



GEMS InSight Newsletter

We are one week closer to the transition from Grants Online (GoL) to eRA Commons. We have updated info for you, so, let's get right to it! But don't forget to also check out the...

GEMS Website for External Stakeholders – NEW Content!

Please visit the link below to see all GEMS-provided trainings, on-demand recordings, and resources in one centralized location. We will be steadily adding more content in the coming days and weeks.

[GEMS External Website](#)

To find additional eRA Commons business process guides, training, and other resources (more general and not GEMS-specific), you should also visit the [eRA Commons](#) site.

'Blackout', Cutover and Transition News

As a reminder, Grants Online is no longer available to applicants and grantees. eRA Commons becomes available on **October 30, 2023** (It is possible the October 30th date may change, but in such a case you will be notified as soon as such date may be known.)

Additionally, the blackout period for the Department of Commerce (DOC) Accounting system, BAS, extends until **October 25, 2023**. The blackout period for the grants system transition from Grants Online to GEMS using eRA Commons and for ASAP and non-ASAP payment drawdowns has begun for the following bureaus: NOAA, MBDA, ITA, and NTIA. The eRA system has a few extra days to sync the grant system with the BAS system before it also goes live. *REMINDER:* Non-ASAP grantees incurring expenses during the blackout period should provide relevant documentation for reimbursement after systems are back online.

In the meantime, please contact your Federal Program Officer or Grants Specialist regarding what grant project activities can continue during the systems blackout period. If you need contact information for your Federal Program Officer or Grants Specialist. The Grants Online Help Desk can provide that information.

If you have general questions or concerns regarding the transition from Grants Online to GEMS via the eRA Commons platform, please see the GEMS External Resource Page or contact GEMSProgram@doc.gov.

Also, please note:

The Department is currently undergoing a transition of financial systems as well as transitioning to a new Grants Management system, eRA. The time period of this transition is expected to be completed by October 30, 2023. When the new system comes online, recipients will receive automated notices of delinquent reports. Recipients can ignore these warnings. Any recipient with a progress or financial report that was due between August 31st to October 31st will be granted an extension to December 31st to submit the due report.

Should you have any questions please contact your Grants Specialist.

Q: How do I complete the Federal Financial Report (FFR) in the new system, now that Grants Online is no longer available?

Currently, there is a “blackout period” for the transition from Grants Online to GEMS using [eRA Commons](#) (September 22-October 30). Grant recipients will be able to resume their award and post-award activities within [eRA Commons](#) starting October 30, 2023. Progress Reports (PPRs and RPPRs), Federal Financial Reports (FFRs), awards acceptance processes, and other related actions will exclusively take place through eRA Commons moving forward.

Q: Can recipients upload Word or Excel files when submitting their PPRs through the Terms and Conditions (TCM) module?

For the submission of PPRs via the TCM module, recipients have the capacity to upload up to 10 files, with a maximum size limit of 6MB for each file. The supported file formats in this module include: .gif, .jpg, .bmp, .png, .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx, .msg, .pdf.

Q: What about attachments to RPPRs?

Only PDF files are compatible.

Q: How do I get assistance troubleshooting eRA Commons registration?

Users are directed to contact the eRA Service/Help desk **toll-free at (866) 504-9552 or (301) 402-7469**. The eRA Service Desk hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 7AM to 8PM Eastern Time (closed on Federal holidays).

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More ‘Live’ TRAINING Sessions

Below are the upcoming training webinars we have scheduled for October. Be sure to reserve your spot by registering today.

Webinar topic:

eRA/DOC Training Webinar - Award Acceptance & Post-Award (Pt. 1) **(for External Users)**

Purpose:

To provide a high-level overview of the following:

- How to accept an award
- How to complete and submit various post-award reports and requests
- How to communicate with the awarding agency
- How to respond to terms and conditions set on the award

Date and time:

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 2:00 PM | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Registration link:

<https://nih.webex.com/weblink/register/re53f6ae030e312d6869656cba084f259>

Webinar topic:

eRA/DOC Training Webinar - Post-Award & Closeout (Pt. 2) **(for External Users)**

Purpose:

To provide a high-level overview of the following:

- How to complete and submit various post-award reports and requests (continued)
- How to submit Federal Financial Reports and payment requests
- How to submit closeout reports

Date and time:

Thursday, October 26, 2023 2:00 PM | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Registration link:

<https://nih.webex.com/weblink/register/r38e90010c83d310f6b96b567b64ac85f>

More GEMS (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: How long will grantees have access to Grants Online?

Grants Online will be available to grantees through COB Friday September 22, 2023. eRA will **not** be available Sept 23, 2023, through target date of October 30, 2023.

The DOC Accounting system, BAS, has a blackout period from September 20 – October 25, 2023. The eRA system has a few extra days to sync the grant system with the BAS system before it also goes live.

Q: What is the user account validation and establishment process for eRA Transition?

The Grants Online PMO has initiated contact with the Authorized Account Approvers to conduct a validation process of their existing list of Grants Online users. This validation exercise serves the purpose of creating a comprehensive report outlining users and their associated roles in eRA. The report will be generated through an automated comparison between current Grants Online roles and their corresponding roles in eRA. Subsequently, this report is scheduled to be transmitted to the eRA Help Desk on **Monday, October 2nd**, marking the commencement of user account establishment in eRA.

Starting **early to mid-October**, individual end users will receive email notifications from the eRA Help Desk once their accounts have been successfully established. It is worth noting that, while users may gain access to eRA production during this phase, the absence of data will limit their ability to view any substantial information until the data migration activities are finalized.

Q: What are the essential user requirements for accessing eRA, including the necessary steps for authentication?

Users will need to be connected to their DOC VPN. Users are required to utilize their CAC card credentials with the DOC single-sign-on system. There is no alternative option for user ID and password.

Q: What is the best way to get support for issues with your account in ASAP?

Please contact the Grants Online Help Desk at GrantsOnline.HelpDesk@NOAA.gov

Be on the lookout for our next edition of **GEMS InSight!** If you have additional questions, please contact [GEMS PMO](#). We look forward to working with you as we move forward with this implementation.