

## Intro to eRA and Registration - Webinar QA

Category	Question	Answer
General	We have been notified about GEMS, will GEMS be a subset of eRA? Or is it something completely different?	GEMS is the Department of Commerce Program that is responsible for managing the modernization activities related to DOC grants systems. eRA is the Federal Shared Service system that was selected by DOC to manage grants going forward.
	What is the difference between what is referred to as "GEMS" and "eRA"?	
	Will grants.gov, eRA, and ACM\$ invoicing all use the same website and login, essentially one homepage?	No. At this time, there are no plans to combine these.
	Why do we submit a proposal to grants.gov and have to report to GOL or soon to be eRA Commons?	Grants.gov is only an application submission system; it does not support post award reporting.
	To find emails that possibly went to spam, should we use this address? era-notify@mail.nih.gov. Will there be a DOC based address?	eRA-notify@mail.nih.gov will be used to send system generated notifications from the eRA system.
	Would an MDCP award from ITA be considered a Non-NIH Grant?	Yes.
	Will there be a separation between NIH and NOAA awards when inside eRA?	From the grant recipient perspective, there will not generally be a separation, although you can query by grantor organization to only see one or the other.
Training	Are you going to provide a recording of this webinar later?	All training materials, including this presentation, a recording of the webinar, the questions/answers, and any additional training resources will be shared via email.
	Will this recording be available for later reference, if so where will I be able to find it to access later?	
	Would there be a separate training for FFR's financial reports?	Yes. Future trainings will cover all business processes, the eRA modules used, and their functionality.
	Will there be a training calendar released?	Upcoming training dates and communications will be shared by the GEMS PMO team.
	When is the next training for adding users?	
	Will you be covering any additional training content or just answering questions?	We will not be covering any additional training topics today. Communication will be sent out by GEMS PMO notifying you of future training topics.
Transition/Phased Approach	Have NOAA FY19 grant, performance period ends 30 Sept 2023. Final reports due 30 Oct 2023. Switch to GEMS for final reports?	Yes, eRA Commons will be utilized to submit all reports due after Sept 30, 2023.
	Is this just for certain grants or all grants - is Grants Online to be abolished or just certain agencies moving to GEMS/ERA?	Grants Online is scheduled to be decommissioned in late FY 2024, but grant recipients will need to perform all actions for existing grants in eRA starting in October 2023.
	Will all data from Grants Online be transferred to eRA?	Core data elements as agreed upon between DOC and NIH will be transferred over to eRA. This includes closed grants. Some data will be transferred via PDF files. However, DOC is separately implementing a retention policy so older closed grants will no longer be accessible.
	Will all data from Grants Online be transferred to eRA (including closed grants)?	
	Is it possible to import user accounts from Grants Online to eRA Commons, or do you need to start from scratch?	User accounts will not be transferred from Grants Online. You will need to register and create accounts specific to eRA Commons.
	Can we start using eRA now for a NOAA grant instead of waiting until October?	While you can register with eRA Commons now, existing NOAA grants will not be transferred to eRA until October 2023.
	When will this transition commence? Which agencies (federal or state) are affected?	
	When is GEMS going live?	Currently targeting early to mid October 2023.
	Will current and closed grants in Grants Online be moved over to eRA Commons?	Yes. However, DOC is implementing a retention policy so not all closed grants will be retained.
	After my org registers for eRA, will we immediately begin managing existing Grants Online grants through eRA? Or will existing grants migrate over on a specific future date?	Existing grants will migrate over in October 2023.
	Will closed prior awards be accessible through the new system or will be access records for closed awards through grants online?	Closed prior awards will be accessible via eRA. However, DOC is separately implementing a retention policy so older closed grants will no longer be accessible.
	Will eRA commons be used to access closed awards or will those records continue to be accessed through grants online?	
	If we have active grants now, should I assume that the SO has been notified to register with eRA Commons?	TBD

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	Is all non-closed grants rolling to eRA?	Yes, for NOAA, ITA, MBDA, and NTIA (TBC Program).
	If we have a progress report due for the period through Sept. 30, and submitted in October, would that be submitted through Grants Online or eRA?	Starting in October 2023, all reports must be submitted in eRA.
