



GEMS InSight Newsletter

There's a lot share this week about the transition from Grants Online (GoL) to GEMS and eRA Commons. 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

You are probably aware through Grants Online and other communications, that GoL will no longer be available to applicants and grantees from close of business (COB) on September 22, 2023, until eRA Commons becomes available – target date 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.)

The Department of Commerce (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.

There are other impacts, considerations, and implications of which you should be aware. For convenience, some are presented below in the form of questions and answers (FAQs) – including some past FAQs as reminders.

Q: What are the differences between 'blackout period', 'cutover' and the transition from Grants Online (GoL) to eRA/eRA Commons?

The 'blackout period' is the time grantees will not have access to their accounts and will not be able to process any transactions. This period begins at **COB September 22, 2023**, and is targeted to end October 30, 2023.

‘Cutover’ speaks to *DOC internal* tasks that need to be addressed prior to eRA and eRA Commons ‘Go Live’, replacing Grants Online. Some cutover tasks may affect how grantees will interact with eRA Commons when it comes online. We will share these impacts as they are finalized.

‘Transition’ is the actual ending of using Grants Online and the beginning of using eRA for grants management. Support provided to enable this transition is provided in the form of training, business process guides, and other resource materials provided to both internal and external stakeholders.

Q: Didn’t the blackout period already begin September 20, 2023?

September 20, 2023, was the last day for grantees to draw down funds to help get them through the blackout period when their accounts are back online, in eRA Commons. Other usage of accounts will still be available until COB September 22, 2023.

REMINDER: Non-ASAP grantees incurring expenses during the blackout period should provide relevant documentation for reimbursement after systems are back online.

Q: 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 Commerce 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.

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>

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More GEMS (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: Should current awardees with RPPR's due on September 20, 2023 submit through Grants Online (GOL) or eRA?

Please submit through Grants Online through September 22, 2023. If submitting after September 22, 2023, you must submit in eRA.

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

Grants Online will be available to grantees through COB Friday September 22. eRA will 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 best way to get support for issues with your account in ASAP?

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