eRA Commons User Guide

September 08, 2021
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1 About eRA Commons

The Electronic Research Administration (eRA) Commons is a Web-based system for applicants and institutions to participate in the electronic grant administration process.

In eRA Commons (Commons), grant applicants, grantees, and federal staff at NIH and grantor agencies can access and share administrative information relating to research grants. If you are registering a new institution, see https://era.nih.gov/register-accounts/register-in-era-commons.htm. If you are affiliated with a registered institution and need an eRA Commons account, contact your institution's signing official or account administrator.

NIH extramural grantee organizations, Operating Divisions (OpDivs), grantees, and the public are the primary users of Commons, and each type of user is assigned a specific role (or roles). Depending on your role, you can perform a variety of functions in Commons, including:

- Track the status of your grant application through the submission process, while viewing errors and/or warnings and checking the assembled grant image.
- View summary statements and score letters following the initial review of your application.
- View the notice of award (NoA) and other key documents.
- Submit Just-in-Time (JIT) information required by the grantor agency prior to a final award decision.
- Submit the required documentation, including the Financial Status Report/Federal Financial Report and Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR) to close out your grant.
- Submit a No-Cost Extension notification that the grantee has exercised its one-time authority to extend without funds the final budget period of a grant.
- Submit an annual progress report electronically.
- Manage personal and institutional profiles.

All attachments should be submitted in PDF format with a maximum size of 6MB.

See:

Welcome to eRA Commons!
First-Time Login With Temporary Password
Logging into eRA Commons
Registering Institutions and Organizations
2 Latest Updates

2.1 September 8, 2021

There is a new Prior Names section under Name and ID in the Personal Profile module for managing name changes; see Editing Name and ID.

2.2 June 24, 2021

Era Commons has added new VA-specific Just In Time (JIT) screens. Help is available for VA applicants here, and for VA agency staff here. Also, a new JIT search screen has been added for signing officials of all agencies; see Just in Time (JIT) Search for SOs.

Also, the Login.gov section of the eRA Commons login screen was moved to the top of the login screen, and minor screenshot changes were made to reflect this.

2.3 May 19, 2021

The eRA Commons login page has been redesigned to more clearly indicate where to find help. See Welcome to eRA Commons!

Also, PDF files uploaded in the following locations are now required to be flattened PDFs. See Just in Time (JIT) Screen and How Do I Fill Out the RPPR Forms?

- JIT Other Support File section
- RPPR Participants section D.2.b New Senior/Key Personnel
- RPPR Participants section D.2.c Changes in Other Support

2.3.0.1 May 3, 2021

The eRA Commons landing page (the screen that follows a successful login) has been updated to include a navigation button to Internet Assisted Review and to clarify the purpose of the Help Topics for... buttons. See Welcome to eRA Commons!

2.3.0.2 March 29, 2021

As indicated in Updated Reporting Requirements for RADx-rad Grant Recipients, RADx-rad grant awardees can now use the Add Additional Materials option in Status to submit any documentation requested by the awarding agency. See Submitting Interim Reports for RADx Grants.

2.3.0.3 March 26, 2021

VA signing officials can now view the summary statement for grants that have completed the peer review process; see How Does an SO See the Review Outcome?
2.3.0.4 March 4, 2021

As indicated in NOT-OD-21-038: Updated Instructions on Interim Reporting and Carryover for RADx-UP Recipients, RADx grant awardees can now utilize the Add Additional Materials option in Status to submit any documentation requested by the awarding agency. See Submitting Interim Reports for RADx Grants.

2.3.0.5 January 12, 2021

eRA Commons has a new login and landing screen. Many screenshots have been updated, as well as procedures that deal with login or accessing resources from the login or landing pages. See Welcome to eRA Commons!

2.3.0.6 January 4, 2021

Rewrote documentation about submitting an FFR. As of January 1, 2021, FFR completion and submission is now done in PMS and is only initiated from FFR in eRA Commons.

2.3.0.7 November 12, 2020

Added new screen in Institution Profile that lets you upload your institution's FCOI policy for Agency review. See Institutional Financial Conflict of Interest Policy.

2.3.0.8 October 30, 2020

The look and feel of the Just In Time screen in the Status module has been updated; see Navigating and Using the UI in eRA Modules. The Just in Time screen also has additional validations and a section for entering the IACUC date; see Just in Time (JIT) Screen.

2.3.0.9 October 20, 2020

The Page One for Notice of Awards has been updated. See Viewing the Notice of Award (NoA) for information and helpful links.

2.3.0.10 September 14, 2020

The look and feel of Early Stage Investigator screens has been updated, and the online help has been updated to reflect the new user interface. See Overview--Early Stage Investigator (ESI) Status.

2.3.0.11 September 10, 2020

In the RPPR for multi-project awards, you can now select awarded components rather than manually adding them. See Accessing a Multi-Project or Single-Project with Complicated Structure RPPR for Editing.

2.3.0.12 August 24, 2020

Awardees of Other Transactions Authority grants (OTAs) can now upload additional materials and submit to the funding agency using the Status module in eRA Commons. See Additional Materials Requests.
2.3.0.13 July 31, 2020

AHRQ grantees can now use the Extension link in eRA Commons Status module to automatically extend the final budget period of a previously approved project period one time for a period of up to 12 months, without additional AHRQ funds, and without prior approval. See No-Cost Extension (NCE) for AHRQ Grants.

2.3.0.14 July 25, 2020

Much of the functionality for administrative supplements has been removed from eRA Commons. Applicants will still have the option of initiating an administrative supplement within eRA Commons but will be transferred to ASSIST to complete the submission. Choosing to edit an existing administrative supplement in eRA Commons will redirect you to the administrative supplement in ASSIST. See Administrative Supplement Request.

2.3.0.15 June 24, 2020

Users with the signing official (SO) role now have access to Summary Statements for applications that have been evaluated at a peer review meeting. See How Does an SO See the Review Outcome?

2.3.0.16 April 8, 2020

Topic added on Determining your Early Stage Investigator Status

2.3.0.17 April 6, 2020

Two-factor authentication option now implemented.

2.3.1 August 16, 2019

Unfunded Application Notification topic added.

2.3.2 August 5, 2019

Early Stage Investigator (ESI) Extension topic added under Personal Profile topic.

2.3.3 April 30, 2019

Correction made to the Final Invention Statement topic changing the submission requirement from 90 to 120 days.

Enhancement made to the ORCID topic to show the authorization screen to connect the Commons Personal Profile to the ORCID account.

2.3.4 April 16, 2019

Minor updates to the Delegations table.

2.3.5 September 6, 2018

Updated Institution Profile Module (IPF) topic to show and describe the Opportunity Type Eligibility section of the About the Institution section.
Added clarification language to Closeout Status and Submitting Your Final RPPR topics regarding the Interim and Final RPPRs.

2.3.6 August 22, 2018
Correction made to Delegations topic and table.

2.3.7 August 10, 2018
Status Information and How Does a PI See the Review Outcome? sections updated.

2.3.8 July 24, 2018
Added note in FCOI Initiation to avoid any non-numeric characters for SFI >$600K.

2.3.9 June 11, 2018
Updates to have been made to Status and RPPR related to the new Human Subjects System (HSS) which replaces the Inclusion Monitoring System (IMS).
Go to the HSS online help for more information.

2.3.10 January 4, 2018
ORCID may now be created or associated directly from the Personal Profile module.

2.3.11 December 28, 2017
Numerous screens in the Federal Financial Report (FFR) module have been updated to a more secure GUI.

2.3.12 November 8, 2017
Interim Requests for Additional Materials (IRAM) may now be made to request revised Outcomes statements if the initial statements do not meet the purpose and definition of this section of the Interim or Final RPPR report. Links to additional guidance and policies have been added.

Project Outcomes will begin to be made public via RePORTER for the purpose of transparency to the public.

2.3.13 September 20, 2017
Awarding agencies will be able to request additional materials for an Interim RPPR from the principal investigator (PI) and signing official (SO) via eRA Commons. In turn, the SO will be able to submit the additional materials via eRA Commons, in a process that is similar to the Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM) process.
See the section on Interim Report Additional Materials.

2.3.14 August 22, 2017
Personal Profile Module - Education

- The Residency information in the Education section of the Personal Profile has been replaced by Post-doctoral Clinical Training Information.
2.3.15 June 8, 2017

Carryover requests have been added to the Prior Approval module. The steps to electronically request a Carryover request mirror the No Cost Extension request process.

2.3.16 June 1, 2017

- Eligible SBIR/STTR grants will now have links to Interim and Final RPPRs. Review the Interim RPPR and Final RPPR sections for details.
- Format of Interim RPPR pop-up updated to contrasting color.
- Updated enforcement of SO restrictions on closeout links, main search page, JIT, FRAM, and FIS pages.

2.3.17 April 10, 2017

Security and validation updates.

URLs for "http://grants.gov..." sites updated to secure HTTP (i.e. https://grants.gov...).

2.3.18 February 23, 2017

Prior Approval - Users may now request a change of the PD/PI on a grant.

2.3.19 February 21, 2017

Prior Approval - Users may now request a No Cost Extension (NCE) via Prior Approval.

2.3.20 February 1, 2017


2.3.21 January 19, 2017

SAMHSA grantees will now use ASSIST for non-competing continuation applications (non-research only). They will initiate the application in eRA Commons and prepare and submit it in ASSIST. Grantees will be able to track the application in eRA Commons through Status; they will also be able to manage their entire non-competing continuation process for their grant using a new Manage Continuations sub-tab in eRA Commons. Requisite changes will also be made to the Grant Folder.

2.3.22 January 17, 2017

The Status Information screen has been reworked to incorporate an updated look and feel and to consolidate information on applications into one consolidated landing page. This is part of a burden reduction effort and should alleviate a great deal of searching and the need to access multiple screens for the bulk of the application-related information.

2.3.23 January 1, 2017

Use of Final RPPR: eRA made changes to eRA Commons, RPPR, Inclusion Management System, and the Grant Folder to accommodate the Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR) replacing the Final Progress Report in eRA Commons effective Jan. 1, 2017 (for all grantees, except small businesses). See the Dec. 20 News and Nov. 23 News.
2.3.24 December 2016

The Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR) will replace the Final Progress Report (FPR) for grants closeout, effective January 1, 2017. The Final RPPR will be available for use in eRA Commons on January 1, 2017.

The format of the Final RPPR is very similar to that of the annual RPPR. The notable differences are that the Final RPPR only uses section D.1 for "Participants" and does not use sections F (Changes), and H (Budget). Additionally, the Final RPPR does have a new section: Section I (Outcomes).

Project Outcomes (Section I) will be made publicly available, allowing recipients the opportunity to provide the general public with a concise summary of the public significance of the research.

The deadlines for submitting a Final RPPR remain the same – no later than 120 days from the project end date.

NIH will maintain the business rule that allows the Signing Official (SO) to delegate the submission of the Final RPPR or Interim-RPPR to a Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI).

2.3.25 October 2016

- **SAMHSA will now use Commons to initiate, track, and manage the progress of non-research amendment applications.**
  - This functionality will now be found in the "Manage Post Award Amendments" module under the "Non-Research" tab for eligible users.
  - When a user initiates a non-research amendment in Commons, the system will open up the application in ASSIST, with the appropriate forms, and the completion and submission of the application will happen there.
  - Subsequent to submission, the user will continue to:
    - Track the application process
    - Submit, view, and edit "Requests for Additional Materials" (RAM)
    - View amendments in Commons.

- **New Non-Research Tab Has Been Added to the Top Navigation**
  - As part of the expansion of eRA services to other federal agencies, the Non-Research tab has been added for recipients of SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) non-research grants.
  - The new tab is located after eRA Partners.
  - Only those who receive SAMHSA non-research grants will need to access this tab to manage post award amendments.
3 Welcome to eRA Commons!

Access eRA Commons by entering the following address into your web browser:
https://public.era.nih.gov/commons

The eRA Commons login screen displays, which contains the following elements:
Methods for logging in. For help on login methods, see *Logging into eRA Commons*.

Learn How to Use eRA Systems. Panels leading to role-specific help for applicants, grantees, or reviewers.

Quick Queries. Search public grant information without logging in.

eEdison. Report patents or inventions.

Getting Started links. Learn how to register an institution, work with a demo environment, create accounts, or submit reference letters.

News. Latest eRA news.

Service Desk Contact Information. Get help from the eRA service desk.

After logging in, you see the home, or landing, screen, which is similar to the login screen except that it has navigation to eRA modules.
Navigate to the most commonly used modules by clicking the module's colored tile or use the Apps menu to access all modules:
Welcome to Commons Screen

See your login information, institution, roles, and a Sign Out link under the person icon in the header. It also contains links to change your password or manage your email preferences. For more information about the header, see Header and Footer Navigation.

The grey panel labeled SAMSHA gives you direct access to the Non-Research searches for amendments, continuations, and supplements. See Non-Research Amendments, Supplements, and Continuations (for Non-Research Agencies) for more information.
On any eRA Commons screen with a help icon 🤔, click it to access context sensitive help for the screen you are viewing.

### 3.1 Logging into eRA Commons

Access to eRA Commons depends on the type of user. The Commons user (applicant, signing official, NIH staff, etc.) can log in using one of four ways listed on the eRA Commons login screen:
3.1.1 Log In with Login.gov

If switching to login.gov, follow the instructions in *Transitioning To and Using Login.gov*.

If you attempt to log in with your normal eRA credentials, and you see one of the following screens, then you are being transitioned to mandatory use of login.gov; see *Transitioning To and Using Login.gov*.

---

The table below indicates which methods internal (staff) and external users can use. For external users, use of eRA Credentials is being phased out during 2021 in favor of login.gov, which provides two-factor authentication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authentication Method</th>
<th>External</th>
<th>Internal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eRA Credentials</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federated Account</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIV/CAC</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>login.gov account</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Only for users with accounts at Federated institutions/organizations.
3.1.2 Log In with eRA Credentials

This method uses a user name and password that is assigned and maintained by the eRA Commons system. This method is being phased out gradually and eventually all external users must create and associate a login.gov account, which associates the eRA credentials with the login.gov account, but uses login.gov for authentication. See below for instructions.

If you have been provided with a Commons User ID, you can log into Commons using the Login with eRA Credentials section of the log-in page. This access method is being gradually phased out starting in 2021, but you will retain the eRA credentials and continue to maintain them because they identify you throughout the Commons system.

3.1.2.1 To log into Commons:

2. Under Login with eRA Credentials, enter your username in the Username field.
3. Enter your password in the Password field. By default, passwords display as bullet characters, but you can click the small 'eye' icon next to the password field to see the actual password in clear text.
4. Click the **Login** button.

