

AI IN GOVERNMENT: THE TRUST IMPERATIVE

Government insights from the IDC report:
The Data & AI Impact Report – The Trust Imperative

Government organizations worldwide are rapidly adopting AI, especially GenAI, but face a unique trust dilemma. Many government entities place strong confidence in AI systems that may not yet be fully trustworthy. While some governments are making progress in embedding responsible AI practices, most still face significant gaps in data centralization, governance and talent, which hinder their ability to fully realize AI's potential.

01

GOVERNMENTS EXPECT AI INVESTMENT GROWTH

Government organizations express strong expectations for AI investment growth in the coming year



12.6%

12.6% of government organizations expect more than **20% growth** in AI spending

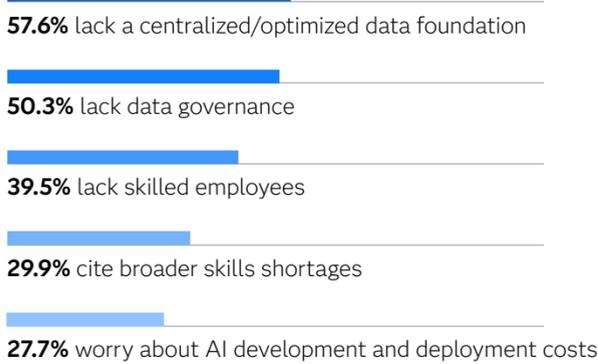
50%

Nearly 50% expect **4-20% growth** in AI spending

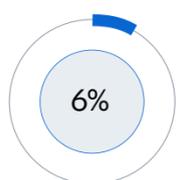
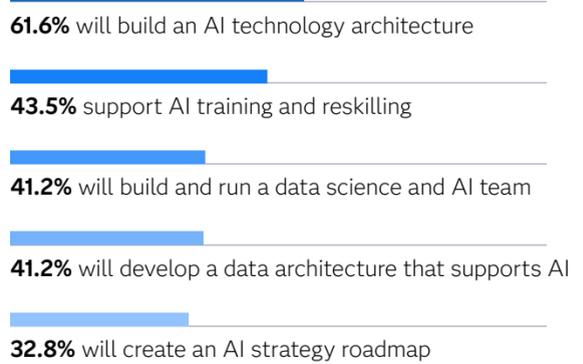
02

WHAT'S HOLDING GOVERNMENTS BACK?

CURRENT CHALLENGES



EXECUTION PRIORITIES



Only 6% of government entities operate in the ideal state – combining high trust with trustworthy AI



46% fall into underutilization (low trust in reliable AI) or overreliance (high trust in unproven AI)

Just 14% of government entities operate at the highest level of the Trustworthy AI Index.

Governance, explainability and responsible AI are critical impact accelerators.

03

THE TRUST DILEMMA IN GOVERNMENT

For the good of society and the communities we serve, public sector leaders must prioritize trust in AI. Achieving trust in the public sector requires transparency, reinforced by clear accountability measures that safeguard privacy and advance public policy goals.

04

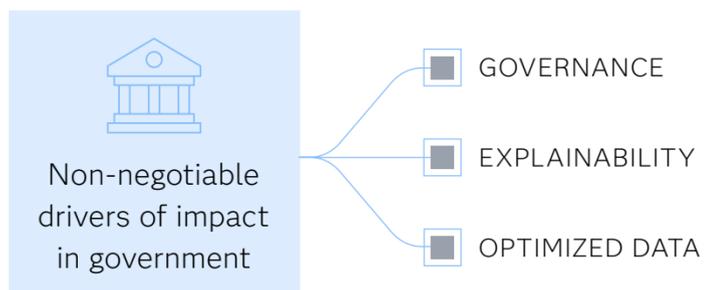
FROM EFFICIENCY TO GROWTH

Focusing on using AI to increase process efficiency and organizational effectiveness is key to unlocking measurable impact.



05

TRUST IS THE DIFFERENTIATOR



AI will not transform governments through cost savings alone. Its impact lies in earning trust and scaling responsibly to unlock growth and resilience.

→ Learn more and download the full IDC government report at sas.com/ai-impact-gov

Source: IDC eBook, sponsored by SAS, *Data & AI Impact Report: The Trust Imperative*, January 2026