

How Skills for Change is offering equitable AI training with support from Google.org

“The goal is to make sure that everyone, regardless of their background, can confidently engage with AI and gain the skills to succeed in today’s working world. The need from folks who have traditionally been left out of these opportunities is significant, and they’re ready, willing, and able to grab on to opportunities as they present themselves.”

Nidhi Khanna & Sampada Kukade,
Interim co-CEO;s

Challenge

As artificial intelligence reshapes the working world, there is a significant need for AI skills, particularly among communities facing high unemployment. Skills for Change is helping underserved communities—including women, newcomers, racialized individuals, and youth—build foundational AI literacy, creating new pathways to meaningful employment.

Solution

Created with support from Google.org, Google’s philanthropic arm, the AI Upskilling program is designed to make artificial intelligence accessible and empowering. It combines online, self-paced learning with live coaching and mentorship, covering prompt engineering for generative AI models, ethics in AI, and how to use AI for job seeking and interview prep in a non-judgmental, welcoming environment.

Impact

The program serves communities across Canada, reaching women, newcomers, racialized individuals, and youth facing barriers to employment. The majority of participants are women, with over 50 per cent being newcomers to Canada. The initiative maintains an 82 percent completion rate, with learners highlighting the immediate value of the training: “As a woman returning to my career after an extended break, this experience has been incredibly valuable in helping me upskill and build confidence in emerging AI technologies.”