![Login with eRA Credentials](image)

**NOTE:** Commons locks users out after three (3) unsuccessful login attempts.

A successful login shows the username, institution, and user roles in the upper right of each screen. For newer screens you click the person icon to see this information, while older screens show it in the header.

![User Information](image)
Are you affiliated with multiple institutions? Make sure that the correct institution is displayed after you log in. This will affect the information you can access in Commons. Refer to the topic called *Changing the Displayed Affiliated Institution on Page 35* for more information.

After you have signed into Commons, you can access the various modules, links, and help screens, as well as other available links.

The modules accessible to a user depend on that user’s role and privileges. See *Opening Modules* for information on navigating to modules.

### 3.1.3 Log In with Federated Account

This method uses a federated account (if user's institution participates in the federated account login program, which involves using the institution’s own credentials). See below for instructions.

**Login with Federated Account**

This topic provides information on the following:

- Login with Federated account
- Linking your Commons account to the Federated account
- Troubleshooting issues linking your accounts

#### 3.1.3.1 Accessing Commons with Your Organization Credentials

1. Navigate to the Commons login page.
2. In the *Login with Federated Account* section of the login panel, select the appropriate organization from the drop-down list, and click the Login button.
3. Your organization's sign in page displays.

4. Enter your credential information (e.g., username and password) as appropriate to your organization.

   This information - and screen - is managed by your own organization and not by eRA Commons. If you do not know your credentials at your institution or you are having trouble with your institution's log in screen, you will need to contact your institution. The eRA service desk cannot help you with this screen.

   Your organization authenticates your credentials. Any authentication failure must be addressed with your organization.
If Commons determines that your organization credentials are associated with your Commons ID, you will be successfully logged into Commons and can start using the system. If your accounts are not linked, you will be prompted to do so.

**If your organization credentials are not linked to your Commons ID:**

If Commons determines that your organization credentials are not linked to a Commons user account, you will be prompted to do so via the *Link Institution/Organization Credentials with eRA User ID* screen.

1. Enter your Commons User ID and password.
2. Select the **Continue** button.

   If successful, your Commons User ID will be linked to your organization's credentials, and you will be able to log into Commons using the *Federated Institutions/Organizations* section and by entering your organization credentials.

   If Commons cannot authenticate the Commons user ID or password you provided, the following message will display:
   
   *Either the information entered is invalid or you are not enrolled in the eRA Commons. To keep your information secure, we may lock your account if you continue to enter incorrect login information. Please see your organization's account administrator for assistance (ID: 200523).*

   Other issues might prevent Commons from linking your accounts. Please read all messages and tips that appear on the screen during this process. You can also refer to the section below titled *Why Can't I Link My Commons Account?* on Page 18 for help.

**Why Can't I Link My Commons Account?**

If you are with an organization participating in the Commons Federation, but you are having trouble linking your Commons account to your organization credentials, one of the following can be the issue:

**Are you trying to use a temporary password?**

If you have not yet created your own password and are attempting to link your accounts using the system-assigned, temporary password, you will receive an error. You must change your password to one of your choosing before you can link your accounts.

To do so, navigate to the Commons home page. Use the Commons Login fields to log into Commons with your Commons ID and temporary password. You should be prompted to change the password.

After successfully changing your password, log back in following the steps described in *Login with Federated Account* on Page 16.

**Is your current Commons password expired?**
You will not be able to link your accounts if your Commons password is expired. Navigate to the Commons home page. Use the Commons Login fields to log into Commons with your expired password. Commons will present the Change Password screen on which you can update your password.

After successfully changing your password, log back in following the steps described in Login with Federated Account on Page 16.

Is your Commons account locked due to multiple unsuccessful logins?

You can reset the account by clicking the Forgot Password/Unlock Account link on eRA Commons home page. Commons will generate a new, temporary password for you.

Once you follow the steps for changing the temporary password to one of your choosing, you can log back in following the steps described in Login with Federated Account on Page 16.

In all other cases, please contact the eRA Service Desk to resolve this issue.

3.1.4 Log In with PIV/CAC

The internal NIH or Agency user (scientific review officer, etc.) logs in with a PIV card or a Commons user name and password. See below for instructions.

Accessing Commons with Credentials or PIV/CAC (for NIH or Agency)

If you are an internal NIH or Agency user accessing Commons, you can log into Commons in two ways - Login with eRA Credentials, or Login with PIV/CAC. If you use eRA Credentials, you use your Network ID.

Your eRA Commons Username is the same as your Network ID that you use to sign onto your computer and is not your IMPAC II User Name.

Some examples of federal users who might need to access Commons include Office of Financial Management (OFM) staff who review grantees' Federal Financial Reports (FFRs); administrators who manage/review appointments in xTRAIN; and Scientific Review Officers (SROs).

All Commons users – including federal staff – must have a Commons role in order to log in to Commons.

To log into Commons using your Network ID in the Login with eRA Credentials section:

1. To login with Username and Password;
   a. Enter your Network ID in the Username field and your network access password in the Password field.
   b. Click the Login button. eRA Commons opens and you can navigate to the modules available to you. See Welcome to eRA Commons! for information on the landing page.
2. To login with the PIV/CAC option;
   a. In the section titled **Login with PIV/CAC**, click the **Login using Smart Card** link.
   b. The Sign in screen opens.

   ![NIH NIH Login](image)

   **Alternative login for PIV-exempt users:** If you have been granted an exemption from the PIV login requirement, you may access the [alternative login page](#).

   **Warning Notice.** You are accessing a U.S. Government information system which includes this computer, network, and all attached devices. This system is for Government-authorized use only. Unauthorized use of this system may result in disciplinary action and civil and criminal penalties. System users have no expectation of privacy regarding any communications or data processed by this system. At any time, the government may monitor, record, or seize any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system.

   ![Login with Smart Card](image)

   c. Click the **Sign in** button and follow the prompts to select an appropriate certificate (if prompted) and enter your PIN.

   After logging in, you see the landing page. See **Welcome to eRA Commons!** for details.
3.1.4.1 Session Expiration

If you are going to be away from your computer for an extended period, save any changes and log out of the system. Work sessions expire after 45 minutes of inactivity. At that time, the system returns to the Commons Login screen.

3.2 Transitioning To and Using Login.gov

eRA is moving to two-factor authentication via Login.gov for accessing its external modules, meaning that log-in will require something you know (password) and something you have (a phone or other device).

Users of eRA Commons, Commons Mobile, IAR, and ASSIST must transition to the use of Login.gov credentials, instead of their Commons username and password, to log in. eRA will begin a phased approach beginning on September 15, 2021 for enforcing the two-factor authentication requirement for the NIH recipient community as described in Two-Factor.
3.2.1 Log In with Login.gov

This method uses Login.gov, after a one-time associating of the Login.gov account with the eRA Commons account. Groups of reviewers are being migrated during 2021; if you are a reviewer attempting to log in and you are redirected to create a Login.gov account, that means that you are among a group currently being migrated to mandatory use of Login.gov. Other Commons and ASSIST users are encouraged to start using Login.gov as soon as possible before the September 15 deadline.

If you have trouble with the Login.gov process, try these two support sources:

- Login.gov help center: https://Login.gov/help/
- eRA Commons Support Desk (https://grants.nih.gov/support/index.html)

You will continue to retain and maintain the eRA username and password after registering with Login.gov; however you must always use Login.gov to log into eRA Commons after creating the Login.gov account creating and associating it with your eRA credentials. See https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#XXIV.

**IMPORTANT:** BEFORE YOU START THE PROCESS:
- Make sure your eRA Commons account is active and unlocked, and you know your account
password; if you are unsure of the password, then use the Forgot Password/Unlock Account link located below the username and password fields on the eRA Commons home screen to change your password (see screenshot below).

- Also, ensure that you not are not using old bookmarked URLs to access eRA Commons. The URL for eRA Commons is https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/
- Ensure your eRA Commons account is active and. If your eRA Commons account is inactive, you must contact the eRA signing official/administrative official (SO/AO) at your institution for assistance to activate your account.
For those who use InCommon federated credentials, NIH is working with the InCommon Federation community to determine if and when that service could implement the necessary two-factor authentication processes to allow that login method to continue in the future.

3.2.2 Detailed Login.gov Steps and Troubleshooting

Accessing eRA Commons with Login.gov for the first time

Steps for the Initial Setup at Login.gov

STEP ONE — Click the Login.gov option on eRA Commons

If Login.gov has become mandatory for you, then upon entering normal eRA credentials, you will be redirected automatically to the Confirmation Required popup below to start the Login.gov process, and will not be able to log in until you complete it.

1. On the eRA Commons login screen, click on the Login.gov logo in the login section.

2. You will be presented with a Confirmation Required dialog. Click Continue and you will be redirected to https://secure>Login.gov.
NOTE: If you already have a Login.gov account, enter your email address and password and click Sign In. Complete the two-factor authentication method that you have already configured for your Login.gov account (text message, authentication application, etc.) and you will go directly to STEP THREE below.

STEP TWO — Create a Login.gov account

1. Click the Create an account button on the initial Login.gov screen. You will be presented with the Login.gov Create Your Account screen.
2. Enter your email address and select the box to accept the Login.gov Rules of Use and click **Submit**.

   **NOTE:** Use an email address that you will always have access to, not one that is dependent on your current institution, because you will need access if you ever reset your password. You use the same Login.gov account and eRA account regardless of your current institution.

3. You will receive an email from Login.gov asking you to confirm your email address.

4. Complete the process to confirm your email address by selecting the “Confirm email address” link included in the Login.gov verification email.
5. You will be returned to the Login.gov site where you will be presented with the *Create a Strong Password* screen. Following the password guidelines, enter a new password you would like to use for your Login.gov account.

![Create a Strong Password screen](image.png)

6. Choose an authentication method from the multiple authentication methods available to you (a security code to a phone, a list of codes, an authentication application, a security key, or a government employee ID).
7. If you select a phone, click the **Phone** radio button, and click **Continue**.

   **NOTE:** If you are unsure if your phone is VOIP, then make sure to use a cell phone.

8. Enter your phone number and click **Send Code**.
9. Enter the security code received by text message.

10. You will be presented with a confirmation screen showing that your phone was successfully added to your account. Your account creation at Login.gov is now completed. Click the **Agree and Continue** button and you will be redirected back to eRA Commons.
STEP THREE — Associate your Login.gov account with your eRA Commons account (one-time only)

1. After following the STEP TWO procedures, you will be redirected back to eRA Commons and presented with the Associate your eRA Account screen (see below). Enter your eRA credentials – username and password – to associate your Login.gov account with your eRA Commons account. You will only do this once unless you decide to use a different Login.gov account.
2. This association process will not work without the correct eRA credentials. If you are at all unsure of your password, click the **Forgot Password/Unlock Account** link in the blue INFORMATION box. Then follow the onscreen prompts to reset your password:
i. First, submit your eRA Commons user ID and the email associated with it.

ii. Check your email for a temporary password, then click **Continue** in the Reset Password screen below:

![Reset Password Screen](image)

iii. You are presented with the **Change Password** screen; follow onscreen instructions to reset your password, then click the link for the Commons home page. Make sure to remember this new password.

iv. You are returned to the **Associate your eRA Account** screen, where you can now enter your correct eRA credentials.

v. If your eRA credentials are validated, then your Login.gov account will be successfully associated with your eRA Commons account, and you will directly access the eRA Commons.

**YOU ARE DONE** — You will be returned to eRA Commons. After completing the Login.gov process, you must use the Login.gov login method exclusively to log into eRA Commons from now on. The next time you log into eRA Commons using Login.gov, you will be automatically authenticated and re-directed to eRA Commons.

**Accessing eRA Commons after completing Login.gov account creation and association to eRA account:**
After you create a Login.gov account and associate your eRA Commons account with it, you must use the Login.gov option on the eRA Commons home screen.

1. On the eRA Commons home screen, click on the Login.gov logo in the login section.

2. Log in to eRA Commons with your Login.gov credentials (email and password) and the additional authentication method you set up with your Login.gov account. You will be automatically taken to the eRA Commons landing screen.

**TIP:** If you do not want to enter a code every time, click the box that states, ‘*Remember this browser.*’ If you use the same browser and computer to log into eRA Commons, Login.gov will remember these settings and not require you to complete the two-factor authentication process each time you log in, and you will directly access the eRA Commons.

**Troubleshooting login problems with Login.gov**

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure your eRA Commons account is active and you know your account password before attempting to complete the Login.gov process; if you are unsure of either, then use the Forgot Password/Unlock Account link on the main Commons login screen to change your password prior to attempting to associate your Login.gov account with your eRA Commons account.

If you tried to log in using Login.gov, and it did not work, please perform the following before contacting the eRA Service Desk:
1. Clear your browser cache/history and then close and restart your browser.
2. Make sure you are not using a bookmark that points to an older URL address. Delete your bookmark and go to the main eRA system URL directly. For instance:
   c. https://public.era.nih.gov/iar
   d. http://m.era.nih.gov/cmb
3. If it still does not work, please contact the eRA Service Desk at https://grants.nih.gov/support/index.html

### 3.3 Switching Institutions

Are you a PI who has switched institutions?

PIs moving from one institution to another do not need to establish a new Commons account. In fact, if you are a PI, you should maintain a single Commons account throughout your career. You'll just need to affiliate your new institution to your existing Commons account.

There are many benefits to maintaining a single Commons account including:

- Your grant record history will be kept together instead of being split across multiple accounts
- If you have served as a Reviewer, your service on study sections will be recorded properly and will be accounted for in determining eligibility for continuous submission (Policy: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/continuous_submission.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/continuous_submission.htm))
- Records maintained by NIH will be more accurate
- With one account, your degree information will be kept in one place and is more likely to be reviewed in consideration for Early Stage Investigator eligibility

Follow these steps if you switch institutions:

1. Request that the SO at your new institution/organization affiliate your existing Commons account with your new university/organization. You will need to provide the SO with your Commons ID.
   
   The SO can follow the steps listed in the [Create Affiliation](https://grants.nih.gov/accounts_management_system) topic of the Accounts Management System Online Help.

2. If you have left the other institution/organization, request that the SO at your old institution/organization disaffiliate you from that institution.

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It is possible to have multiple affiliations tied to one Commons account. You do not need to disaffiliate your account from the first institution if you still remain there.
3. Contact the eRA Service Desk if you realize that you have more than one Commons account. They can help you merge the accounts together.

4. Keep your Commons Personal Profile updated. This includes the address fields and the end dates of your employment.

While a PI can keep the same Commons account when switching institutions, system users with the SO role must create a new account within the new institution/organization.

3.4 Changing the Displayed Affiliated Institution

If you are a PI affiliated with more than one institution, it is important to check which institution is currently selected when you log into Commons. You can access only the information pertaining to the selected institution. Your selected institution is displayed with your user ID information in the upper right corner of Commons screens.

