



GEMS InSight Newsletter

Welcome to the **GEMS InSight** Newsletter for applicants and grantees - your source for the latest updates, training opportunities, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and vital information about the **Grants Enterprise Management Solution** (GEMS). If you or your organization are current Department of Commerce (NOAA, ITA, MBDA and/or NTIA) grant program recipients or are interested in applying for future grants, read on. We've got you covered!

GEMS Website for External Stakeholders

Exciting News! The GEMS External Web Page is Now LIVE!

We are thrilled to announce that the GEMS external web page has officially launched. Please visit the link below to see all GEMS-provided trainings and resources in one centralized location. We will be steadily adding more content in the coming days and weeks. You may be happy to know that by implementing this resource page, we aim to significantly reduce the number of emails you receive from GEMS. Instead of sending training materials and recording links out after trainings, we will be posting them on this site. Please bookmark the link now so you can easily find it!

[GEMS External Web Page](#)

IMPORTANT NOTE: This site contains all GEMS-created content, to find eRA Commons business process guides, training, and other resources, visit the [eRA Commons](#) site.

Hot Topic: TRAINING

An additional session of the "Introduction to eRA" training for external stakeholders has been scheduled. Details are below. Please register if you have not yet attended this training. You can always access an on-demand recording of this training on the [GEMS External Webpage](#).

Webinar topic:

eRA/DOC Training Webinar - Introduction to eRA (for External Users)

Purpose:

To provide a high-level overview of the following:

- Introduction to eRA Commons
- eRA Transition for DOC Users
- How to access eRA modules
- DOC Grant Lifecycle
- Where to Get Help
- How to register in eRA systems
- Accounts/Roles needed

Date and time:

Thursday, September 21, 2023, 2:00 – 3:00 PM | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Registration link:

<https://nih.webex.com/weblink/register/rc7d262ac83083b74a5746e94000bf831>

More GEMS (Frequently asked questions)

Q1: Will grantees be able to access ASAP during the blackout period to draw down funds for grants already awarded and set up in ASAP?

No. Grantees will not have the ability to draw down funds from ASAP during the blackout period. The blackout period is the time between the Fiscal Year 2023 Year-End Close (YEC) cut-off for grants, which is September 20th, and October 25th, the date the new systems will come online. Look for additional guidance to be posted soon regarding drawdowns for project needs during the month of October.

Q2: What are the specific dates for grantee fund drawdowns in October? Will there be any temporary access suspension during the year-end close, affecting grantees' access to the ASAP system this cycle?**For MBDA, ITA, and NTIA TBC Awards:**

Grantee access to ASAP will be suspended starting 3:00pm on September 15th through October 2nd.

For NOAA Awards:

Grantee access to ASAP will be suspended starting 3:00pm on September 20th through October 25th.

Q3: What will be the availability and scope of Grants Online during October and beyond?

Please be aware that during October and subsequent months, Grants Online will only be accessible for a limited subset of activity, specifically Pre-award activity. Unfortunately, there will be no access for grantees and no availability for activities ranging from Award through Closeout during this period. This limitation will remain in effect until the electronic Research Administration (eRA) system (GEMS) is operational.

Should you have questions regarding the registration process not answered by these materials, or questions about a registration in process, please contact the eRA Service 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).

Be on the lookout for our next edition of **GEMS InSight!** If you have additional questions, please contact your DOC Grants POC or Federal Program Officer (FPO).