	Several reports are due October 1, 2023. Is that the first day users will be able to access eRA?	No, eRA will not be enabled until early to mid October 2023 (after Oct 1).
	You keep saying "October" Do you mean Oct 1st?	No, it will be after October 1st; however, the exact date is still being determined.
	What will be the period for the retention policy?	Awards that have been closed for more than 10 years as of October 1, 2023 will not be retained unless an exception has been requested by the Federal Agency.
	Will any award actions need to be completed in Gems or will all award activities be completed in eRA Commons?	Once grants have been migrated to eRA in October 2023, award actions will be completed in eRA. The exact migration date is to be determined.
	What if we already have an award in progress in Grants Online? This award is multi-year expected to end in 2024. Will the reports, disbursements, etc. that we already submitted in Grants Online be transferred to eRA?	Yes, anything that already been submitted to Grants Online will be retained. Any work in-progress that has not been submitted will not be retained. Therefore, any in-progress submissions should be completed in Grants Online before October if possible.
	When should NOAA program officers create an account to start using eRA?	Internal Agency Accounts will be handled differently. They will be set up as a part of the transition activities.
	If we have an active award, will we need to resubmit our performance forms n eRA?	You will not have to re-submit reports that have already been submitted to Grants Online. Only new reports being submitted after the transition in October will be submitted in eRA Commons.
	We have multiple "organizations" in Grants Online for the same UEI, i.e. NOAA and EDA awards are under different organization IDs, will these be merged in eRA Commons?	In general organizations with the same UEI will be merged in eRA Commons, however EDA awards will not be included in eRA Commons at this time. The October cut over only applies to NOAA, ITA, MBDA, and NTIA (TBC Program currently in Grants Online)
	We received the following message while trying to register our organization (County of Barnstable) with eRA Commons: "This institution was already registered, or is in the process of Agency review. Enter another identifier, or contact Service Desk for more help." We are registered with Grants Online but have not registered with eRA Commons before.	This may be because the organization has already registered or there is a matching profile. Please contact the eRA Service Desk for further guidance.
	Will an organization's Signing Official receive email confirmation that their organization has completed registration?	The individual identified as the Signing Official (SO) will be completing the registration. They will receive confirmation throughout the process including when registration is completed.
	If we are already registered with grants.gov, will we have to RE-register with grants.gov?	No, if you are already registered with Grants.gov, you do not have to re-register with Grants.gov. You will have to register with eRA Commons if you are not already registered with eRA Commons for other agencies.
	What if the grant is for the individual, not an organization? (ex Nancy Foster Scholarship)	The individual will be treated as an "organization"; they will not be required to have a UEI.
	Hello if I register right away for eRA does that effect my current grants that I report on through Grants Online?	Current grants in Grants Online will NOT be affected by early registration in eRA Commons. It is recommended that you do register in eRA Commons as early as possible.
	For registration, is the address our individual address or should it be the same address used by the SO?	The registration address should be the address of the organization that is registering, typically a main campus address or other central primary location for the organization.
	Can someone other than the SO do the registration on behalf of the SO?	The person completing the registration MUST have legally binding authority for the organization. It should only be completed by the Signing Official.
	How long does it take to receive the second email after completing the initial registration and receiving the first confirmation email?	The registration process can take between 2-4 weeks. You can expect to receive the second email during that timeframe after the initial email confirmation.
	Is there an easy to check to see if the entity already has a registration in eRA Commons?	You can attempt to register and will receive an error if already registered. You can then contact the eRA Service Desk if you need access.
	When is the latest we can register for eRA if we are not applying for new grants, just managing an existing award?	It can take up to 4 weeks to complete your eRA registration, therefore you should register no later than 4 weeks prior to the transition date.
	Can I set up the SO and AA account for our SO? I will be the AA	The Signing Official must complete the registration.

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Registration	<b>If an organization has two separate UEIs - do separate eRA accounts have to be set up for the organization</b>	eRA supports including a primary and secondary UEI for a single organization. The need for registering for each UEI depends on if awards need to be separated.