To select a specific institution to work with in Commons:

1. Log into eRA Commons.
2. If you are affiliated with multiple institutions, the login info area at the upper right corner of the page screen lets you switch institutions. The login info area varies depending on the screen you are on:
   - If you see the following user info in the upper right, click the linked institution name.
If you see the person icon in the upper right, click it and then click the **Change Institution** link.

![Change Institution](image)

The *Change Affiliation* screen opens, which lists the names of all institutions with which you are affiliated.
3. Select the radio button of the institution you want to work with in eRA Commons.
4. Click the **Submit** or **Save** button to set the institution as your current default. When you log in, you are automatically set to log into the default institution.

In eRA Commons, you now see the grant data and roles associated with the institution you chose. You can check your current institution from selected Commons screens in the user area at the upper right.

### 3.5 Logging out of Commons

Upon completion of any work in eRA Commons, it is best practice for security reasons to log off from the Commons system.

eRA Commons is in the midst of a shift from an older user interface for modules to a newer modern look. During the transition, you will see a mix of older and newer headers, and logging out is slightly different between these.

Use the following methods to log out, depending on which header you see.
With the newer blue header (below), click the Person icon in the upper right, and then click the **Sign Out** link in the dropdown menu.

### 3.6 Create or Edit a New Commons Account

If you are a Commons user with one of the following roles, you have the ability to create new Commons user accounts (such as for a PD/PI) using the **Manage Accounts** feature.

- **SO** (signing official). Can create accounts of any role type, including creating additional SO accounts. See **Signing Official (SO)**.
- **AO** (administrative official). Create all accounts except SO, BO, FCOI accounts, and IAR accounts
- **AA** (account administrator). Create all Commons accounts except SO, FCOI accounts, and IAR accounts
- **BO** (business official). Create all accounts except SO, BO, FCOI accounts, and IAR accounts
Users, such as principal investigators (PIs), cannot create their own accounts. Commons accounts are created by users with the roles mentioned above or via invitation, appointment, or institutional registration (see additional links below).

You can also use the steps in this procedure to edit an account. For instance, you might want to change an AA or PD/PI account to a SO account in the case of a promotion to other duties. Keep in mind that some roles conflict; for instance, a PD/PI, which is a scientific role, cannot co-exist with an SO role, which is administrative, so you might have to delete some roles to add others.

To create a new account:

1. Navigate to the Admin module, and select the Accounts tab.
2. Select the Account Management option.

The Search Accounts screen opens in a separate window. You'll notice that there is no Create New Account button displayed at this time. You cannot create a new account until you perform a search for the account first. This measure is in place to help avoid the creation of duplicate accounts.
By default, the "Search only within my organization" checkbox is not checked so that existing accounts for investigators and other scientific roles can be located and affiliated instead of creating new accounts. PI roles, for example, are intended to be used throughout the investigator’s career regardless of their current affiliation(s).

3. Search for the person (Last Name, First Name) whose account you are creating. After performing the search, if no existing account is found, the Create New Account button becomes enabled.
4. Select the Create New Account button.

The Create Account screen displays. The User Type should default to Commons and the Primary Organization should default to that of your own. The User Type field can be changed if necessary.
5. On the *Create Account* screen, fill out the fields. Note that all fields except **Middle Name** are required.
   - **User Type**: Select **Commons** from the drop-down list if it is not already displayed.
   - **User ID**: Enter a unique name as the system username.
   - **Primary Organization**: This field defaults to your organization and cannot be changed. If an individual needs to be affiliated with your organization and already has a non-administrative account with another institution (primarily Primary Investigators - PI), search for them outside of your organization and affiliate their existing account with your institution.
   - **Last Name**
   - **First Name**
   - **Middle Name**
   - **Email**
   - **Confirm Email**

6. After entering contact information, you can assign a role to the account. Click the **Add Roles** button to open the *AMS | Add Roles* window. The organization will default to the
current user’s institution and cannot be changed. Below the Organization field is the list of roles available to the type of user selected.

7. Select the role or roles required for the new account. You can use multi-select in order to choose multiple roles to add at one time. Some roles conflict with one another and can not be assigned at the same time, such as PD/PI and SO. An error message occurs if you assign conflicting roles.

8. Click the Add Role(s) button when all roles have been selected. You are taken back to the Create Account screen and the new roles will be listed.
9. If it is necessary to add additional roles (now or later), repeat the same steps.

10. When all necessary roles are displayed, click the **Create** button and the new account will be created. Clicking the **Clear** button will reset the page to blanks except for the default institution.

11. *Optional*: If a role is either no longer required or if it was added in error, use the **x Remove** button to eliminate that role for that account.

### 3.6.1 Additional information:

- [eRA Commons Registration & Accounts](#)
- [eRA Commons Accounts: Who and How and Where](#) [click here for one-page PDF version](#)
- [Institution Registration and Account Creation](#) (Training Videos)
4 Federated Institutions/Organizations Sign In to Commons

This topic provides information on the following:

- Login with Federated account
- Linking your Commons account to the Federated account
- Troubleshooting issues linking your accounts

4.1 Accessing Commons with Your Organization Credentials

1. Navigate to the [Commons login page](#).
2. In the *Login with Federated Account* section of the login page, select the appropriate organization from the drop-down list, and click the *Login* button.
3. Your organization's sign in page displays.

4. Enter your credential information (e.g., username and password) as appropriate to your organization.

   This information - and screen - is managed by your own organization and not by eRA Commons. If you do not know your credentials at your institution or you are having trouble with your institution's login screen, you will need to contact your institution. The eRA service desk cannot help you with this screen.

   Your organization authenticates your credentials. Any authentication failure or problems must be addressed with your organization.
If Commons determines that your organization credentials are associated with your Commons ID, you will be successfully logged into Commons and can start using the system. If your accounts are not linked, you will be prompted to do so.

**If your organization credentials are not linked to your Commons ID:**

If Commons determines that your organization credentials are not linked to a Commons user account, you will be prompted to do so via the *Link Institution/Organization Credentials with eRA User ID* screen.

1. Enter your Commons User ID and password.
2. Select the **Continue** button.

If successful, your Commons User ID will be linked to your organization's credentials, and you will be able to log into Commons using the *Federated Institutions/Organizations* section and by entering your organization credentials.

If Commons cannot authenticate the Commons user ID or password you provided, the following message will display:

*Either the information entered is invalid or you are not enrolled in the eRA Commons. To keep your information secure, we may lock your account if you continue to enter incorrect login information. Please see your organization's account administrator for assistance (ID: 200523).*

Other issues might prevent Commons from linking your accounts. Please read all messages and tips that appear on the screen during this process. You may also refer to the section below titled *Why Can't I Link My Commons Account? on Page 47* for help.

### 4.2 Why Can't I Link My Commons Account?

If you are with an organization participating in the Commons Federation, but you are having trouble linking your Commons account to your organization credentials, one of the following might be the issue:

**Are you trying to use a temporary password?**

If you have not yet created a your own password and are attempting to link your accounts using the system-assigned, temporary password, you will receive an error. You must change your password to one of your choosing before you can link your accounts.

To do so, navigate to the Commons home page. Use the Commons Login fields to log into Commons with your Commons ID and temporary password. You should be prompted to change the password.

After successfully changing your password, log back in following the steps described in *Federated Institutions/Organizations Sign In to Commons on Page 45.*

**Is your current Commons password expired?**
You will not be able to link your accounts if your Commons password is expired. Navigate to the Commons home page. Use the Commons Login fields to log into Commons with your expired password. Commons will present the Change Password screen on which you can update your password.

After successfully changing your password, log back in following the steps described in Federated Institutions/Organizations Sign In to Commons on Page 45.

**Is your Commons account locked due to multiple unsuccessful logins?**

You can reset the account by clicking the Forgot Password/Unlock Account link on eRA Commons home page. Commons will generate a new, temporary password for you.

Once you follow the steps for changing the temporary password to one of your choosing, you can log back in following the steps described in Federated Institutions/Organizations Sign In to Commons on Page 45.

**In all other cases, please contact the eRA Service Desk to resolve this issue.**
5 Password Policy

You can log in to eRA Commons via several methods, including using eRA credentials or login.gov. The Password Policy for eRA credentials describes the use and rules of using eRA credential passwords. Please review the Password Policy for eRA Applications.


If you are using the login.gov method to access eRA Commons, which includes two-factor authentication, please use the following link to learn about login.gov password management.

Additional links on this page address different aspects of login.gov passwords:


5.1 First-Time Login With Temporary Password

If you are a first time user logging in with the temporary password provided to you in an email, eRA Commons prompts you to change your password when you first log in successfully.

Standards for creating passwords are displayed on the Change Password screen and must be followed when creating a new password.

1. Enter the temporary password into the Current Password field.
2. Enter the new password into the New Password and Confirm New Password fields.
3. Click Submit to update the new password information.
A confirmation message displays if the password is valid and meets the NIH password standards. If the new password does not meet the standards, an error message is displayed.

### 5.2 Password Requirements

**NOTE:** During 2021, eRA users will gradually be transitioned to being required to use login.gov to log into eRA Commons instead of using eRA credentials. See [https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#XXIV](https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#XXIV).

The following list highlights the password requirements for eRA credentials:

- Must be at least eight (8) characters long (no blank spaces) and is case sensitive
- Must contain a combination of at least three (3) of the following types of characters:
  - Uppercase letters
  - Lowercase letters
  - Numeric characters
  - Special characters ( ! $ % _ = + < > *)

  The following special characters are NOT allowed: @, &, or a “period”

- May NOT contain your Username
- May NOT start or end with a number
- Cannot be reused within one year
must be changed every 90 days

- Passwords created or changed by the Institute and/or Center (IC) Account Administrators must be changed at first login.

- Accounts are locked after six (6) consecutive unsuccessful login attempts. Users can click the Forgot Password/Unlock Account? link under the login fields of the Commons homepage (https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/index.jsp) to unlock their account(s). Be advised that a temporary password will be forwarded to the account owner's email address and is active for only 48 hours.

- Contact the eRA Service Desk if you are still experiencing the issue.

Read more information on the eRA Password Policy.


If you are using the login.gov method to access eRA Commons, which includes two-factor authentication, please use the following link to learn about login.gov password management and requirements. Additional links on this page address different aspects of login.gov passwords:


Temporary passwords, sent to the user via email, are only valid for 48-hours and must be changed to a permanent password of the user’s choosing within that time period.

### 5.3 Reset Password

**Note:** This topic refers to the eRA credential password. If you are having trouble with your login.gov password, please review this page: [https://www.login.gov/help/changing-settings/change-my-password/](https://www.login.gov/help/changing-settings/change-my-password/). Even after you begin using login.gov to log into eRA Commons, you might still receive prompts to change your eRA password. See [https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#XXIV](https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#XXIV).

Have you forgotten your eRA credential password? If so, you can reset your password. Submitting a password reset request generates a new, temporary password, which is sent to the email address contained in your user profile. This temporary password lets you log into Commons, where you are prompted to create a new password.

However, if your account is locked from too many failed login attempts, the password can only be reset by your institution's signing official or account administrator. If you don't know who that is, you can contact the eRA Service Desk.

Because your temporary password will be sent to the email address you used to create your Commons account, you must be able to access that email account in order to get your new password.

If you know your password and just want to change it, use the change password feature instead. Refer to the section of this document titled Changing Your Password on Page 53.
To reset your password:

1. Select the **Forgot Password/Unlock Account?** link on the Commons home page.

   **NOTE:** Although the link refers to "Unlock Account," if your account is locked from too many failed login attempts, it can only be unlocked by your institution's signing official (SO) or account administrator (AA). The SO/AA can follow instructions here: [Reactivating/Unlocking an Account](#).

2. Enter your **User ID** and **Email** address in the required fields of the *Reset Password* screen.
3. Click the **Submit** button. The system returns to the Commons home page. Commons generates a new, temporary password and sends it to the email address contained within the user profile.

4. Log into Commons using the temporary password provided in the email.

5. After logging into Commons with the temporary password, create and enter a new password as prompted by Commons.

All passwords are validated against the Password Policy requirements.

Your old password might re-appear in the **Password** field if you have not cleared your browser’s cache/history, especially if you had previously opted to save the password in the field. Make sure you are entering the new password before you attempt to log in. If unsure, clear the cache/history and log in again with the new password.

For security purposes and to maintain the integrity of your account, you should never use the save password option and should always re-enter your password whenever you log in to Commons.

### 5.4 Changing Your Password

You can change your password anytime you are logged in as long as you know your current password. You use the Change Password screen, which can be accessed either from the Admin module or from the Person icon that appears in the upper right corner of some eRA Commons screens.

1. Access the **Change Password** screen.
   - Either navigate to the Admin module, then the **Accounts** tab, and then the **Change Password** tab. - OR -
   - Click the Person icon in the upper right corner of a screen and select **Change Password**.

The **Change Password** screen opens. The screen lists the password creation standards that you must follow when choosing a new password.
2. Enter your current password in the **Current Password** field.
3. Enter the new password into the **New Password** and **Confirm New Password** fields.

Passwords display as dots for security purposes. Make sure to enter your password carefully.

4. Click the **Submit** button.

The password change takes effect immediately and must be used when logging into Commons again, unless you use login.gov to manage Commons login. You might still be required to periodically change your eRA Commons password even if you use login.gov to actually log into Commons.

Your old password might re-appear in the **Password** field if you have not cleared your browser’s cache/history, especially if you had previously opted to save the password in the field. Make sure you are entering the new password before you attempt to log in. If unsure, clear the cache/history and log in again with the new password.

For security purposes, we recommend that you not use the browser’s save password option.

### 5.5 Reset Your Expired Password

eRA credential passwords will expire after a set amount of time and must be reset. When your password has expired or has been reset, you will be directed to select a new password when you try to log in.

Even after you begin using login.gov to log into eRA Commons, you might still receive prompts to change your eRA password. See [https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#XXIV](https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#XXIV).

Your new password must conform to the standards listed on the screen.
1. Enter your **Current Password**.
2. Enter a **New Password**.
3. Re-enter the new password in the **Confirm New Password** field.
4. Select **Submit**.

Your new password is effective immediately.

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**5.6 Resetting a Locked Account**

If you have attempted to log into Commons multiple times using an invalid eRA Commons password, your account will lock. When this occurs, it is necessary for the Signing Official (SO) at your organization to unlock your account and reset your password.

