GEMS
GRANTS ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

Welcome to the **GEMS InSight** Newsletter for applicants and grantees - your source for the latest updates, training opportunities, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and 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!

Important Transition Information for Grantees

Below is important information for Department of Commerce (DOC) grant recipients and what to expect in the coming months as the Department begins the simultaneous transition to a new grants system (GEMS, powered by eRA) and a new financial management system (BAS). __Action on your part may be required.__

What is a Black Out Period?

Because the GEMS and BAS (DOC financial system) transitions are software migrations, there will be a period when the legacy systems and the future state systems are unavailable. This time is being referred to as the "blackout" period for processing. READ THIS ENTIRE COMMUNICATION for important guidance during the blackout and what end users can expect when the core, mission support systems, are unavailable.

How will this affect current Grantees?

In order to provide additional flexibilities for grantees during the Department's transition from CBS to BAS, **from September 20, 2023, to October 25, 2023**, the Office of Acquisition Management (OAM) authorizes the following temporary deviation to Section B.02.b.1 of the Department's Financial Assistance [Standard Terms and Conditions](#) (STCs): *"non-Federal entities may time advance payment requests so that Federal funds are on hand **for a maximum of 60 calendar days** before being disbursed by the non-Federal entity for allowable award costs."*

This temporary deviation is effective September 7, 2023, and expires on November 5, 2023 (60 calendar days from September 7, 2023). **Grantees will not be able to draw down on grants during the blackout window. All advance drawdowns must be done by the beginning of the black out period, September 20th, 2023.**

Note: For awareness, due to the transition, all future financial and programmatic reports will be sent through the eRA grants system. More information and training will be provided at the appropriate time.

What if I am a Grantee that does not use the ASAP system?

Any NOAA/EDA Non-ASAP SF-270 requests, to include requesting advance payments, should be submitted by **3PM EDT 9/20/23.** These grantees are being extended the same courtesy of up to 60 days of advance funds as ASAP system users. Non-ASAP grantees should incur expenses for the duration of the blackout window **(9/20/23 – 10/25/23)** and should provide reimbursement documentation after the systems are live.

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GEMS Website for External Stakeholders

The GEMS External Web Page is LIVE!

The GEMS external web page has officially launched! Please visit the link below to see all GEMS-provided training 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.

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Additional 'Live' TRAINING DATES

Additional training sessions for external stakeholders have been scheduled. Details are below. Please register if you have not yet attended this training. You can always access on-demand training recordings and materials 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

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)

Q1: What is the difference between GEMS and eRA Commons?

Grants Enterprise Management Solution (GEMS) is the "modernization and consolidation" effort being undertaken by the Department of Commence to bring all the different Bureau grant programs under one "roof". eRA is the platform (application or system) through which we will be administering those grants. eRA is taking the place of Grants Online and other separate applications or systems in which the bureaus are currently managing the transactional work and administration of grants. eRA Commons is module/extension of eRA that is external/grantee/applicant facing where external users interact with DOC staff to conduct business. While eRA replaces Grants Online, eRA Commons compares to the Grants Online's grantee user access.

Q2: 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).

Q3: With eRA coming online – will the landscape change so that applicants find out about funding opportunities using Grants.gov and then apply using eRA?

Grant applicants will continue to apply via Grants.gov just as they are doing now. DOC applicants will *NOT* be using the eRA Commons "ASSIST" module to submit applications directly into the eRA system. However, they DO still need to be registered as an organization in eRA Commons because their applications will not be able to be pulled into eRA from Grants.gov for processing unless their organizations are registered in eRA Commons.