	<b>To confirm, I want get that UEI, so I need to sign up on SAM.gov? Also, how do we know who our SO contact is?</b>	Registration on SAM.gov is required in order to receive a UEI. The Signing Official (SO) has institutional authority to legally bind the institution in grants administration matters, register the organization in eRA Commons, view all grants within the institution, including the status and award information, and create and manage additional accounts, including additional SO accounts. Depending upon the organizational structure, different job titles such as president, CEO, executive director, etc. may all align with the appropriate individual.
	<b>I'm currently registered with eRA Commons to view NOAA's in the status section and submit termination notices. Do I need to register again to submit financial reports?</b>	If you are already registered with eRA Commons, you will not need to re-register.
	<b>What site do we use to sign in to use eRA commons to register ? Please confirm the site.</b>	<a href="https://public.era.nih.gov/commonsplus">https://public.era.nih.gov/commonsplus</a>
	<b>How many users can be registered for Grant access? We have the owner, the accountant, and 8 biologists who need grant access. I assume the AA can give access once the owner/signers sets them up?</b>	The Signing Official (SO) and Account Administrator (AA) are both able to create accounts for others. There is no limit to the number of accounts that can be affiliated with an organization.
	<b>As a State Agency we do not have a CEO or President. What recommendation might there be regarding authorized signature user?</b>	TENTATIVE ANSWER PENDING AUTHORITATIVE APPROVAL FROM DOC: Those with the authority to bind the agency in contractual agreements are eligible to serve as the agency's Signing Officials.
	<b>If our organization is eligible to apply for NIH Grants/Contracts. Do we need to change anything to be eligible for Non-NIH Grants/Contracts?</b>	If the organization is already registered in eRA Commons, changes are not necessary to the organizational registration. For PD/PI account that has not been established, an eRA Commons account will need to be created.
	<b>What is the deadline for registering (institutional AND individual user) with eRA when applying for grants through grants.gov?</b>	Registration needs to be completed before submitting the application, otherwise the application will be rejected and can not move forward in eRA Commons or awarding agency for review.
	<b>When will we have the option to begin registration</b>	You can begin registration now.
	<b>I think you may have said this already but how do we link an existing eRA registration with our current NOAA grant?</b>	This should happen automatically during the October migration if your organization has the same UEI registered with Grants Online and eRA Commons.
	<b>If our organization previously registered for ERA but did so only for NIH grants, its there a way to change this registration now to include DOC grants (non-NIH grants)?</b>	This can be updated in the Institutional Profile (module in eRA Commons) by the Signing Official (SO).
	<b>Should we expect to already have a UEI if we are using grants online? Thank you!</b>	Yes, a UEI is also required to use Grants Online (except for individuals).
	<b>I completed the registration for my organization (CDFW). I have signatory authority , but received the denial email due to registration must be from a signatory authority. How can this be fixed?</b>	Please contact the eRA Service Desk for further assistance.
<b>Does The system recognize the institutions already registered in grants.gov?</b>	No, registration in Grants.gov is separate from registration with eRA Commons.	
	<b>Who provides the eRA login information?</b>	The Signing Official (SO) or Account Administrator (AA) will be responsible for setting up accounts by working with people at their organization to select usernames and disseminate them.
	<b>Can we use our already established login.gov account to access the commons site or does it need to be a separate account specific to eRA?</b>	Login.gov can be used, however an eRA userID will also need to be established. This account can then be mapped to an existing login.gov account.
	<b>What are the Account Administrator roles?</b>	The Signing Official (SO) or Account Administrator (AA) will be responsible for setting up accounts by working with people at their organization to select usernames and disseminate them.
	<b>Our Executive Director will not be submitting and processing grants or checking emails for grants awarded etc. Another person has primary grant administration responsibility. How is this best addressed?</b>	While the Signing Official (SO) is responsible for registering the organization with eRA Commons, additional SO accounts can be created for those who will be responsible for primary grant administration tasks. This can be determined within your organization.
	<b>What happens if the signing official leaves the organization?</b>	You can have more than one Signing Official within your organization. If the current SO is leaving, they should create a new SO account prior to leaving. We recommend having at least 2 SO accounts for each registered organization.
