



GEMS InSight Newsletter

October 12, 2023

REMINDER: Grants Online is no longer available to applicants and grantees. The date for eRA and eRA Commons to come online remains **October 30, 2023**. In the meantime, don't forget to continue regularly checking out the GEMS Website for External Stakeholders.

GEMS Website for External Stakeholders

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

** NEW INFORMATION **

Grant recipients may see their DOC grants in eRA Commons prior to October 30, 2023. However, migration of the existing DOC grants will not be finalized until October 29, 2023, as there are several stages to the migration process. Any requests or reports submitted by recipients in the eRA system will not be acted upon until the internal users have access to eRA on October 30, 2023.

** KEY REMINDERS **

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.

The Department is currently undergoing a transition of financial systems as well as transitioning to a new Grants Management system, eRA. The transition is expected to be complete 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.

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. Specific grant-related questions should be directed to your Grants Specialist.

Here to Help You – Help Desk Support

Grants Online Help Desk

For any inquiries related to your ASAP account or the duration of your access to Grants Online, the best course of action is to reach out to the Grants Online helpdesk. If you have questions regarding the deactivation of your Grants Online Grantee Account, they can also provide the necessary assistance. You can easily get in touch with the Grants Online Helpdesk by sending an email to grantsonline.helpdesk@noaa.gov.

eRA Help Desk

If you still require assistance troubleshooting eRA Commons registration, users are encouraged to contact the eRA Service/Help Desk. You can contact them toll-free at **(866) 504-9552 or (301) 402-7469**. The eRA Service Desk operates from Monday to Friday, between 7 AM and 8 PM Eastern Time (closed on Federal holidays).

You can also contact the eRA Helpdesk for various registration-related inquiries, questions about setting up a new eRA Commons account, addressing technical registration issues, or if your registration status is listed as "still under review" without receiving a registration link.

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>

.....

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: Is there a way for users to access and practice using the new system before ‘Go Live’ on October 30?

The eRA application does not have what is called a ‘sandbox’ or environment for users to ‘practice’ using the system at this time. We know that some users prefer this method of ‘hands-on’ learning when getting familiar with a new system, so we have provided a robust schedule of training sessions for all modules in the system, for both internal and external users. In addition to the trainings, we have a number of Quick Reference Guides (QRGs), training session recordings and supporting documentation, and other helpful guidance and instructions that can be found on our web page for [External Stakeholders](#). External users can visit the [eRA Commons page](#) for additional info on the system modules. Once you have had a chance to review these materials, please let us know if you have further questions.

Q: What if I cannot attend the live virtual trainings? Will there be recordings of the trainings on the GEMS website?

If you are unable to attend any of the live virtual trainings, you can access the recordings [here](#) on the GEMS External Webpage. Each training topic has a description of the course, a recording link, and materials such as business process guides and the slide deck provided to participants. Please bookmark this page ASAP so you can access the on-demand training resources in preparation for the October 30th transition.