SOs can reset locked accounts with the **Manage Accounts** feature.
The Accounts Management System, also called Admin module, has its own online help feature. Refer to the following for information on unlocking accounts and resetting passwords on locked accounts:

**Reactivating/Unlocking an Account** (SO or Account Administrator roles ONLY)

**Resetting a Password**

If your account is not locked, but you’ve forgotten your password, you can reset the password yourself. Refer to the section of this document titled *Reset Password on Page 51.*
6 User Roles

To log in to Commons and access its features, you must have a Commons account with assigned user role(s). User roles determine which features you can employ, the tasks you can perform, and the level of access you have to information. Commons roles range from trainee roles to scientific roles to administrative roles. User roles are mostly assigned to you by your signing official or account administrator, except for the IAR (peer reviewer) role, which is assigned by a scientific review officer.

The following is a list of user roles which may be associated to your account. Refer to the section on that role for more information.

- **AA**: Account Administrator at an organization, who facilitates the administration of Commons accounts.
- **AO**: Administrative Official of an organization.
- **ASST**: An assistant who may be delegated to perform tasks on behalf of the PD/PI.
- **BO**: Business Official at an organization who manages trainee grants and uses the xTrain module.
- **FCOI**: Those at an organization who manage the Financial Conflict of Interest module and report submission.
- **FSR**: A person in an organization responsible for completing and submitting Federal Financial Reports (FFR).
- **Graduate**: Role assigned to an individual who is a graduate student and is participating in an NIH-funded project for at least one person month. Refer to the following guide notice for more information: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-097.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-097.html).
- **IAR**: A Reviewer selected by Scientific Review Officer (SRO*) assigned to critique and score applications in a review meeting. These Reviewers use the Internet Assisted Review (IAR) module.
- **PACR**: Having this role provides access to the Public Access Compliance Report system via the Commons home page.
- **PI**: Program Director/Principal Investigator (also called PD/PI), who directs a research project or program supported by the NIH.
- **POSTDOC**: POSTDOC role exists in Commons for those at an institution serving in a postdoctoral role. This could be someone who is being mentored and not yet in a permanent position.
- **Project Personnel**: Role assigned to an individual performing other project roles on a project. Refer to the following guide notice for more information: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-097.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-097.html).
- **SO**: Organization's Signing Official, who has the institutional authority to legally bind the institution in grant-administration matters.
- **SPONSOR**: Sponsors supervise the research training experience of individual fellows supported by fellowship awards in the xTrain module.
- **TRAINEE**: TRAINEE user manages the electronic appointments of their own awarded training grants.

- **TTO**: Technology Transfer Office (TTO) Administrator supports the Technology Transfer/Licensing Office or Office of Research and Development at the grantee organization. The TTO administrator can submit inventions, patents, and utilization reports in iEdison, request waivers and create iEdison accounts.

- **Undergraduate**: Role assigned to an individual who is in an undergraduate program and is participating in an NIH-funded project for at least one person month. Refer to the following guide notice for more information: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-097.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-097.html).

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*Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*

### 6.1 Account Administrator (AA)

Designated by the SO, the AA facilitates the administration of eRA Commons accounts. The AA typically is located in the Central Research Administration Office at the grantee organization.

If you hold an AA role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:
• Create accounts and modify all Commons roles except IAR and FCOI roles
• Create affiliation between an existing PI or IAR Commons account and the institution

6.2 Administrative Official (AO)

An AO is an official within an extramural organization and may be located within the Central Research Administration Office and/or an academic department. Depending on an institution’s workflow process, it is possible for the SO and AO to be the same person. In this case, only SO authority is necessary (as SO authority supersedes AO authority).

SO and AO authorities should not be combined.

An AO is not authorized to submit reports to the NIH.

If you hold an AO role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:

• Create all accounts other than IAR, TRAINEE, and FCOI
• Update Commons accounts created by the AO
• View status and award information for all institution grants

The AO cannot view summary statements or priority scores.

• Create affiliation between an existing PD/PI or IAR Commons account and the institution

An AO cannot modify the Institution Profile.

6.3 Assistant (ASST)

An ASST user can perform tasks on behalf of a PD/PI depending on the authority granted to the ASST user.

If you hold an ASST role, you may have privileges to perform the following tasks:

• Edit your own personal profile (PPF) data
• Edit the PD/PI’s PPF if delegated by a PI user
• Edit the PD/PI’s progress report data if delegated by the PI user
• View the PD/PI Grant Status if delegated by the PI user
• Perform PD/PI xTrain functions (except submit to agency) if delegated by the PI user

6.4 Business Official (BO)

A BO has signature or other authority related to administering grantee institution training grants. Users with the BO role perform their tasks in the xTrain module of Commons.

If you hold a BO role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:
View the following Training Grant related items:
- Trainee Roster
- List of Grants
- Grant Summary
- Routing History
- PDF-formatted Appointments/Amendments/Terminations
- Initiate, update, route, and submit Termination Notices (TN), if authorized

### 6.5 Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI)

FCOI is the user(s) in the institution who manages the Financial Conflict of Interest reporting process. The FCOI role can only be assigned by the SO to someone within his or her institution and that person must have a Commons account.

If you hold an FCOI role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:

- Initiate FCOI
- View and Edit FCOI
- Delete FCOI
- Submit FCOI

FCOI responsibilities can be shared with other by assigning either the FCOI_ASST or FCOI_View roles.

#### 6.5.1 FCOI Assistant (FCOI_ASST) Role

Commons users with the SO role can assign the FCOI_ASST role to those users in the institution who will assist in working on the FCOI reporting process.

Commons users assigned the FCOI_ASST role, have privileges to perform the following tasks:

- Initiate FCOI
- Search FCOI
- View FCOI
- Edit FCOI
- Delete FCOI

Assign the FCOI_View role instead to any system users who need authority to search for and view FCOI information entered by the institution in the FCOI module, but who will not perform any data entry or make changes to the information.

#### 6.5.2 FCOI Read-Only (FCOI_View) Role

Commons users with the SO role can assign the FCOI_View role to those users in the institution need authority to search for and view FCOI information entered by the institution in
the FCOI module, but who will not perform any data entry or make changes to the information. These users have read-only access to FCOI report data.

Commons users assigned the FCOI_View role, have privileges to perform the following tasks:

- Search FCOI
- View FCOI

Assign the FCOI_ASST role instead to any system users who need the authority to do more than view the FCOI report. FCOI_ASST users can initiate, edit, and delete FCOI reports.

### 6.6 Federal Financial Report (FSR Role)

The Federal Financial Report (FFR) is a statement of expenditures for a grant. The Commons role assigned for completing FFR responsibilities is the FSR role. Depending on the institution’s workflow process, it is possible for the SO or BO/AO to have FSR person responsibilities. As such, these two authorities may be combined on the same account.

If you hold an FSR role, you have privileges to submit FFRs on behalf of your institution.

An account with only the FSR role assigned can only perform FSR tasks.

### 6.7 Internet Assisted Review (IAR)

Specially selected by Scientific Review Officers (SRO*) of the NIH, an IAR user can critique and score submitted grant applications. Many PD/PIs are selected for this role and IAR authority is automatically added to their account once an SRO enables them for a meeting. All other reviewers who have never served as PD/PIs have IAR authority solely.

If you hold an IAR role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:

- Edit your own personal profile (PPF) and Reviewer address data
- Use the IAR module to submit critiques and preliminary scores for applications to be reviewed at a meeting for which you are enabled

If affiliated with an institution, you can take advantage of other Commons features with the IAR role.

*Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

If you are a Reviewer with an IAR role and are seeking help with the IAR module, check out the IAR for Reviewers online help system: [http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/IAR_Rev/](http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/IAR_Rev/).
6.8 Program Director/Principal Investigator (PI)

A principal investigator (also called a PD/PI, although the role in Commons displays as PI) directs a research project or program supported by the NIH. The role of the PI within Commons is to complete the grant administration process or to delegate this responsibility to another individual. A PI may only access information pertaining to the grant(s) on which he/she is the designated PD/PI.

NIH has adopted a Multiple-PI (MPI) model—as directed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy—permitting more than one PI to be associated with an NIH-funded grant, contract, or cooperative agreement. Additional PIs assist with the responsibilities currently accorded to a single PI. The multiple-PI model is intended to supplement—not replace—the traditional single-PI model.

If you hold a PI role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:

- Edit your personal profile (PPF)
- Delegate edit authority of your own PPF to others
- View the status of all grant applications for which you are the designated PI, including any errors or warnings that may have been triggered
- View the assembled image of submitted grant applications before those grants move on for further processing
- View Study Section/Meeting Roster of the Review Group that will be reviewing your application
- View Review outcome information and summary statements
- View Notice of Award (NoA) for all grants for which you are the designated PI
- Delegate authority to someone with an ASST role to perform the same actions and receive the same notifications as a you do as the PI

PI users cannot delegate authority to submit appointments to the Agency.

- View the following Training Grant related items using xTrain:
  - Trainee Roster
  - List of Grants
  - Grant Summary
  - Routing History
  - PDF-formatted Appointments/Amendments/Terminations
- Initiate, update, route, and submit Appointments, Re-Appointments, and Amendments in xTrain
- Initiate, update, and route Termination Notices in xTrain
- Initiate a progress report
- Delegate progress report authority
- Submit a progress report when given the authority by an SO
Delegate Status authority to others within the institution so that they can see PI grant information (except Review outcome information and Summary Statement)

The PI role should not be combined with the SO role, but can be combined with the IAR role.

### 6.9 Signing Official (SO)

An SO has institutional authority to legally bind the institution in grant-administration matters by providing signature approval on grant application submissions. The SO monitors grant related activities within the extramural organization and may have a number of titles. The SO can also create additional accounts for personnel at their institution, including new signing official accounts.

To find your signing official, see Finding Your Signing Official later in this topic.

If you hold an SO role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:

- Create additional signing official accounts; see Create or Edit a New Commons Account
- Register the applicant institution in Commons
- Create and update the Institutional Profile (IPF)
- Create/delete/update all Commons accounts (except IAR and TRAINEE accounts).

An SO cannot modify another user’s personal profile (PPF) unless designated to do so by that user

- Create affiliation between an existing Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) and/or IAR Commons account and the institution
- Submit electronic grant application(s) on behalf of the institution via Grants.gov (outside of eRA Commons), if also registered with Grants.gov as the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)
- View status of all grant applications originating from their institution and any errors or warnings that may have been triggered
- View Review outcome information, including summary statement, the overall impact score and percentile, if available; see How Does an SO See the Review Outcome?
- View assembled image of submitted grant applications before they move on for further processing
- Reject grant applications to address submission warnings
- View award information for all grants awarded to the institution

An SO cannot view summary statements or priority scores.

- Submit JIT information for a PD/PI
• View the following Training Grant related items:
  ■ Trainee Roster
  ■ List of Grants
  ■ Grant Summary
  ■ Routing History
  ■ PDF-formatted Appointments/Amendments/Terminations
• Delegate progress report authority to someone on behalf of the PD/PI
• Delegate submit authority for progress reports to a PD/PI
• Submit a progress report to the Agency (NIH)
• Submit Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR)
• Submit a one-time No-Cost Extension on behalf of the PD/PI
• Assign the FCOI role for those using the Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) module

An SO role cannot be combined with a PI role.

6.9.1 Finding the Signing Official

For most institutions, the signing official (SO) is in the Office of Sponsored Research or equivalent. You can find the list of signing officials for your institution in the Institution Profile.

1. Log in to eRA Commons.

2. Navigate to the Institution Profile module, then click the Basic Information tab.

   You see a row titled Signing Officials and TTO Administrators*.

   ![Institution Profile for UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA](https://example.com/)

3. Click the plus sign to view the name(s) of the signing official(s).

   If you are unable to identify your SO, contact the eRA Service Desk.

   * * A Technology Transfer Office (TTO) Administrator supports the Technology Transfer/Licensing Office or Office of Research and Development at the grantee organization.
The TTO administrator can submit inventions, patents, and utilization reports in iEdison, request waivers and create iEdison accounts.

6.10 Sponsor (SPONSOR)

A sponsor supervises the research training experience of individual fellows supported by fellowship awards in the xTrain module. Your institution’s SO (or another institutional official with Commons account management privileges, such as an AO) can add the Sponsor role to your account, which in turn will associate the Sponsor role with all of the fellowships with which you are a Sponsor.

If you hold a Sponsor role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:

- View the following Training Grant related items:
  - Trainee Roster
  - List of Grants
- Review Termination Notices and route to BO before submission to Agency
- Initiate Termination Notices on behalf of fellows who have left the institution
- Delegate Sponsor authority to another individual

6.11 Trainee (TRAINEE)

The Commons xTrain TRAINEE role is used to manage electronic appointments for awarded Training Grants.

If you hold a TRAINEE role, you have privileges to perform the following tasks:

- View your PDF-formatted Appointments/Amendments/Terminations
- Update and route your Appointments/Amendments/Terminations
- View Appointments/Amendments/Terminations routing history
7 Opening Modules

eRA Commons is slowly transitioning from older horizontal bars for module navigation to a more modern, space-saving Apps menu that drops down. During the transition, you will see a mix of older and newer module navigation methods. Navigate to and between eRA Commons modules using one of the following navigation bars:

Above, click the Apps menu to show module navigation. The dark blue highlighted module indicates the module you are currently in.

Above, use the light blue navigation bar to navigate between modules. The dark blue tab highlighted in red indicates the current module.
Above, use the light gray navigation bar to navigate between modules. The white tab highlighted in red indicates the current module.

Home brings you to the Commons landing page, which contains useful links and essential information.

**7.0.0.1 Can’t find a module?**

You see only those modules, or features within modules, that your user role(s) give you access to. User roles are assigned by your institutional signing official, administrative official, or accounts administrator.
8 Commons Demonstration Site

The Commons Demonstration Site is a fully functioning site for all users. Once you create an account, you can access an environment containing realistic demonstration data that is almost identical to the Commons production environment.

Use the training-demo environment to familiarize yourself with the eRA Commons application and to practice creating sample institutions and accounts and/or manipulating grant applications. The site provides access to the major functions of the system in a training/demonstration mode that mirrors the production version, the difference being that only sample data is altered in the Commons Demonstration Site.

8.1 Accessing Commons Demonstration Site

To access the Commons Demonstration Site, select the Commons Demo link from the eRA Commons login page.

Users with a demo account should log in using the username and password created for this purpose; users without a demo account should create one. Refer to the section of this document titled Creating a New Demo Account on Page 69.
8.2 Creating a New Demo Account

The Create a New Demo Account screen facilitates creation of a sample institution and user account. Creation of an signing official (SO) and a principal investigator (PI) account is required, with grant applications assigned to the created institution.

A number of sample grant applications are assigned to the PI account. Once the institution and initial accounts are assigned, the training/demonstration module can be used to perform all functions on the sample data linked to these accounts (such as creating new accounts, submitting an RPPR or FFR, reviewing application status, and affiliating other demo users to the demo institution).

To create a new demo account:

1. Select the Register link under Commons Demo on the Commons login page.

The Create a New Demo Account screen displays.

