

Terms of Use

Effective: September 23, 2025

These Terms of Use apply to your use of Talk to the City (“T3C”), and AI Objectives Institutes’ (“AOI”) other services, along with any associated software applications and websites (all together, “Services”). These Terms form an agreement between you and AOI, a Delaware charitable nonstock corporation, and they include our terms of service and important provisions for resolving disputes through arbitration. By using T3C, you agree to these Terms.

Our Privacy Policy explains how we collect and use personal information. Although the Privacy and Security Policy is not part of these Terms, it is an important document that you should read.

Who we are

T3C is developed by the AI Objectives Institute, a nonprofit research and development lab (501(c)(3)) dedicated to ensuring that AI and other large-scale systems—including markets and bureaucracies—advance genuine human interests. Founded by the late internet pioneer Dr. Peter Eckersley, AOI carries forward his vision of building technologies and institutions that serve society, not the other way around. Through cross-disciplinary collaborations with academics, scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders, AOI develops tools, research, and frameworks that keep societal benefit at the center of technological and institutional progress. T3C is AOI’s open-source deliberative platform that transforms large-scale input into actionable insights.

Open-Source and Hosted Services. T3C is built on open-source software available at <https://github.com/AIObjectives> under the Apache-2.0 license. While the code is freely available for anyone to use, modify, and deploy under that license, these Terms of Use govern access to and use of AOI’s hosted T3C platform at <https://talktothe.city/>. References to "Services" in these Terms mean our hosted platform, not the underlying open-source code.

Registration and access

Minimum age. You must be at least 13 years old or the minimum age required in your country to consent to use the Services. If you are under 18 you must have your parent or legal guardian permission to use the Services.

Registration. You must provide accurate and complete information to register for an account to use our Services. You may not share your account credentials or make your account available to anyone else and are responsible for all activities that occur under your account. If you create an account or use the Services on behalf of another person or entity, you must have the authority to accept these Terms on their behalf.

Using our Services

What you can do. Subject to your compliance with these Terms, you may access and use our Services. In using our Services, you must comply with all applicable laws as well as our Sharing & Publication Policy, Usage Policies, and any other documentation, guidelines, or policies we make available to you.

What you cannot do. You may not use our Services for any illegal, harmful, or abusive activity. For example, you may not:

- Use our Services in a way that infringes, misappropriates or violates anyone's rights.
- Modify, copy, lease, sell or distribute any of our Services.
- You may not reverse engineer, decompile, or otherwise attempt to uncover the source code or components of our Services, except as allowed by our open-source license or required by law. You are also prohibited from accessing other users' private data, exploiting prompts or jailbreaks, impersonating T3C, or distributing modified versions containing malicious code or mechanisms that compromise security or collect sensitive information.
- Automatically or programmatically scrape or extract data or Output (defined below) outside of the provided download feature.
- Represent that Output was human-generated when it was not.
- Interfere with or disrupt our Services, including circumvent any rate limits or restrictions or bypass any protective measures or safety mitigations we put on our Services.
- You may not bypass protective measures or safety features of our Services. If you develop fixes, improvements, or adaptations based on T3C, you are strongly encouraged to contribute them back to our open-source repository so the broader community can benefit.

Software. Our Services may allow you to download software, such as mobile applications, which may update automatically to ensure you're using the latest version. Our software may include open-source software that is governed by its own licenses that we've made available to you.

Third party Services. Our services may include third party software, products, or services, ("Third Party Services") and some parts of our Services, like our browse feature, may include output from those services ("Third Party Output"). Third Party Services and Third Party Output are subject to their own terms, and we are not responsible for them. Please refer to our FAQs to learn more about our third party services

Feedback. You grant AOI a perpetual, royalty-free license to use any feedback you provide for improving our Services.

Content

Your content. You may provide input to the Services ("Input"), and receive output from the Services based on the Input ("Output"). Input and Output are collectively "Content." You are responsible for Content, including ensuring that it does not violate any applicable law or these Terms. You represent and warrant that you have all rights, licenses, and permissions needed to provide Input to our Services.

Ownership of content. As between you and AOI, and to the extent permitted by applicable law, you (a) retain your ownership rights in Input and (b) own the Output. We hereby assign to you all our right, title, and interest, if any, in and to Output.

Our use of content. We may use Content to provide, maintain, develop, and improve our Services, comply with applicable law, enforce our terms and policies, and keep our Services safe.

Opt out. If you do not wish us to use your Content to improve T3C, you can opt out by contacting hello@aiobjectives.org.

Accuracy. Artificial intelligence and machine learning generated Outputs are rapidly evolving fields of study. We are constantly working to improve our Services to make them more accurate, reliable, safe, and beneficial. Given the probabilistic nature of machine learning, use of our Services may, in some situations, result in Output that does not accurately reflect real people, places, or facts, or may be incomplete.

