

A government program could spend orders of magnitude more funds than [private philanthropy](#). This might allow a whole new class of research programs to be considered, such as projects where even [a billion dollars](#) is not enough.

[Some have](#) also suggested that a government sponsored program like the Manhattan Project could be helpful for coordination, though [others](#) question whether the situations are analogous.

While many [support](#) the idea of government funding for AI alignment projects, there is [some debate](#) about whether government funding could be harmful if, for instance, it served to distort research incentives, lock in certain research directions, or attract bad actors through increasing the prestige and money available to those in the field.

Related

- [Could we create a Manhattan Project for Whole Brain Emulation, to prevent W...](#)
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- [How likely is it that governments will play a significant role? What role would b...](#)
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Alternate phrasings

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Scratchpad

- Basically no. People who are likely much better at identifying good alignment projects are already trying to put lots of money in, and seem to be saturating the market of good opportunities.
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- Link to Oliver Habyka's post against getting the National Science Foundation involved, mentioning what happened to nanotech.

- (Murphant could not find that link) (plex:
<https://forum.effectivealtruism.org/posts/NzuJmTtRfJBjxcmnD/action-help-expand-funding-for-ai-safety-by-coordinating-on?commentId=voZ6hjdchWf8kdEdu#comments>
)
- There are things you can do with trillions which you can't with billions.
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- Followup:
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- Maybe out of scope for stampy because this is a "what should we do" question, not a "here's a technical question and a technical answer". Rob doesn't want to give an answer which is just his personal opinion. Link to other people's answers on the internet?