2. Fill in the appropriate information for creating the account.

All fields followed by an asterisk (*) are required. The user name must have a minimum of six (6) characters (numbers and letters can be combined) and a maximum of twenty (20) characters. The account names must be unique.

3. Click the Submit button.

A verification message displays the information entered.

4. Review all entered information and click the Save button to create the demo account.
A confirmation page lists the user name information and passwords. Make sure to copy the information.

5. Click the **Continue** link.

You are redirected to the Commons Demonstration Site for login, where you can start the training/demo session.
9 Registering Institutions and Organizations


To access eRA Commons, there is a one-time registration process for institutions and research facilities, during which initial accounts are created. Once an institution registers, accounts for the signing official (SO) and account administrator (AA) that are created during the registration process become active. These authorized personnel can create new user accounts within the hierarchy and structure of an extramural institution and access Institution Profile information. The first signing official can create additional signing official accounts; see **Signing Official (SO)**.

You can access the eRA Commons Online Registration system at the following location: [https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/public/registration/registrationInstructions.jsp](https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/public/registration/registrationInstructions.jsp)

### 9.1 Institution Registration Request

The initial registration request sets up a mandatory account for the institution's SO and an optional account for the institution's AA. Only authorized organization officials can be deemed as SOs for their institutions. Examples of NIH accepted organization officials include:

- Corporation - President, CEO
- Institute - Executive Director
- University - President, Dean, or Chancellor

You must have a valid and verifiable Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) number before proceeding with the registration process.

---

If your organization intends to only apply for OTA awards, a DUNS number is not required for initial registration but will be required to submit applications.

---

If your institution does not have a valid DUNS number, you can obtain one at the following website:

[http://fedgov.dnb.com](http://fedgov.dnb.com)

To register an institution within eRA Commons:
1. On the Commons home page, select the Register Organization link.

![Commons home page](image1.png)

2. The Online Registration screen displays. Read the instructional steps and click the Register Now button.

![Online Registration](image2.png)

3. The Register Institution screen displays. (view below)
4. Complete the required fields for the Registration Purpose, Institution Information and Accounts Information sections noting the following:
   - All fields followed by a red asterisk (*) are required
   - You will see three new checkboxes to indicate for which opportunity you plan to apply:
     - NIH Grants/Contracts - This is the most common type of registration and is required for any application that is funded by NIH.
     - Non-NIH Grants/Contracts - This type of registration will let you submit applications for other agencies that use NIH eRA systems (i.e. SAMHSA).
- Other Transaction Authority (OTA) opportunities - This type of opportunity is for a type of funding that is neither grants nor contracts and is being used across NIH.

- You can check more than one box. If your organization is applying only for OTA, check that box and enter nine zeros (000000000) as your DUNS number, if your organization does not have a DUNS number at the time of registration. You must still click the ‘Verify DUNS’ link even if you entered nine zeroes.

- If registering as both an NIH and OTA applicant, you must enter a valid DUNS number. If you do not provide a valid DUNS number and enter nine zeros, you will only be allowed to apply for OTA opportunities and you will not be able to apply for NIH grants/contracts.

- A minimum of one address line (Street 1) is required
- The Institution Name can contain a maximum of 100 characters
- A Title can contain a maximum of 240 characters
- The User Name must have a minimum of six (6) characters (numbers and letters can be combined but no spaces can be used). Usernames can not exceed the maximum of twenty (20) characters.

The phone number entered for the signing official (SO) is used as the initial contact number for the institution. This can be changed later.

- The AA position and information is optional. When completing information for the AA, fill in the required account information fields and submit.
- The DUNS Number is a unique nine-digit identification for single business entities. After entering the DUNS number, click the Verify DUNS button. This will validate the number and, if already in the system, will pre-populate some of the remaining fields.

More information about DUNS is located online at http://www.dnb.com/us/. Institutions that only intend to apply for OTA awards can use nine zeros (000000000) to register but will need to provide a valid DUNS number at the time of award. Remember, you must still click the Verify DUNS link even if you entered nine zeros.

4. Verify that all information you entered is correct before clicking Save.
   The Online Registration screen displays.
   NIH displays a notice stating the submission was successful.
5. Click Return Home

NIH sends an address confirmation email to the designated SO.

6. Click the link in the confirmation email to verify the SO email address.

   The Email Verified screen displays when the SO clicks the link in the email that they receive and confirms that the SO email address is valid.

   If an Account Administrator (AA) account is created at the same time as the SO account, a separate email is sent to the email address of the AA account containing the AA account user name. A second email is sent to the email address of the AA containing the AA account temporary password. Emails sent to the SO do not include the AA user name or password.

   NIH reviews the registration, which is now pending approval, and displays the Email Verified screen.
Once the NIH has reviewed the registration request, a second email is sent stating the status of the application (either approved or rejected). If the request is rejected, an email is sent notifying you of the reason.

7. If approved, select the link in the email message to confirm the registration process and open the **IPF Assignment View**.

8. Click **Yes** on the **IPF Assignment View** screen.

After the SO confirms the Registration request, an email is sent containing the User ID and temporary password.

Once the SO has re-logged in to Commons and changed the password, the Registration Information screen is displayed.
9. Click **Accept**. 

Once the SO has electronically signed the registration request, the organization will be active in Commons.

Your Organization is now successfully registered in Commons.

OK
10 Admin Module

The Admin module includes the features used to perform:

- Account Management
- Delegations

All Commons users have access to the Admin module, however, your role determines what you can and cannot do within the module.

10.1 Accounts

The Accounts tab of the Admin module contains the options for creating, searching, and updating user accounts. From Account Administration, users with appropriate permissions, such as signing officials, can do the following:

- Create Accounts
- Manage Accounts
- Advanced Search
- Change Password

To access Accounts:

1. Navigate to the Admin module.
2. Select the Accounts tab.

Refer to the topic Advanced Search on Page 78 for help with searching.

For complete information on creating and managing user accounts, refer to the Account Management System's Online Help System (https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ams_new/). Also see Create or Edit a New Commons Account.

10.1.1 Advanced Search

If you hold an administrator role (e.g., SO), you can perform a search on existing Commons accounts to locate PIs eligible for continuous submission. You can search for accounts within your institution or include those outside of your institution.

To perform an advanced search:

1. Select the Accounts tab from within the Admin module.
2. From within Accounts, select the Advanced Search tab to display the Account List screen.
3. Enter the search criteria. The percent sign (%) can be used as a wildcard (e.g., Sm%).
The **Search within your institution** field is checked as a default and means that Commons will only search for matching records within your institution. To include accounts outside of your institution, uncheck this field before performing the search.

When searching outside of your organization, you must include the **Last Name** or **Commons ID** in your search criteria.

4. Select the **Search** button.

The results display in the **Account Search Results** table and, depending on the number of returned records, might be listed over multiple pages. Use the pagination, **Prev**, **Next**, and **All** links to access all returned account records.

The search results include the following information:

- **User Name**
- **User ID**
- **Email Address**
- **Account Status**
- **Role**
- **CS Eligibility Details**
- **Address**
- **Institution**

The **CS Eligibility Details** column displays a **No** or **Yes** link to indicate the Continuous Submission Eligibility status of the PI. Select this link to open the **Continuous Submission Eligibility** screen for that PI.

The **Continuous Submission Eligibility for <PI Name>** displays the same information the PI can view from the Personal Profile. For more information on this screen, refer to the Personal Profile **Reviewer Information** topic, specifically **Continuous Submission Eligibility Status**.
10.1.2 Create or Edit a New Commons Account

If you are a Commons user with one of the following roles, you have the ability to create new Commons user accounts (such as for a PD/PI) using the Manage Accounts feature.

- SO (signing official). Can create accounts of any role type, including creating additional SO accounts. See Signing Official (SO).
- AO (administrative official). Create all accounts except SO, BO, FCOI accounts, and IAR accounts
- AA (account administrator). Create all Commons accounts except SO, FCOI accounts, and IAR accounts
- BO (business official). Create all accounts except SO, BO, FCOI accounts, and IAR accounts

Users, such as principal investigators (PIs), cannot create their own accounts. Commons accounts are created by users with the roles mentioned above or via invitation, appointment, or institutional registration (see additional links below).

You can also use the steps in this procedure to edit an account. For instance, you might want to change an AA or PD/PI account to a SO account in the case of a promotion to other duties. Keep in mind that some roles conflict; for instance, a PD/PI, which is a scientific role, cannot co-exist with an SO role, which is administrative, so you might have to delete some roles to add others.

To create a new account:
1. Navigate to the Admin module, and select the Accounts tab.
2. Select the Account Management option.

The Search Accounts screen opens in a separate window. You'll notice that there is no Create New Account button displayed at this time. You cannot create a new account until you perform a search for the account first. This measure is in place to help avoid the creation of duplicate accounts.

By default, the "Search only within my organization" checkbox is not checked so that existing accounts for investigators and other scientific roles can be located and
affiliated instead of creating new accounts. PI roles, for example, are intended to be used throughout the investigator’s career regardless of their current affiliation(s).

3. Search for the person **(Last Name, First Name)** whose account you are creating. After performing the search, if no existing account is found, the **Create New Account** button becomes enabled.

4. Select the Create New Account button.

The Create Account screen displays. The **User Type** should default to **Commons** and the **Primary Organization** should default to that of your own. The **User Type** field can be changed if necessary.
5. On the *Create Account* screen, fill out the fields. Note that all fields except **Middle Name** are required.
   - **User Type**: Select **Commons** from the drop-down list if it is not already displayed.
   - **User ID**: Enter a unique name as the system username.
   - **Primary Organization**: This field defaults to your organization and cannot be changed. If an individual needs to be affiliated with your organization and already has a non-administrative account with another institution (primarily Primary Investigators - PI), search for them outside of your organization and affiliate their existing account with your institution.
   - **Last Name**
   - **First Name**
   - **Middle Name**
   - **Email**
   - **Confirm Email**

6. After entering contact information, you can assign a role to the account. Click the **Add Roles** button to open the *AMS | Add Roles* window. The organization will default to the
current user’s institution and cannot be changed. Below the Organization field is the list of roles available to the type of user selected.

7. Select the role or roles required for the new account. You can use multi-select in order to choose multiple roles to add at one time. Some roles conflict with one another and can not be assigned at the same time, such as PD/PI and SO. An error message occurs if you assign conflicting roles.

8. Click the Add Role(s) button when all roles have been selected. You are taken back to the Create Account screen and the new roles will be listed.
9. If it is necessary to add additional roles (now or later), repeat the same steps.
10. When all necessary roles are displayed, click the **Create** button and the new account will be created. Clicking the **Clear** button will reset the page to blanks except for the default institution.
11. **Optional**: If a role is either no longer required or if it was added in error, use the **x Remove** button to eliminate that role for that account.

### 10.1.2.1 Additional information:

- [eRA Commons Registration & Accounts](#)
- [eRA Commons Accounts: Who and How and Where](#) [click here for one-page PDF version](#)
- [Institution Registration and Account Creation](#) (Training Videos)

### 10.2 Delegations

Organizational institutions and users of the Commons system can grant other institutional Commons users the authority to enter and process grant information, update PPF information, submit RPPR information, work with specific modules, and ensure that NIH has associated (i.e., linked) the proper NIH support. This method of assigning (and revoking) authority to other Commons users to perform specific functions is called Delegation.

Commons users can delegate specific authorities to other Commons users for their own accounts such as when a PI delegates the Progress Report authority to another PI or a Sponsor delegates to an assistant. Additionally, administrative users such as SO can delegate certain authorities on behalf of another Commons user. For example, an SO can grant an ASST user the Sponsor authority on behalf of a Commons Sponsor user.
Listed below is a table of the types of delegation authorities in Commons, along with who can grant that authority and whom can receive it.

**Table 1: Delegation Authorities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority Type</th>
<th>Delegated By</th>
<th>Delegated To</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progress Report</td>
<td>SO, AA, AO (on behalf of PI)</td>
<td>PI</td>
<td>Enables the delegated PI to work on progress reports for another PI - Includes Interim and Final RPPR and HSS requests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Active user within the Institution</td>
<td>Enables the authorized user to work on progress reports for the PI - Includes Interim and Final RPPR and HSS requests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>SO, AA (on behalf of SPONSOR)</td>
<td>ASST</td>
<td>Allows the ASST to access the xTrain module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>PI</td>
<td>ASST</td>
<td>Allows the ASST to work with the Status module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPF</td>
<td>All users</td>
<td>Active user within the Institution</td>
<td>Enables another user in the same institution to edit someone else's personal profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>SO</td>
<td>PI</td>
<td>Enables the PI to submit RPPR and MYPR reports -- now needed for PI if they are to submit Interim and Final RPPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xTrain</td>
<td>PI, SPONSOR</td>
<td>ASST</td>
<td>Enables the ASST to work with the xTrain module and xTRACT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Delegations are not permanent and can be revoked at any time.

**10.2.1 Delegate on Behalf of Another User**

Administrative users such as Signing Officials (SO), Account Administrators (AA), and Account Officials (AO) can delegate authority to specific users on behalf of someone else. The information within this section refers to this process.
10.2.1.1 *Delegating Progress Report Authority on Behalf of Another User*

This topic discusses delegating authority for another user's account. Refer to the section of this document titled *Direct Delegations* on Page 103 if you would like information for delegating authority to your own account.

The SO, AA, or AO can delegate Progress Report authority to a PI on behalf of another PI.

To delegate Progress Report authority on behalf of a PI:

1. Navigate to the Admin module.
2. Select the Delegations option from the Admin menu bar.

The *My Delegates* screen opens. If applicable, the **My Current Delegations** area of the screen displays a table of existing delegations. This table indicates *No records found* if no delegations exist.

3. Select the link called **Delegate Progress Report**.

The *Delegate Progress Report* screen opens with search criteria displayed for locating and selecting a specific Principal Investigator on whose behalf the Progress Report authority is being granted. The parameters include **Commons ID**, **Last Name**, **First Name**, and **Middle Name**. The screen includes a **Search** button and **Cancel** button as well as a **Return to My Current Delegates** link for leaving the search screen and returning to the previous Commons screen.

The search parameter fields can be used with the percent sign (%) wild card.

4. Enter the appropriate search criteria using the wild card (%) if necessary.
5. Select the **Search** button to perform the search.
The matching records display within the **Search Results** on the page.

6. Choose the **Select** link to indicate the PI on whose behalf you are designating authority.

A message displays at the top of the screen as follows: *You have selected to delegate Progress Report Authority on behalf of: <Name>.*

Additionally, search parameters display for searching and selecting the user to whom to delegate the authority.

7. Enter the search parameters necessary for locating the PI to whom you are giving authority and select the **Search** button.

The matching records display in the **Search Results** table.

