

Bayes Impact's Vision Statement

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Our public agencies are collecting an insurmountable amount of data on their services and those they impact. Yet, many of these agencies are faced with the challenge of transforming these data repositories into insight, which is where the YC-Backed Nonprofit Bayes Impact comes in. Our bold vision is that by targeting large-scale social issues and assembling teams of data scientists, academic researchers, and policy makers, we can have a measurable impact on these complex issues such as optimizing dispatch for emergency responders, reducing recidivism and prison overcrowding, and detecting fraud for global microfinance.

Bayes Impact's model unites research institutions and data science non-profits with top engineering talent. Currently, research institutions and data science non-profits are working on similar issues in isolation when they could be working synergistically. That is, pure research institutions deeply understand a particular issue but may lack the resources to implement their insight and rarely have access to top engineering talent to do so efficiently. Meanwhile, purely applied non-profits may be limited in tackling tough problems that may require policy reform, have sensitive data, etc. The result is that most data science non-profits are providing a *service* and are limited to being pro-bono consulting firms solving problems for specific organizations. By combining pure research institutions, top engineering talent, and non-profits, we can build *products* and work on implementable, general solutions to tough problems.

Our goal is for our *products* to be implemented and have measurable impact. We do this through a dual strategy: a research arm focused on longer term projects to better understand the issues, data, and existing community already thinking about these issues, and a fellowship model focused on efficient development and execution of *products* by relying on highly experienced data scientists to work for us full-time on a fixed-term fellowship. In our vision statement talk, we will highlight one such collaboration: we're working to address criminal justice issues by assembling a post-doc from the Crime Lab at the University of Chicago, the Insight Prison Project organization, and top data scientists such as a former senior Google software engineer.

Our innovative strategy, a research arm and a fellowship model, enables us to develop long-term collaborations with organizations, academics, and industry scientists and transform data into measurable policy impact. We believe that empirical insight and policy impact requires interdisciplinary collaboration among research institutions, engineering talent, and with organizations open to implementing developed products to tackle these problems.

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