



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NIST is excited to announce the official launch of eRA (Electronic Research Administration), a new grants enterprise management system. Effective October 1, 2026, all award recipients, including grants, cooperative agreements, and other transaction agreements, will be required to use eRA to perform applicant and recipient activities. The impacted Department of Commerce (DOC) Bureaus includes:

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- U.S. Census Bureau

## Grants Enterprise Management System (GEMS)

As part of the Department-wide effort to harmonize and modernize the award systems, DOC has created a dedicated office that provides internal bureau support for system migration and operations and maintenance. The Grants Enterprise Management System (GEMS) Program Management Office (PMO) will share eRA updates and system enhancements to all users, including the recipient community.

## Electronic Research Administration (eRA)

[eRA](#) is a federal shared service originally developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but now used by over ten partners agency and bureaus to ensure a robust and efficient infrastructure for managing financial assistance mechanisms. It offers an end-to-end award solution and has over 30 years of experience serving grants, cooperative agreements, and other transaction agreements. eRA provides a web-based interface for both applicants and recipient staff (eRA Commons) and federal staff (eRA IMPAC II). The system provides novel features such as two-way communication with applicants and recipients and submission tracking.

## Additional Resources

eRA will be hosting a series of training targeted at future DOC eRA Commons users starting in June. Please save the date based on the proposed training schedule below. A future training registration email will be sent in the coming days.

Date/Time	Topic
06/16/26 2:00 PM ET	Introduction to eRA
06/16/26 2:00 PM ET	Account Management
06/23/16 2:00 PM ET	Account Management
06/23/16 2:00 PM ET	Registration
06/30/26 2:00 PM ET	Application Submission & Tracking
09/15/26 2:00 PM ET	Post-Award Activities
09/22/26 2:00 PM ET	Closeout

Please see below for helpful links regarding eRA:

- NIST Resource – WEBSITE COMING SOON!
- eRA Resource – For more information about eRA Commons, please visit the [eRA Commons Page](#)

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