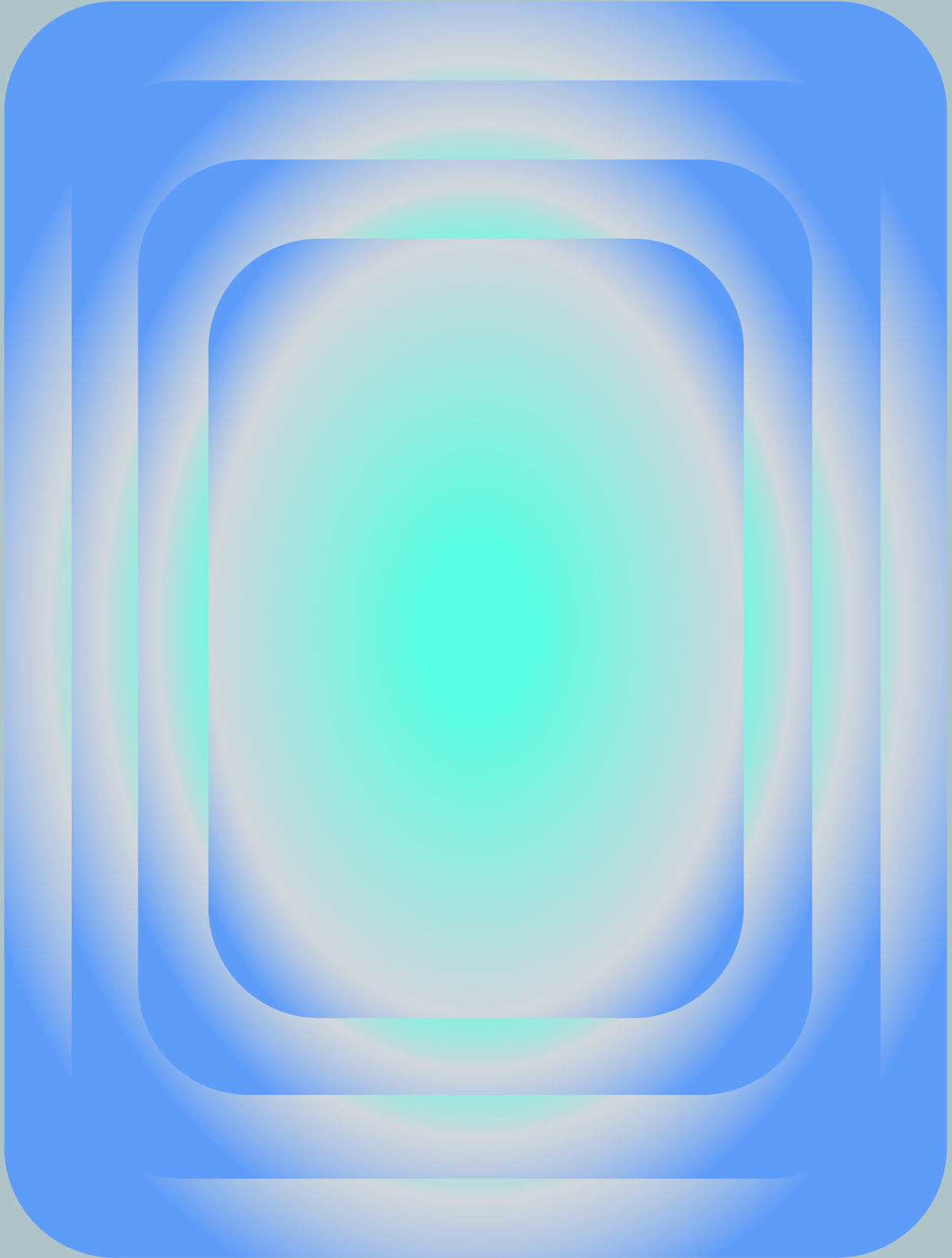# DATA EMPOWERMENT FUND

Open call

DEF

The purpose of the **Data Empowerment Fund** is to support a diverse set of initiatives that enable greater individual agency or community control over data.

Data empowerment can take many forms, depending on its purpose and context. The following is a non-exhaustive list of what a successful application to the Data Empowerment Fund could involve:

→ Developing a **participatory process or tool** that enables individuals or communities to collect, use or share data, or otherwise shape how it's used.

→ Applying a participatory process or tool to a **particular challenge**, or with a particular community.

→ Making an existing digital service **more responsive to its users' preferences** around data collection, sharing or use.

→ Collaboratively building a **new dataset**, or collaboratively addressing bias or other issues with an existing one.

→ Building a **new institution** to foster greater individual or community control over data, such as a data cooperative or data trust.

→ Evolving an **existing institution** to work more closely with its community on data, such as a labor union or charity.

→ Developing a **technical protocol or standard** that enables people to use their data rights or assert their preferences.

→ Developing a **legal mechanism** to empower individuals or communities to shape how data is used, such as new collective data rights or an indigenous data license.

→ Creating an **artwork** that involves, or challenges us to think differently about, participatory data collection.

→ Undertaking **original research or design projects** to produce new, radical proposals for empowering people with or around data.

With this call, the Data Empowerment Fund is particularly interested in supporting:

→ **Initiatives that have significant public policy relevance**. For example, data intermediation services↗

or data altruism organisations↗ as per the European Data Governance Act.

→ **Initiatives that enable people to control whether, or how, data is used to train AI models**. For example, tools for artists to signal their preferences such as those developed by Spawning↗.

→ **Initiatives that involve a novel legal, technological or participatory approach, and therefore can be learnt from.** For example, a creative new approach to running a public dialogue or other deliberative process.

The Data Empowerment Fund will provide grants of either **$50k or $100k**, and will support around ten initiatives in total.

Where useful, the Data Empowerment Fund will provide other support to successful initiatives, such as making connections to expert organizations or sharing opportunities to talk about their work.

KEY FACTS

Proposals due date: 5 March 2024

How to apply: Please complete this online form↗

Grant amount: Proposals of $50,000 or $100,000 will be considered.

Grant start date: April 2024

Grants timeline: All activity using the grant will need to be undertaken before the end of March 2025.

Eligibility: Individuals, collectives, organizations (nonprofit and for-profit) and academic institutions are eligible. Those based outside of the United States and Europe are especially encouraged to apply.

Reporting: Successful initiatives will be required to submit a short report describing their use of the grant, and publish at least one article about their work on the Data Empowerment Fund website↗.

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dataempowerment.fund