	<b>What happens when the SO who originally registered an organization is no longer with the organization. Does this pose potential issues?</b>	
	<b>Can you (or should you) log in through Login.gov? I saw that on an early screen.</b>	Yes. Using a Login.gov account to log into eRA Commons is recommended due to the enhanced security provided by its two-factor authorization.

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Accounts/Roles/Login	Can the same SO be affiliated with two separate organizations? Will that require two separate usernames?	Signing Officials (SO) can only be affiliated with one organization. Two separate SO accounts (with different usernames) will need to be created for each organization.
	Can you have more than one SO or AA? What are other roles?	Yes, there is no limit to how many user accounts can be created within your organization. Other roles include AO, PD/PI, IAR, and FSR. There can be more than one of each role. More information on roles will be covered in a future training.
	I may have missed it but was there a slide to compare the roles of SO compared to AA?	Signing Official (SO): The SO is an Administrative role that has institutional authority to legally bind the institution in grants administration matters, register the organization in eRA Commons, view all grants within the institution, including the status and award information, and create and manage additional accounts, including additional SO accounts. Account Administrator (AA): The AA is an Administrative role that is designated by the SO and facilitates the administration of the organization's Commons accounts except for SO accounts. More information on user roles will be covered in a future training.
	Follow up to setting up accounts, is it the SO only or can it also be the other designated person? (I can't remember the acronym).	Individuals with the Signing Official (SO), Administrative Official (AO), and Account Administrator (AA) can all create user accounts in eRA Commons. More information on user roles will be covered in a future training.
	Once other roles are created - can they manage all grant submissions and updates, or will the SO need to be part of that day-to-day process?	Different roles have different available actions. The Signing Official (SO) has the most responsibility and will need to be involved in submission of reports and account creation. An organization can have more than one SO. The SO, AA and AO have access to all grants given to the organization, where the PD/PI account only has access to applications/awards where that particular person is assigned.
	Can the AA submit grant applications and reports or is that a function for the SO only?	This is a function only done by the Signing Official (SO).
	Can reports be submitted by the AA?	
	I received the temporary password and login, but am unable to login. It says that the credentials are incorrect. What site do I go to login and how long does it take to become active?	It may be because the username and temporary password combination is incorrect or your password may be expired. Once you receive your username, your account should be active and you should be able to log in. You can contact the eRA Service Desk if you are continuing to experience issues logging in.
	Can a Principal investigator on a Non-NIH Grant/Contacts be the SO?	If the PD/PI happens to be the Signing Official (SO), they will need to have two separate eRA Commons account. The two roles are conflicting and cannot be combined into a single account, therefore a separate account will need to be created.
	To clarify - the CEO needs to submit reports on this new system? Instead of the Development Director or PI responsible for carrying out the award - this is confusing.	The PD/PI is able to complete and fill out reports however only someone with the Signing Official (SO) role can submit.
	Did you say that all reports will be submitted by the Signing official? so other uses will not be able to submit Financial or programmatic reports?	Most reports can be submitted by the Signing Official (SO), however for the Federal Financial Report (FFR), you must have the Financial Status Reporter (FSR) role. This role can be added to the existing SO account if they are also responsible for submitting FFRs.
	Is the SO the only account that can submit progress and financial reports or can the AA account also submit?	
	Our Board of Directors may be changing soon. I am the Grants Manager, however, I don't have binding authority to sign anything. How will this situation work for our non-profit if there can only be one SO?	During registration, a single Signing Official (SO) account is established. However, multiple SO accounts can be created for your organization. Information on how to create accounts will be covered in a future training.
	Can the original Signing Official create additional Signing Officials once the account is created?	
	Does the second SO need to also be a CEO, ED etc.?	While they do not need to be a CEO, ED, etc., all Signing Officials should have institutional authority to legally bind the institution in grants administration matters.
	What happens if I am registered but I have not login for about six months. - will my account be put into inactive and sign back again? Thanks	You may need to reset your password to log in. Your account should still be active.
	Do we need to re-add PI/key personnel to awards in commons or will they be mapped automatically?	A PD/PI account should be created once you are registered with eRA Commons. When existing grants migrate to eRA in October 2023, the association between a PD/PI and an award will be retained as part of the migration.
	Is there a limit to how many SO an organization can have?	There is no limit to how many Signing Official (SO) accounts can be created within your organization.
