

RVBAT Meeting – April 1, 2026

Meeting Purpose

Review digital literacy initiatives and discuss AI's impact on training.

Key Takeaways

- **Grant Fatigue:** The March 16 ARPA grant deadline was missed by all, citing insufficient time for complex applications and the lack of funding for ongoing operational costs.
- **Digital Literacy Strategies:** Effective engagement for older adults requires practical, goal-oriented training (e.g., emailing grandkids) over abstract concepts, using peer-led cohorts and intergenerational programs.
- **AI for Training:** AI-powered tools can create on-demand training materials (PDFs, videos), freeing up experienced staff from repetitive onboarding and enabling them to focus on complex client work.
- **Upcoming AI Events:** Victor Villegas announced several AI-focused events, including the OSU AI Summit (April 13–17) and a planned regional workshop on AI in agriculture.

Topics

Grant Funding Challenges

- The March 16 ARPA grant deadline was missed by all members.
- **Rationale:** The funding was insufficient for ongoing operational costs (e.g., cell signal), and the application turnaround (1 month) was too short for the required data compilation.
- This reflects a broader trend of short-deadline, high-data-demand grants from federal and state agencies, which Aaron Cooke called a "pocket veto."
- The Jackson County Continuum of Care's experience with HUD funding illustrates the complexity, with rule changes, lawsuits, and renewed NOFOs creating significant disruption.

Digital Literacy Initiatives & Engagement

- **AGE+ Tech Cafe:** Olivia Robinson hosted a successful, hands-on tech cafe for residents at Oro Vista, addressing practical issues like Google Photos storage.
 - **Adaptability:** The event proceeded successfully despite a planned 7-hour power outage, using a phone hotspot and power block.

- **Future Collaboration:** Sylvia Cerrone (Emergency Management) attended, expressing interest in hosting a wildfire preparedness class for residents.
- **Rogue Retreat Partnership:** Eric Molinsky's library is launching a 5-class "Online Basics" series for unhoused older adults.
 - **Motivation:** This group is highly motivated to learn digital skills for essential tasks like job and housing applications.
- **Engagement Strategies for Overwhelmed Learners:**
 - **Focus on Practical Goals:** Teach specific tasks (e.g., email) over abstract concepts.
 - **Use Peer-Led Cohorts:** Create a safe, social learning space with peers.
 - **Provide a "Why":** Connect tech to personal goals (e.g., video calls with grandkids).
 - **Address Fear:** Acknowledge and mitigate concerns about online scams.
 - **Intergenerational Programs:** Frame learning as a project where older adults help students, creating mutual motivation.

AI's Role in Training & Society

- **AI for Employee Training:**
 - **Problem:** Training new staff is time-consuming for experienced employees already managing high caseloads (e.g., RVCOG case managers).
 - **Solution:** AI tools can automate the creation of training materials (PDFs, videos) for specific tasks, freeing staff for complex client work.
- **AI in Society:**
 - **Ubiquity:** AI is already integrated into daily life (GPS, online shopping, car safety features).
 - **Ethical Concerns:** The group discussed the risks of autonomous AI, including potential for self-funding via crypto mining and the challenge of embedding human ethics into AI decision-making.

Next Steps

- **Olivia Robinson:** Share details for the Oregon Consumer Justice event at the Talent Library.
- **Victor Villegas:**
 - Share the schedule for the OSU AI Summit (April 13–17) once available.
 - Announce dates for the regional AI in agriculture workshop in Central Point.
 - Gauge interest in a general AI workshop for business/education during the regional visit.
- **All:** Attend the next RVBAT meeting on **May 6.**