8. Click the link called **Select** to select the appropriate person from the list.
The Delegate Progress Report screen shows the selected PI name with the Progress Report authority and checkbox.

9. Check the Progress Report box.
10. Select the Save button.

Selecting the Cancel button will cancel the action without delegating any authority to the user.

The Search Results area updates to show the Progress Report authority marked with a check. Commons grants the Progress Report authority for the delegated user, who receives an email informing of the change. The delegated PI is now able to submit progress reports for the selected PI.
The PI, on whose behalf delegation was granted, can see the delegated user by accessing the My Current Delegations information.

### 10.2.1.2 Delegate Sponsor Authority on Behalf of Another User

This topic discusses delegating authority for another user's account. Refer to the section of this document titled Direct Delegations on Page 103 if you would like information for delegating authority to your own account.

The SO and AA can delegate Sponsor authority to someone with an ASST role on behalf of a Sponsor. When delegating Sponsor authority, the SO authorizes a selected user with an ASST role to perform functions in xTrain for a particular user with a Sponsor role. The SO is delegating this authority to the ASST on behalf of the Sponsor.

To delegate Sponsor authority on behalf of a Sponsor:

1. Navigate to the Admin module.
2. Select the Delegations option from the Admin menu.

The My Delegates screen opens. If applicable, the My Current Delegations section displays a table of existing delegations. This table indicates No records found if no delegations exist.

3. Select the link called Delegate Sponsor.
The Delegate Sponsor screen opens with search parameters displayed for locating and selecting a specific Sponsor on whose behalf the Sponsor Authority is being granted. The parameters include Commons ID, Last Name, First Name, and Middle Name. The screen includes a Search button and Cancel button as well as a Return to My Current Delegates link for leaving the search screen and returning to the previous Commons screen.

The search parameter fields can be used with the percent sign (%) wild card.

4. Enter the appropriate search criteria using the wild card (%) if necessary.
5. Select the Search button to perform the search.

The matching records display within the Search Results on the page.

6. Choose the Select link to indicate the Sponsor on whose behalf you are designating authority.

A message displays at the top of the screen as follows: You have selected to delegate Sponsor Authority on behalf of: <Name>.
Additionally, search parameters display for searching and selecting the user to whom to delegate the authority.

7. Enter the search parameters necessary for locating the ASST user being given authority and select the **Search** button.

The matching records display in the **Search Results** table.

8. Click the link called **Select** to select the appropriate person from the list.

The **Delegate Sponsor** screen shows the selected ASST user’s name with the Sponsor authority and checkbox.

9. Mark the **Sponsor** checkbox.
10. Select the **Save** button.

Selecting the **Cancel** button cancels the action without delegating any authority to the user.

The **Search Results** area updates to show the Sponsor authority marked with a check. Commons grants the Sponsor authority for the delegated user, who receives an email
informing of the change. The delegated ASST user is now able to perform xTrain functions for the selected Sponsor.

The Sponsor, on whose behalf delegation was granted, can see the delegated user by accessing the **My Current Delegations** information.

### 10.2.1.3 Revoke Authority on Behalf of Another User

This topic discusses revoking authority for another user’s account. Refer to the section of this document titled **Direct Delegations** on Page 103 if you would like information for delegating authority to your own account.

Administrative users can revoke delegated authority from a user on behalf of someone else. The steps for revoking Progress Report and Sponsor Authority are very similar. The steps below walk through the process of revoking either, depending on which one is selected from the start.

To revoke authority on behalf of another user:

1. Navigate to the Admin module.
2. Select the **Delegations** option from the Admin menu.

The My Delegates screen opens. If applicable, the **My Current Delegations** area of the screen displays a table of existing delegations. This table indicates No records found if no delegations exist.

3. Select the link called **Delegate Progress Report** to revoke Progress Report authority.

   -OR-

4. Select the link called **Delegate Sponsor** to revoke Sponsor authority.
Depending on the link selected, either the Delegate Progress Report or Delegate Sponsor screen opens with search parameters displayed for locating and selecting a specific user on whose behalf the authority is being revoked. The parameters include Commons ID, Last Name, First Name, and Middle Name. The screen includes a Search button and Cancel button as well as a Return to My Current Delegates link for leaving the search screen and returning to the previous Commons screen.

The search parameter fields can be used with the percent sign (%) wild card.

4. Enter the appropriate search criteria using the wild card (%) if necessary.

5. Select the Search button to perform the search.

The matching records display within the Search Results on the page.

6. Choose the Select link to indicate the user on whose behalf you are revoking authority.
Search parameters display for searching and selecting the user for whom to revoke the authority.

7. Enter the search parameters necessary for locating the appropriate user and select the **Search** button.

The matching records display in the **Search Results** table.

8. Click the link called **Select** to select the appropriate person from the list.

The screen shows the selected user’s name with the authority and a marked checkbox.

9. Unmark the checkbox for the authority being revoked.
10. Select the **Save** button.

Selecting the **Cancel** button will cancel the action without delegating any authority to the user.
The **Search Results** area updates to show the authority field (Progress Report or Sponsor) unmarked for specified the user. This indicates that the selected user no longer has that authority for the chosen PI/Sponsor. The user receives an email informing of the change and no longer appears in the **My Current Delegations** section for the PI/Sponsor.

### 10.2.2 Institutional Delegation

Signing Officials and Business Officials can delegate authority to PIs within their institutions to allow those PIs to submit Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR) and Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR) electronically to NIH. This same authority can be revoked at any time.

Granting and revoking Submit authority is managed through the **My Delegations** screen in Commons.

#### 10.2.2.1 Delegating Institutional Submit Progress Report Authority

To delegate Institutional Submit Progress Report authority to one or more users within the same institution:

1. Navigate to the **Admin module**.
2. Select the **Delegations** option from the **Admin** menu.

The **My Delegates** screen opens.

3. Select the link called **Institution Delegation**.
The *Institution Delegations* screen displays. This screen shows **Current Submit Progress Report Delegations** in a table at the top and **Candidates for Submit Progress Report Delegation** in a table at the bottom.

The **Candidates for Submit Progress Report Delegation** table is used for delegating the authority while the **Current Submit Progress Report Delegations** is used for viewing or revoking the authority of those who already possess it.

This section walks through the steps for granting the authority. Refer to the section of this document titled *Revoking Institutional Submit Progress Report Authority* on Page 100 for the steps on revoking the authority.

![Institution Delegations Screen](image)

The **Candidates for Submit Progress Report Delegation** table includes all users in the institution who are eligible for Submit Progress Report authority. The table includes the **Name** and **Commons ID** of each user along with a **Submit Progress Report** checkbox for selecting that user. The **Select All** and **Clear All** buttons also exist for selecting all users in the table or clearing any current selections made.

Each table has its own set of buttons to control either granting or revoking the authority.

The **Return to My Current Delegates** link exists at the bottom of the screen for cancelling any action and returning to the previous Commons screen.

4. From the **Candidates for Submit Progress Report Delegation** table, mark the individual **Submit Progress Report** checkbox(es) to indicate the appropriate user(s)
for Submit Progress Report delegation.

–OR–

Click the Select All button to grant Submit Progress Report authority to all listed users.

If granting Submit Progress Report authority to more users than not, click the Select All button to select all users in the table. When all users are selected, uncheck the individual Submit Progress Report checkboxes for any user not being granted authority.

5. With the appropriate names checked, select the Grant Delegation(s) button.

The Institution Delegations screen updates to display a certification and acceptance agreement. From this screen, certify acceptance that by delegating the selected users to submit RPPR and MYPR reports, you are granting them the ability to answer the following statement on your behalf:

I certify that the statements herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and accept the obligation to comply with Public Health Services terms and conditions if a grant is awarded as a result of this application. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.

6. Select the I Agree button to certify and confirm delegation.
The **Cancel** button cancels the action and returns the *Institution Delegations* screen without saving the changes.

---

Acceptance of Authority for Applicant Organization Certification and Commons grants the Submit Progress Report authority for the selected users, who receive an email informing them of the change. The *Institution Delegations* screen displays the selected names in the **Current Submit Progress Report Delegations** table at the top of the screen. These names no longer appear in the **Candidates for Submit Progress Report Delegation** table.
10.2.2.2 Revoking Institutional Submit Progress Report Authority

To revoke Institutional Submit Progress Report authority from one or more users within the same institution:

1. Navigate to the Admin module.
2. Select the Delegations option from the Admin menu.
   The My Delegates screen opens.
3. Select the link called Institution Delegation.

The Institution Delegations screen displays. This screen shows Current Submit Progress Report Delegations in a table at the top and Candidates for Submit Progress Report Delegations in a table at the bottom.

The Current Submit Progress Report Delegations is used for revoking the authority while the Candidates for Submit Progress Report Delegation table is used for delegating the authority to those who do not possess it already.

This section walks through the steps for revoking the authority. Refer to the section of this document titled Delegating Institutional Submit Progress Report Authority on Page 96 for the steps on granting the authority.

The Current Submit Progress Report Delegations table includes all users in the institution who possess the Submit Progress Report authority. The table includes the Name and Commons ID of each user along with a Submit Progress Report checkbox for selecting that user. The Select All and Clear All buttons also exist for selecting all users in the table or clearing any current selections made.

Each table has its own set of buttons to control either granting or revoking the delegation.
The **Return to My Current Delegates** link exists at the bottom of the screen for cancelling any action and returning to the previous Commons screen.

4. From the **Current Submit Progress Report Delegations** table, use the **Submit Progress Report** checkbox(es) to mark the appropriate user(s) whose authority is being revoked.

   –OR–

   Click the **Select All** button to revoke the authority from all listed users.

5. With the appropriate names checked, select the **Revoke Delegation(s)** button.
The *Institution Delegations* screen displays a confirmation message. The screen prompts for confirmation that the selected users should have their authority revoked. The screen lists the **Name**, **Title**, and **Address** information (if available) for each selected user from the previous screen.

6. Select the **I Agree** button to confirm.

The **Cancel** button cancels the action and returns the Institution Delegations screen without saving the changes.

Commons revokes the Submit Progress Report authority for the selected users, who receive an email informing them of the change. The *Institution Delegations* screen displays the selected names in the **Candidates for Submit Progress Report Delegation** table at the
bottom of the screen. These names no longer appear in the **Current Submit Progress Report Delegations** table.

### 10.2.3 Direct Delegations

Some Commons users can delegate authority directly to another Commons user so that user can access features in Commons (e.g., FCOI). Some users can also grant authority to another Commons user to access features of their own account (e.g., Personal Profile). Depending on the type of Commons user granting the authority and the type of user being granted, delegation could occur for the following:

- **Delegate Progress Report authority**
  
  A PI can delegate his or her Progress Report authority to any active user within the same institution.

- **Delegate Status authority**
  
  A PI can grant someone with an ASST role the authority to work with the Commons Status feature by delegating Status authority.

- **Delegate PPF authority**
  
  Any active Commons user can grant another active user the ability to enter his or her Personal Profile by delegating PPF authority.
Delegate xTrain authority

A PI or a Sponsor can grant an ASST the ability to work with xTrain by delegating xTrain authority.

10.2.3.1 Delegate Authority to Someone

This topic discusses delegating authority directly to another user or to someone who needs to access your own account information. Refer to the section of this document titled Delegate on Behalf of Another User on Page 86 if you would like information for delegating authority to a user on behalf of someone else.

To delegate authority against your account or directly to another Commons user:

1. Navigate to the Admin module.
2. Select the Delegations option from the Admin menu.

The My Delegates screen opens. If applicable, the My Current Delegations area of the screen displays a table of existing delegations. This table indicates No records found if no delegations exist. Refer to the section of this document titled Edit Delegations on Page 109 for steps on editing existing delegations.

Depending on your Commons role, you might not be able to delegate all types of authority. The screen lists the authority available for delegation.

3. Select the link called Search or Add Delegate.
The **Search for Delegates** search parameters display on the screen. These parameters include **Commons ID, Last Name, First Name, Middle Name**, and **Role(s)**. The roles display in a drop-down list where one or more can be selected.

4. Enter the appropriate search criteria for conducting the search. If necessary, the percent sign (%) can be used as a wildcard character. Hold down the CTRL key when selecting roles to select more than one.

5. Select the **Search** button.

Selecting the **Cancel** button cancels the search and returns the previous screen.

Matching users display in the **Search Results** area. The results include the user’s name, role(s), Commons ID, and delegated authorities. Any marked checkboxes under the Progress Report, Sponsor, Submit, PPF, Status, and xTrain authorities indicate that the user already has the specific authority.

Only the available authority for delegation displays in the table.

If multiple users match the entered search parameters, they might display over several pages. To navigate through the search results, use the next and previous page arrows to move back and forth one page or use the first page and last page arrows to navigate to the beginning or end of the search result list.

The **Clear** button can be used to clear search parameters and the related search results.

6. Find the appropriate user to whom to delegate authority. Click the **Select** link for that user.
The Delegate Authority (Authorities) screen displays with a confirmation as follows: *You have selected to delegate access to: [Name, Commons ID, Role]*.

The available authorities for delegation display with checkboxes. The authority available for delegation differs depending on your Commons role and the role of the selected user. For information on delegating specific authority, refer to the [Delegation Authorities table](#).

7. Mark the checkbox of the specific authority being delegating (e.g., PPF) for the user being delegated. Multiple authorities can be selected if available.

8. Clicking the **Select All** button selects all available authorities.

9. Select the **Save** button.
Commons grants the specified authority for the selected users, who receive an email informing them of the change. The **Search Results** area updates with the assigned authorities marked.

9. **Optional**: Repeat the steps as necessary to delegate other users.
10. Select the **Return to My Current Delegations** link to return the **My Delegates** screen.

**My Current Delegates** shows the delegated user with a checkmark in the associated column for each authority granted.
10.2.3.2 Search Delegations

To search for users to view their delegations:

1. Navigate to the Admin module.
2. Select the Delegations option from the Admin menu.

The My Delegates screen opens. If applicable, the My Current Delegations area of the screen displays a table of existing delegations. This table indicates No records found if no delegations exist.

3. Select the link called Search or Add Delegate.

The Search for Delegates search parameters display on the screen. These parameters include Commons ID, Last Name, First Name, Middle Name, and Role(s). The roles display in a drop-down list where one or more can be selected.

4. Enter the appropriate search criteria for conducting the search. If necessary, the percent sign (%) can be used as a wildcard character. Hold down the CTRL key when selecting roles to select more than one.
5. Select the Search button.

Selecting the Cancel button cancels the search and returns the previous screen.

Matching users display in the Search Results area. The results include the name, role(s), Commons ID, and delegated authorities. Any marked checkboxes under the Progress Report, Sponsor, Submit, PPF, Status, and xTrain authorities indicate that the user already has the specific authority.

