case and map benefits/risks

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y
9

Procurement and Vendor Lock-In
Focus: Open standards, interoperability, audit rights
Deliverable: 5 procurement questions every agency should ask

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y
10

Governance Controls
Focus: Logging, audit trails, appeals process
Deliverable: Draft a simple governance control list

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1**Privacy + Security Basics***Focus:* Sensitive data, model leakage, access controls*Deliverable:* Define 3 "never compromise" privacy rulesD
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2**Misinformation + Reliability***Focus:* Hallucinations, verification workflows*Deliverable:* Create a "trust but verify" checklistD
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3**Communicating AI to the Public***Focus:* Plain-language messaging, trust framing*Deliverable:* 250-word explainer for a parent/citizen audienceD
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4**Readiness Assessment + Next Step***Focus:* Transition to technical prep*Deliverable:* Self-assessment + personal 30-day learning plan

Non-Technical Success Metrics

By completion, you can confidently answer all five questions below about any AI system:

- 1 What problem is this AI system solving?
- 2 What data does it rely on?
- 3 What are the main failure modes?
- 4 How can the public challenge or appeal outcomes?
- 5 Who is accountable when the system is wrong?

Bridge to Technical Track

After this onramp, move into:

Recommended transition:

- Start Days 1–3 of the technical bootcamp first
- Pair with a mentor for your first coding exercises

CivicOS Pre-Course Bootcamp

10-Day Technical Track · Deep Learning Prep

Available Companion Materials

- 1-page glossary — 50 key terms in plain English
- Daily worksheet packet — printable (included separately in this series)
- Facilitator guide for group cohort sessions
- Pre/post confidence survey