When you use our Services you understand and agree:

- Output may not always be accurate. You should not rely on Output from our Services as a sole source of truth or factual information, or as a substitute for professional advice.
- You must evaluate Output for accuracy and appropriateness for your use case, including using human review as appropriate, before using or sharing Output from the Services.
- You must not use any Output relating to a person for any purpose that could have a legal or material impact on that person, such as making credit, educational, employment, housing, insurance, legal, medical, or other important decisions about them.
- Our Services may provide incomplete, incorrect, or offensive Output that does not represent AOI's views. If Output references any third party products or services, it doesn't mean the third party endorses or is affiliated with AOI.

Our IP rights

We and our affiliates own all rights, title, and interest in and to the Services. You may only use our name and logo in accordance with our Brand Guidelines (Annex A).

Termination and suspension

Termination. You are free to stop using our Services at any time. We reserve the right to suspend or terminate your access to our Services or delete your account if we determine:

- You breached these Terms or our Usage Policies.
- We must do so to comply with the law.
- Your use of our Services could cause risk or harm to AOI, our users, or anyone else.
- We also may terminate your account if it has been inactive for more than six months. If we do, we will provide you with advance notice.

Appeals. If you believe we have suspended or terminated your account in error, you can file an appeal with us by contacting hello@aiobjectives.org.

Discontinuation of Services

We may decide to discontinue our Services, but if we do, we will give you advance notice and a refund for any prepaid, unused Services.

Disclaimer of warranties

OUR SERVICES ARE PROVIDED “AS IS.” EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT PROHIBITED BY LAW, WE AND OUR AFFILIATES AND LICENSORS MAKE NO WARRANTIES (EXPRESS, IMPLIED, STATUTORY OR OTHERWISE) WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICES, AND DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, SATISFACTORY QUALITY, NON-INFRINGEMENT, AND QUIET ENJOYMENT, AND ANY WARRANTIES ARISING OUT OF ANY COURSE OF DEALING OR TRADE USAGE. WE DO NOT WARRANT THAT THE SERVICES WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED, ACCURATE OR ERROR FREE, OR THAT ANY CONTENT WILL BE SECURE OR NOT LOST OR ALTERED.

YOU ACCEPT AND AGREE THAT ANY USE OF OUTPUTS FROM OUR SERVICE IS AT YOUR SOLE RISK AND YOU WILL NOT RELY ON OUTPUT AS A SOLE SOURCE OF TRUTH OR FACTUAL INFORMATION, OR AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

Limitation of Liability

TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, AOI, ITS AFFILIATES OR LICENSORS WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES, INCLUDING DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF PROFITS, GOODWILL, USE, OR DATA OR OTHER LOSSES, EVEN IF WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. OUR AGGREGATE LIABILITY UNDER THESE TERMS WILL NOT EXCEED THE GREATER OF THE AMOUNT YOU PAID FOR THE SERVICE THAT GAVE RISE TO THE CLAIM DURING THE 12 MONTHS BEFORE THE LIABILITY AROSE OR ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100). THE LIMITATIONS IN THIS SECTION APPLY ONLY TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW.

Some countries and states do not allow the disclaimer of certain warranties or the limitation of certain damages, so some or all of the terms above may not apply to you, and you may have additional rights. In that case, these Terms only limit our responsibilities to the maximum extent permissible in your country of residence.

Indemnity

You will indemnify and hold harmless us, our affiliates, and our personnel, from and against any costs, losses, liabilities, and expenses (including attorneys’ fees) from third party claims arising out of or relating to your use of the Services and Content or any violation of these Terms.

Dispute resolution

YOU AND AOI AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY ARBITRATION AND CLASS ACTION WAIVER PROVISIONS:

Arbitration. Except as noted below, disputes will be resolved by binding arbitration under the Federal Arbitration Act and the rules of National Arbitration and Mediation (“NAM”).

Informal Resolution. We would like to understand and try to address your concerns prior to formal legal action. Before either of us files a claim against the other, we both agree to try to resolve the Dispute informally. You agree to do so by sending us notice through hello@aiobjectives.org. We will do so by sending you notice to the email address associated with your account. If we are unable to resolve a Dispute within 60 days, either of us has the right to initiate arbitration. We also both agree to attend an individual settlement conference if either party requests one during this time. Any statute of limitations will be tolled during this informal resolution process.

Arbitration forum. If we are unable to resolve the Dispute, either of us may commence arbitration with National Arbitration and Mediation (“NAM”) under its Comprehensive Dispute Resolution Rules and Procedures and/or Supplemental Rules for Mass Arbitration Filings, as applicable (available here([opens in a new window](#))). The activities described in these Terms involve interstate commerce and the Federal Arbitration Act will govern the interpretation and enforcement of these arbitration terms and any arbitration.