If multiple users match the search entered search parameters, they might display over several pages. To navigate through the search results, use the next and previous page arrows to move back and forth one page or use the first page and last page arrows to navigate to the beginning or end of the search result list. The Clear button clears the search parameters and the related search results.
10.2.3.3 Edit Delegations

To edit the delegations already assigned to users for your own account:

1. Navigate to the Admin module.
2. Select the Delegations option from the Admin menu.

The My Delegates screen opens. The My Current Delegations area of the screen displays a table of all existing delegations.

3. Click Select link associated with the user whose delegations are being edited.

The Delegate Authority (Authorities) screen shows the selected user and the authorities available for delegation to that user. Marked checkbox(es) next to authority indicate that the authority has been granted.

4. Edit the user’s delegations by marking or unmarking the checkboxes. Authorities can be marked to add or unmarked to revoke.
5. Select the Save button to save the changes.

Selecting the Cancel button cancels the action and returns the My Delegates screen.
Delegated Authorities are Updated by Selecting or Unselecting

Commons grants and/or revokes the specified authority for the selected users, who receive an email informing them of the change. **My Current Delegates** shows the delegated user with a checkmark in the associated column for each authority granted. If all authorities are revoked, that user no longer displays in the table.

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**10.2.3.4 Remove Delegations**

To remove the delegations already assigned to users for your own account:

1. [Navigate to the Admin module](#).
2. Select the **Delegations** option from the **Admin** menu.

The **My Delegates** screen opens. The **My Current Delegations** area of the screen displays a table of all existing delegations.

3. Click the **Select** link associated with the user whose delegations are being revoked.
The Delegate Authority (Authorities) screen shows the selected user and the associated authorities. A marked checkbox next to an authority indicates that the authority has been granted.

4. Remove the delegation by unchecking the appropriate authority checkbox(es).
5. Select the Save button to save the changes.

Selecting the Cancel button cancels the action and returns the My Delegates screen.

Commons revokes the specified authority for the selected user, who receives an email informing of the change. My Current Delegates shows the delegated user with checkmarks removed from the associated columns for each authority revoked. If all authorities are revoked, that user no longer displays in the table.
11 Institution Profile Module (IPF)

Institutions must be registered in Commons in order to use its features. The Institution Profile (IPF) module is a central repository of information for all Commons registered applicant organizations. It is designed so that each applicant organization establishes and maintains the profile data concerning their institution. The IPF module allows the institutional SO to electronically maintain external organization profile information necessary for all grant applications from their institution.

Following the creation of an Institutional account in eRA Commons, the IPF is populated with the organizational information from registration and assigned a unique IPF number. The IPF number is an official code that uniquely identifies and associates institutional information within the NIH enterprise database.

The IPF includes information such as:

- Preferred institution name and contact information
- Name, email, and phone number for the SO(s)
- Institutional DUNS number(s)
- Institutional Assurances
- Email addresses for electronic distribution of NoA and other communications notifications

Access to the Institution Profile is limited by role. Not every Commons user has access to the Institution Profile, and only users with the SO role can edit it.

11.1 Navigating the Institution Profile

If you hold one of the following Commons roles, you have access to the Institution Profile: AA, AO, ASST, BO, FSR, PI, POSTDOC, SCIENTIST, SPONSOR, or SO.

The iEdison module employs parts of the Institution Profile, therefore some iEdison users can access it for their organizations. iEdison TTO users and admin can view the profile, but only TTO admin can edit the information.

The Institution Profile consists of two main sections – Institution Basic Information and Institutional Assurances and Certifications – which are viewable for all who have access to it and editable to those with an SO role. This topic discusses how to navigate around these sections of the Institution Profile. Details of each section are discussed in separate topics. See the related topic list at the bottom of this screen for links to those topics.

A third section of the Institution Profile is the dashboard, which remains on all views of the profile providing general information about the profile.
11.1.1 IPF Dashboard

The left side of the *Institution Profile* contains the dashboard of information including institution name, IPF code, update and access information for the profile; and eRA Service Desk contact information.

**Institution Profile Information:**
- Name of the institution
- IPF Code

**Institution Profile Navigation Links**
Navigation links are available in the center of the dashboard for accessing the different sections of the Institution Profile.

- **Basic Information**
- **Assurances & Certifications**

Next to each link is a status indicator, providing a visual indication of whether all required fields for that component are complete. A green checkmark indicates that the information is complete, while a red X informs that information is missing. Selecting a link opens the corresponding component of the profile in a read-only view mode.

For **Assurances & Certifications**, the green check indicates that the ORI Certification is valid and not expired.

**General Information:**

- **Accounts:** Number of affiliated accounts within the organization
- **Profile Updated:** System-updated date when the user last performed a save on the Institution Profile
- **ORI Certification Expires:** Date on which ORI certification expires
- **SAM Registration Expires:** Date on which ORI certification expires

**eRA Service Desk Information**

Includes the hours, phone numbers, and web address for contacting and creating a ticket for system support as well as a link to the eRA Service Desk website.

**11.1.2 Main Sections**

The main section of the profile displays the **Institution Basic Information** or the **Institutional Assurances and Certifications**, depending on which link or tab you selected. You can navigate between the two by selecting the links on the dashboard or the tabs from the Commons menu structure.

For most users, available information displays as read-only. However, Commons users holding the SO role also have the option to edit these sections. Refer to the appropriate related topic listed at the bottom of this screen for more information.

**11.1.3 Institution Profile Online Help Topics**

Click any of the question mark icons (‘?’) within the Institution Profile to access content specific help. The help icons are located on each Institution Profile page heading as well as within each component’s heading within the **Basic Information** section. The icons lead you to help that is specific for the page you are on (e.g., the icon on the **Institution Name** component heading opens the help topic pertaining to the **Institution Name** component of the Institution Profile).
The *Institution Profile* topics are part of the overall Commons Online Help and are also accessible by entering the following URL into your browser: [http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/commons](http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/commons)

### 11.2 What's the Difference Between View and Edit?

While most Commons users are only able to view the information provided in the Institution Profile, SO users have the two options: view mode and edit mode.

#### 11.2.1 Viewing the Information in the Institution Profile

View mode provides a read-only summary of the information within a specific component of the profile. In view mode, not all maintained fields are displayed. Click the **Assurances and Certifications** tab from the Commons menu or the link of the same name from dashboard to display the *Institutional Assurances and Certifications* page. To access the *Institution Basic Information* select the **Basic Information** tab within in the Commons menu or the link in the dashboard.

There are several methods for viewing the different components within the *Institution Basic Information* of your profile:

- Click the heading of the individual component
- Click the **View** button from the header of an individual component to view that component's summary (Click **Hide** to collapse the component).
- Click the **View** button for multiple components to display more than one at a time.
- Click the **View All** button to display the summaries of all components of your profile (Click **Hide All** to hide them)
11.2.2 Editing the Information in the Institution Profile

If you hold the SO role, you can edit any available component of your institution's profile by selecting the **Edit** button on the section's header. This expands the tile and displays the fields for editing. You can then update the information as necessary.
Keep in mind that when you select the **Edit** button for a component within the **Basic Information** section, it places you in edit mode for all components, although it may only open the specific component you selected. While in edit mode, you can continue updating the other components of the **Basic Information** by selecting the **View** button for each one.

As in the view mode, if you'd like to expand all tiles for editing at the same time, use the **View All** button at the top of the profile. Select the **Hide** (individual components) or **Hide All** to collapse the tiles.

When you are done editing the Institution Profile, select the **Save All** button. This is the only method of saving the changes you've made. Selecting **Save All** keeps you in edit mode, so you can keep saving your work along the way.

Hiding or closing individual components of the **Basic Information** section is not the same thing as saving the information. If you navigate away from the personal profile, your changes will be lost. You must select the **Save All** button to save your changes!
If you wish to discard your changes, select the **Discard Changes** button, then select **Yes** from the confirmation pop-up message. Keep in mind that any information you've added since the last time you hit **Save All** will be discarded when you hit the **Discard Changes** button!

Refer to the help topics for each individual profile component to see what fields are available for editing.

### 11.3 Institution Basic Information

As its name implies, the **Institution Basic Information** page of the **Institution Profile** provides a means for viewing and managing fundamental information about the institution such as name, contact persons, etc. This information is divided into expandable and collapsible sections, or tiles.
The **Institution Basic Information** component of the **Institution Profile** is viewable by clicking the **Basic Information** link from the dashboard or the **Basic Information** tab from the Commons menu bar. For most users, the information is read-only, however, if you hold a Commons SO role, you have the ability to edit the information. Regardless of your role, the default view of the **Institution Basic Information** is read-only.

Each component contains certain required information. If any of this information is missing from a section, a message displays across the top of the screen, the **Basic Information** link in the dashboard displays in red font, and the header of the component in error displays in red.
Additionally, within the component itself, another error message (red text) displays the error at the field level.

You can expand the component tiles partially for viewing (read-only) or entirely for editing. Tiles can be expanded:

- By clicking the heading of an individual component
- By clicking the **View All** button to expand all components
By clicking the View button in a specific header to expand that individual component
By clicking the Edit button to update the component (SO role only)

Only those users holding an SO role can perform the edit function.

Refer to the specific related topic listed below for information on that individual component of the profile.

To the left of the Institution Basic Information, you find the Institution Profile dashboard. This dashboard provides quick access information to items such as number of accounts, last updated date, status of required fields, etc. The dashboard is discussed in greater detail inside the topic titled Navigating the Institution Profile on Page 112.

11.3.1 Institution Name

The Institution Name component of the Institution Profile lets you view your organization's Profile Name and Commons Preferred Name. The profile name is the NIH designated name of the institution. The preferred name is a name specified by the institution for use in Commons.

If you hold the SO role within your organization, you can edit the Commons Preferred Name.

11.3.1.1 Viewing Institution Name

Anyone with access to the Institution Profile can view the information in the Institution Name component of the profile in one of the following ways:

- Clicking the component tile header
- Clicking the View button from the Institution Name component tile header

The information displays as read-only:

- Profile Name
- Commons Preferred Name (if existing)
11.3.1.2 Editing Institution Name

If you hold the SO role within an organization, you can edit its Commons Preferred Name in the Institution Profile.

Click the Edit button on the Institution Name panel header to display the Commons Preferred Name field for editing and as necessary. The Preferred Name is not a required field.

When you are done, click the Save All button at the top or bottom of the profile to save the changes. You can edit other components of the profile before saving your changes by clicking the View buttons of those components. The Save All button saves the changes made in all components.

If you do not wish to save your changes, click the Discard Changes button instead.
Remember: Hiding a component is not the same as saving the component!

Only Commons users with the signing official (SO) role can edit the Institution Profile. An exception exists for institutions that have a TTO administrator but no signing official. For these institutions, the TTO administrator can edit all sections of the profile.

For institutions with both a signing official and TTO administrator, the TTO administrator can edit only the Extramural Technology Transfer Administration component.

11.3.2 Institution Contact Information

The Institution Contact Information component of the Institution Profile lets you view your organization's contact information, such as name, phone number, and email address.

11.3.2.1 Viewing Institution Contact Information

You can view the information in the Institution Contact Information component of the profile by:

- Clicking the component tile header
- Clicking the View button from the Institution Contact Information component tile header

The information displays as read-only:

- Notice of Award Email
- Announcements and Notifications Email
- Closeout Correspondence Email
- Contact Name
- Contact Phone
- Contact Email
11.3.2.2 Editing Institution Contact Information

If you hold the SO role within an organization, you can edit the information in the Institution Contact Information component of the Institution Profile.

Click the Edit button on the Institution Contact Information panel header to display all editable fields available in this component. The following fields are available for editing and are required fields:
**Notice of Award Email**

NIH uses this email address to send all notices of award for a grant.

**Announcements & Notifications Email**

NIH uses this email address to send grant reminders, system notifications, and other types of general correspondence.

**Closeout Correspondence Email**

NIH uses this email address to send any Closeout related communications.

**Contact Name**

NIH considers the person named here as the primary contact for this institution.

**Contact Phone**

Enter the phone number for the contact person listed in Contact Name.

**Contact Email**

Enter the email number for the contact person listed in Contact Name.
When you are done, click the **Save All** button at the top or bottom of the profile to save the changes. You can edit other components of the profile before saving your changes by clicking the **View** buttons of those components. The **Save All** button saves the changes made in all components.

If you do not wish to save your changes, click the **Discard Changes** button instead.

**Remember:** Hiding a component is not the same as saving the component!

Only Commons users with the signing official (SO) role can edit the Institution Profile. An exception exists for institutions that have a TTO administrator but no signing official. For these institutions, the TTO administrator can edit all sections of the profile.

For institutions with both a signing official and TTO administrator, the TTO administrator can edit only the Extramural Technology Transfer Administration component.

**11.3.3 About the Institution**

The **About the Institution** component of the *Institution Profile* lets you view information about your organization, such as DUNS and assurances numbers. If you hold the SO role within your organization, you can also edit this information.

**11.3.3.1 Viewing About the Institution Information**

You can view the information in the **About the Institution** component of the profile by:

- Clicking the component tile header
- Clicking the **View** button from the **About the Institution** component tile header

The information displays as read-only:

- Primary DUNS
- Secondary DUNS
- Federal-Wide Assurance Numbers
- Animal Welfare Assurance Number
- Organization Type
- Ownership Control
11.3.3.2 Editing About the Institution Information

If you hold the SO role within an organization, you can edit the fields in the **About the Institution** component of the Institution Profile.
Click the **Edit** button on the **About Institution Information** panel header to display all editable fields available in this component. The following fields are available for editing, but are not required:

**Secondary DUNS**

The **Secondary DUNS** field allows SOs to edit, add, and remove additional DUNS numbers for the institution as necessary.

- To add a secondary DUNS number to the profile, click the **Add** button to display text fields. Enter the required 9 digits into the first text field and the optional 4 digits (for 13-digit DUNS only) into the second text field.
To edit a secondary DUNS number, simply update the value in the editable text fields.

To remove a secondary DUNS, click the **Remove** button next to the appropriate DUNS number. At the confirmation, click **Yes** to complete the action.
Opportunity Type Eligibility

There are three eligibility options. At least one of these options must be selected for the Institution to be eligible to submit grant applications. Information links for each type of opportunity provide additional information. The three types are:

- **NIH Grants/Contracts** - This is the most common type of registration and is required for any application that is funded by NIH.
- **Non-NIH Grants/Contracts** - This type of registration will let you submit applications for other agencies that use NIH eRA systems (i.e. SAMHSA).
- **Other Transaction Authority (OTA) opportunities** - This type of opportunity is for a type of funding that is neither grants nor contracts and is being used across NIH.