	Can the logon be our email address?	Yes, your email address can be your logon/usernames however, please keep in mind that usernames cannot be modified after creation. We encourage users to establish a username that will not need to be changed in the future. (i.e., if the user leaves the organization, changes their name, etc.)
		What module is used to submit Award Action Requests? (extensions, re-budgets, etc.)
	Will the eRA program be used to submit reports for previous grants received (current open grants)?	The eRA Commons 'Status' module will be utilized to submit reports for active grants.

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Business Process/eRA Functionality	What if we do not have RPPRs, but awards that are not research but require Progress Reports? Do they have to fit into an RPPR template?	The eRA Commons 'Status' module will be utilized to submit Progress Reports (PPRs) using Terms and Conditions function. Information on submitting reports will be covered in a future training.
	Can you show us the module for non-research Performance Reports?	
	How do we forward reports to Technical Monitors?	Recipients will submit reports to the agency via eRA Commons. Internal reviews will be covered in other training webinars for internal staff.
	Will applications be tracked in both Grants.gov and eRA?	Applications should be tracked via Grants.gov however tracking via Grants.gov ends at "Received by Agency". At this point, the application should be tracked via eRA Commons through the Status module.
	Is there a module for non-research awards?	There isn't a specific module for only non-research awards. The eRA Commons 'Status' module will be utilized to submit Progress Reports (PPRs) using Terms and Conditions function. Information on submitting reports will be covered in a future training.
	After an award, can reports be submitted directly by the listed PI with an account, or will it need to go through the organization primary authorized user for submission?	Submission of reports is an action that can only be completed by Signing Officials of the organization.
	Will notification of changes to the award (budget changes, yearly increments, no cost extensions) be sent only to the primary organization contact only or will they also be sent to PIs?	Notifications related to unfunded revision requests will be sent to the submitter of the request (Signing Official) and the PD/PI.
	Will eRA send out PPR reminders to awardees/Pis or will this only go to the organization primary user?	Both the PD/PI and the Signing Official will receive the notifications.
	If an applicant does not have access to the Internet and submits a paper copy, will the applicant have to be registered on Sam.gov and have a Unique Entity Identification Number in order to receive the award and grant funds?B105:C117B105:C115C85B105:C116B105:C114B105:C115	Yes. Whether the application is submitted via paper or electronically, registration in both SAM.gov and eRA Commons is still required.
	Will an award document also be sent as a pdf via email or only able to obtain through eRA site?	The Notice of Award (NOAA), will be sent to the recipient via email as a PDF, as well as be available in the Grant Folder through the Status module in eRA Commons.
	Will the RPPR fields look the same as they did in Grants Online?	The RPPR format will be similar to the version included in Grants Online but will adopt the eRA Standards for the user interface.
	Will the this system be the grant side and we will still have the payment system ASAP?	Yes, ASAP will continue to be the payment system.
	Grants Online pulls my withdrawal amounts from asap.gov for my FFRs currently. Will eRA do the same?	eRA will pull in the value to populate question 10A (cash receipts) within the Federal Financial Report (FFR).
	Will any payment requests be made through eRA?	Non-ASAP Payment requests will be submitted through eRA.
	We currently use a Performance Progress Report for NOAA Restoration Center grant. Do we need to switch to using the eRA Research Progress report for our final report?	If you are currently using the "RPPF", you will utilize the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) module in eRA Commons. Otherwise, you will continue to submit the form you are currently using from the NOAA Restoration Center.
	How are specific award conditions satisfied within eRA?	That will be addressed in a future training session.
	Follow-up question: NOAA tailors the PPR to our project. Will eRA forms be similarly tailored?	No, you will continue to submit the form you are currently using.
	When reviewing our institution basic info , it appears our opportunity type eligibility only has NIH grants /contracts selected. do we need to edit the opportunity type eligibility to also include non-NIH grants to view NOAA awards on eRA commons?	This can be updated in the Institutional Profile (module in eRA Commons) by the Signing Official (SO).
	Will invention and property reports be submitted using the request for additional material module?	These will be submitted via the eRA Commons 'Status' module through the closeout screen or through Terms and Conditions.