Arbitration procedures. The arbitration will be conducted by videoconference if possible, but if the arbitrator determines a hearing should be conducted in person, the location will be mutually agreed upon, in the county where you reside, or as determined by the arbitrator, unless the batch arbitration process applies. The arbitration will be conducted by a sole arbitrator. The arbitrator will be either a retired judge or an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of California. The arbitrator will have exclusive authority to resolve any Dispute, except the state or federal courts of San Francisco, California have the authority to determine any Dispute about enforceability, validity of the class action waiver, or requests for public injunctive relief, as set out below. Any settlement offer amounts will not be disclosed to the arbitrator by either party until after the arbitrator determines the final award, if any. The arbitrator has the authority to grant motions dispositive of all or part of any Dispute.

Exceptions. This section does not require informal dispute resolution or arbitration of the following claims: (i) individual claims brought in small claims court; and (ii) injunctive or other equitable relief to stop unauthorized use or abuse of the Services or intellectual property infringement or misappropriation.

Severability. If any part of these arbitration terms is found to be illegal or unenforceable, the remainder will remain in effect, except that if a finding of partial illegality or unenforceability would allow class arbitration, class action, or representative action, this entire dispute resolution section will be unenforceable in its entirety.

Copyright complaints

If you believe that your intellectual property rights have been infringed, please send notice to the address below or fill out this [form](#). We may delete or disable content that we believe violates these Terms or is alleged to be infringing and will terminate accounts of repeat infringers where appropriate.

AI Objectives Institute
440 N Barranca Ave #2108

Covina, CA 91723
Attn: General Counsel / Copyright Agent

Written claims must include the information required by 17 U.S.C. §512(c)(3).

General Terms

Assignment. You may not assign or transfer any rights under these Terms without AOI's consent. AOI may assign to affiliates or successors our rights or obligations under these Terms in interest of any business associated with our Services.

Changes. AOI may update these Terms for legal, security, or operational reasons. Material changes will be notified at least 30 days in advance. Continued use of after changes means acceptance.

Trade controls. You must not use the Services in violation of U.S. or international export laws or sanctions..

Entire agreement. These Terms contain the entire agreement between you and AOI regarding the Services.

Governing law. California law will govern these Terms except for its conflicts of laws. Disputes must be brought in San Francisco, California, unless resolved in arbitration

Annex A: Talk to the City (T3C) Brand Guidelines

The Talk to the City (“T3C”) brand represents open, transparent, and people-centered deliberation. These guidelines help partners, contributors, and users present T3C consistently and responsibly while allowing flexibility in open-source use.

Using the Name

When referring to the platform, always use “Talk to the City (T3C)” at first mention. After that, T3C is acceptable. Please do not create derivative names or alternate marks, as shared naming ensures people can recognize the platform across different contexts.

Using the Logo

You are welcome to use the official T3C logo when referencing or deploying the platform. To keep it consistent and recognizable:

Official files only: Use the versions provided in our repository. Do not redraw or substitute with imitations.

Color versions: The primary logo should be displayed in its official black and white.

Clear space: Leave enough space around the logo so other text, logos, or graphics don’t crowd it. A general rule is to leave at least the height of the “T” in “Talk to the City” as margin on all sides.

Minimum size: The logo should always remain legible. Avoid scaling it so small that “Talk to the City” cannot be read clearly.

Backgrounds: Place the logo on solid, high-contrast backgrounds. Avoid busy images or patterns behind the mark.

Do not modify: Please do not stretch, rotate, add shadows, recolor, or otherwise alter the logo. Keeping it consistent ensures trust and recognition.

Pairing with other brands: Partners may place their logo alongside T3C’s. To preserve balance, the T3C logo should remain equal in visual weight and should not be minimized or overshadowed.

Colors and Fonts

T3C’s visual identity is intentionally minimal, open, and accessible. This allows partners and contributors to integrate the brand easily while ensuring consistency and recognizability across different contexts, such as reports, dashboards, websites, and presentations.

Primary colors:

Black: Use for text, headings, and primary elements.

White: Use for backgrounds or as negative space.

Attribution and Co-Branding

In public reports, dashboards, and websites that use the platform, please include the line:
“Powered by Talk to the City, developed by the AI Objectives Institute.”

Partners may add their own branding alongside T3C’s. However, T3C attribution must remain clear and visible. If you adapt or extend the platform, we encourage contributing improvements back to the open-source repository so the broader community can benefit.

Prohibited Uses

To preserve trust and recognition, the T3C name and logo must not be used:

In connection with violent, hateful, or offensive content.

On merchandise or commercial products without prior approval.

In distorted, misleading, or poor-quality design treatments that undermine legibility or recognition.

In a way that falsely implies endorsement by AOI or T3C.

Accessibility

T3C’s design aims to be usable by as many people as possible. When applying our brand in your own materials, please ensure strong contrast between text and background (minimum 4.5:1), and use layouts that are mobile-friendly and easy to navigate.