**NIH Grants/Contracts** - The Institution certifies that it is eligible to apply for grants or contracts that are

**Federal-Wide Assurance Numbers**

The Federal-Wide Assurance (FWA) is the only type of new assurance of compliance accepted and approved by the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) for institutions engaged in non-exempt human subjects research conducted or supported by HHS.

The **Federal-Wide Assurance Numbers** field allows SOs to edit, add, and remove FWA numbers for the institution as necessary.
To add an FWA number to the profile, click the **Add** button to display the editable text field. Enter the FWA number into this field.

To edit an FWA number, simply update the value in the editable text fields.

To remove an FWA number, click the **Remove** button next to the appropriate number. At the confirmation, click **Yes** to complete the action.
Animal Welfare Assurance Number

The Animal Welfare Assurance is a document an institution and all performance sites involving animal research must have on file with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) before being awarded a grant or contract.

The **Animal Welfare Assurance Number** field displays the number passed to Commons from OLAW. If existing, numbers in parentheses () represents the old format number corresponding to the new format. This field is not editable.

The **Primary DUNS, Organization Type**, and **Ownership Control** are read-only fields populated with organizational information on file. The **Primary DUNS** field reflects the primary DUNS number provided during the original institution registration. This number is not editable through Commons. To make changes to the primary DUNS, please contact the [eRA Service Desk](#) for assistance.

When you are done, click the **Save All** button at the top or bottom of the profile to save the changes. You can edit other components of the profile before saving your changes by clicking the **View** buttons of those components. The **Save All** button saves the changes made in all components.

If you do not wish to save your changes, click the **Discard Changes** button instead.

*Remember:* Hiding a component is not the same as saving the component!
Only Commons users with the signing official (SO) role can edit the Institution Profile. An exception exists for institutions that have a TTO administrator but no signing official. For these institutions, the TTO administrator can edit all sections of the profile.

For institutions with both a signing official and TTO administrator, the TTO administrator can edit only the Extramural Technology Transfer Administration component.

11.3.4 Indirect Cost Negotiations

The **Indirect Cost Negotiations** component of the *Institution Profile* lets you view your organization's Negotiator and Last Negotiation Date. If you hold the SO role within your organization, you can also edit this information.

11.3.4.1 Viewing Indirect Cost Negotiations

You can view the information in the **Indirect Cost Negotiations** component of the profile by:

- Clicking the component tile header
- Clicking the **View** button from the **Indirect Cost Negotiations** component tile header

The information displays as read-only:

- **Negotiator Name**
- **Last Negotiation Date**

![Indirect Cost Negotiations Component in eRA Commons](image-url)
11.3.4.2 Editing Indirect Cost Negotiations

If you hold the SO role within an organization, you can edit the fields in the Indirect Cost Negotiations component of the Institution Profile.

Click the Edit button on the Indirect Cost Negotiations panel header to display all editable fields available in this component. The following fields are available for editing, but are not required:

- **Negotiator Name**
  Enter the name of the agent who negotiated the most recent indirect cost agreement.

- **Last Negotiation**
  Enter the date of the most recent indirect cost agreement negotiation (format must be MM/DD/YYYY).

When you are done, click the Save All button at the top or bottom of the profile to save the changes. You can edit other components of the profile before saving your changes by clicking the View buttons of those components. The Save All button saves the changes made in all components.

If you do not wish to save your changes, click the Discard Changes button instead.

**Remember:** Hiding a component is not the same as saving the component!
Only Commons users with the signing official (SO) role can edit the Institution Profile. An exception exists for institutions that have a TTO administrator but no signing official. For these institutions, the TTO administrator can edit all sections of the profile.

For institutions with both a signing official and TTO administrator, the TTO administrator can edit only the Extramural Technology Transfer Administration component.

### 11.3.5 Signing Officials and TTO Administrators

You can find all Commons users in your organization who are assigned the signing official (SO) and/or TTO Administrator roles. Use the Signing Official and TTO Administrators pane in the Institution Profile module.

A Technology Transfer Office (TTO) Administrator supports the Technology Transfer/Licensing Office or Office of Research and Development at the grantee organization. The TTO administrator can submit inventions, patents, and utilization reports in iEdison, request waivers and create iEdison accounts. See Signing Official (SO) for more information on signing officials.

To view the information in the Signing Officials and TTO Adminstrators pane of the profile:

- Log into eRA Commons.
- Navigate to the Institution Profile module.
- Under the Basic Information tab, find and expand the Signing Officials and TTO Administrators panel.

The information for each person displays as read-only.

- **Name**
- **Phone Number**
- **Email Address**
11.3.6 Institution Address

The Institution Address component of the Institution Profile lets you view address information for your organization including phone and fax numbers. If you hold the SO role within your organization, you can also edit this information.

11.3.6.1 Viewing Institution Address

You can view the information in the Institution Address component of the profile by:

- Clicking the component tile header
- Clicking the View button from the Institution Address component tile header

The information displays as read-only:

- Address
- Phone
- Fax
11.3.6.2 Editing Institution Address

If you hold the SO role within an organization, you can edit the fields in the Institution Address component of the Institution Profile.

Click the **Edit** button on the Institution Address panel header to display all editable fields available in this component. The following fields are available for editing:

- **Street Address**
  Enter the street address for the organization. This is a required field.

- **City**
  Enter the city for the address. This is a required field.

- **Country**
  Select a country value from the drop-down box. This is a required field.
- **State**
  Select a country value from the drop-down box. This is a required field.

- **Zip Code**
  Enter the zip code for the address. This is a required field.

- **Phone**
  Enter the phone number associated with the address above. This is a required field.

- **Fax**
  Enter the fax number associated with the address above. This is an optional field.

When you are done, click the **Save All** button at the top or bottom of the profile to save the changes. You can edit other components of the profile before saving your changes by clicking the **View** buttons of those components. The **Save All** button saves the changes made in all components.

If you do not wish to save your changes, click the **Discard Changes** button instead.

**Remember:** Hiding a component is not the same as saving the component!

Only Commons users with the signing official (SO) role can edit the Institution Profile. An exception exists for institutions that have a TTO administrator but no signing official. For these institutions, the TTO administrator can edit all sections of the profile.

For institutions with both a signing official and TTO administrator, the TTO administrator can edit only the Extramural Technology Transfer Administration component.

### 11.3.7 Extramural Technology Transfer Administration

The Extramural Technology Transfer Administration component of the Institution Profile allows users with access to the Institution Profile to view the contact and other relevant information for the technology transfer administration department of the institution.

This component of the profile is maintained by iEdison users holding Extramural TTO administrator role. An organization's Signing Official(s) may also edit this component.

For information on iEdison, please refer to the [iEdison pages](#) of the eRA website.

#### 11.3.7.1 Viewing Extramural Technology Transfer Administration

You can view the information in the **Extramural Technology Transfer Administrations** component of the profile by:

- Clicking the component tile header
- Clicking the **View** button from the **Extramural Technology Transfer Administrations** component tile header
The information displays as read-only:

- **Address**
- **Contact Name**
- **Phone**
- **Email**
- **Are batch uploads allowed by this organization?**
- **The month that begins the utilization period**
- **Are the inventions submitted by the organization assigned for administration and reporting by the user?**

11.3.7.2 **Editing Extramural Technology Transfer Administration**

If you hold the TTO_Admin or SO role within an organization, you can edit the fields in the **Extramural Technology Transfer Administration** component of the Institution Profile.
Click the **Edit** button on the **Extramural Technology Transfer Administrations** tile header to display all editable fields available in this component. The following fields are available for editing:

- **Street Address**
- **City**
- **Country**
- **State/Province**
- **Zip/Postal Code**
- **Contact Name**
- **Phone**
• Email
  • Are batch uploads allowed by this organization?
    Select a value from the drop-down list: Yes or No.

• The month that begins the utilization period
  Select a value from the drop-down list.

• Are the inventions submitted by the organization assigned for administration and reporting by the user?
  Select a value from the drop-down list: Yes or No.

Only Commons users with the signing official (SO) role can edit the Institution Profile. An exception exists for institutions that have a TTO administrator but no signing official. For these institutions, the TTO administrator can edit all sections of the profile.

For institutions with both a signing official and TTO administrator, the TTO administrator can edit only the Extramural Technology Transfer Administration component.

11.4 Institutional Assurances and Certifications

The Institutional Assurances and Certifications component of the Institution Profile contains data elements that compose assurance/certification information about an institution (e.g., Human Subjects Assurance Number, Institutional Review Board [IRB] Approval Date, IRB Type, Animal Welfare Assurance Number, and Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee [IACUC] Unacknowledged Certification Explanation). The screen provides a means of viewing and managing the checklist of these assurances and certifications.

This component of the Institution Profile is viewable by clicking the Assurances & Certifications link on the dashboard or the Assurances and Certifications tab from the Commons menu structure. For most users, the information is read-only, however, if you hold a Commons SO role, you have the ability to edit the information. Regardless of your role, the default view of the Institutional Assurances and Certifications is read-only.

There are two main sections of the screen, which are described below: Status and Assurances and Certifications.

Status

The Status section of the screen displays the Office of Research and Integrity Certification Status for the institution. The values for this field are either Assurance OK or Expired. The expired status will display in red text as a warning.
The expiration date of the certification displays below the status, in red text if already expired.

**Assurances and Certifications**

The **Assurances and Certification** section provides a means for institutions to indicate (or view the indication of) compliance with particular laws, policies, and/or regulations as well as to indicate that it meets certain research requirements.

The list is available for viewing by anyone who has access to the Institution Profile. Read-only check marks display next to each assurance or certification in the list along with the date on which the institution indicated compliance.

**Policy:** Not all assurances and certifications may be applicable to each institution. For a complete definition of each assurance, please refer to [Part III (Policies, Assurances, Definitions and Other Information)](https://example.com) of the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

### 11.4.0.1 Editing the Assurances and Certifications

If you hold the SO role within an organization, you can edit the assurance and certification indicators in the Institution Profile.

To edit the indicators, click the **Edit Assurances and Certifications** button at the top of the screen.

The assurance and certification indicators display over several categories.

This institution complies with all laws, policies and regulations prohibiting discrimination based on:

- Age Discrimination Assurance
- Civil Rights Assurance
- Handicapped Individuals Assurance
- Inclusion of Children Policy
- Sex Discrimination Assurance
- Women and Minority Inclusion Policy

This institution complies with all laws and regulations regarding:
Research at this institution meets all requirements for:

- Graduate Student Training for Doctoral Degrees (D43, TU2, T15, T32, T37, T90, U2R, U90, and U54/TL1 only)
- Human Subjects
- PI Assurance
- Prohibited Research
- Recombinant DNA and Human Gene Transfer
- Research Misconduct
- Research With Human Embryonic Stem Cells
- Select Agent Research
- Transplantation of Human Fetal Tissue
- Vertebrate Animals

Check or uncheck the certification and/or assurance indicator(s) as appropriate. You can also click the (explain your answer) link to access a text box in which you can provide additional information.

When you are done, click the Save All button at the top or bottom of the profile to save the changes. If you do not wish to save your changes, click the Discard Changes button instead.
Only Commons users with the signing official (SO) role can edit the Institution Profile. An exception exists for institutions that have a TTO administrator but no signing official. For these institutions, the TTO administrator can edit all sections of the profile.

For institutions with both a signing official and TTO administrator, the TTO administrator can edit only the Extramural Technology Transfer Administration component.

11.5 Institutional Financial Conflict of Interest Policy

The Policy Documents tab of the Institutional Profile module lets you upload your institution’s Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) policy. Effective November 12, 2020, each institution must upload its FCOI policy to eRA Commons for review. The institutional FCOI is required and defined by regulations, which are linked on the Policy Documents tab in the Institution Profile module. The policy must be in PDF format under 6 MB in size. After uploading, NIH staff will review the policy and reject or accept it, and will notify you via one of your listed contact methods. For more information, refer to the Guide Notice NOT-OD-21-002 as well as the table of regulatory requirements on the new Policy Documents tab.

To access the Financial Conflict of Interest Policy screen:

Log into eRA Commons with a signing official (SO) role, go to the Institution Profile, and then click the Policy Documents tab.
To upload your FCOI policy to eRA Commons for Agency approval:

1. On the Policy Documents tab of the Institution Profile module, click the green **Upload** button in the FCOI Policy Submission area.
2. Locate the FCOI PDF and click **Open**.
3. Optionally, before submitting, you can either view or delete the file you uploaded by clicking the **View** or **Delete** button in the FCOI Policy Submission area.
4. Click the **Submit** button and the file will be routed to Agency officials for review.
5. If you make a mistake, you can simply upload another PDF file and it replaces the first.
TIP: If nothing appears to happen when you upload, scroll to the top of the screen and check for error messages that may have appeared in a red bar. You can upload only a single file.

To view the FCOI policy that was previously submitted:

On the Policy Documents tab of the Institution Profile module, click the Policy ID number in the Prior FCOI Policy Submissions area.

The PDF opens in your system PDF viewer.

To resubmit an FCOI policy that has been updated:

On the Policy Documents tab of the Institution Profile module, click the green Upload button in the FCOI Policy Submission area, upload a new file, then click Submit. If someone from NIH had contacted you about the policy, notify them of the re-submission.

See:

Institution Basic Information
12 Personal Profile Module

The Personal Profile module in Commons is the central repository of information for all Commons registered users. It is designed so that individual eRA system users hold and maintain ownership over the accuracy of their own profile information. This profile information is then integrated throughout eRA's systems and used for a variety of agency business such as peer review, application data, and trainee data.

You can delegate the authority to maintain your profile to other users within your institution.

The personal profile is divided into sections of information and includes:

- **Name and ID**: Personal information such as name, contact information, date of birth
- **Demographics**: Race, ethnicity, gender
- **Employment**: Current employment and past employment history
- **Reviewer Information**: Reviewer work address for those users performing tasks in IAR as a Reviewer
- **Trainee Information**: Trainee permanent address for those with Trainee roles using the xTrain module
- **Education**: Degree and Post-Graduate Clinical Training Information
- **Reference Letters**: Letters of reference submitted to NIH
- **Publications**: Access to MY NCBI, at which publications can be viewed

Depending on your Commons role, you might not have access to all sections of the Personal Profile.

For more information, refer to the Commons Personal Profile Online Help System (https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ppf/) or the eRA Commons Personal Profile Module User Guide (https://era.nih.gov/files/personal_profile_userguide.pdf).
13 Status Module

The Status screens lets PD/PIs, their delegates, and SOs perform the following tasks securely:

- Track the status of a grant applications through the submission process. To see a list of each application status, see https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf.
- View all their applications as well as NoAs and other key documents
- Complete several post-submission and post-award transactions
- Access and update Human Subjects information through the Human Subjects System (HSS).

What you can see and do in the Status module depends on the role associated with your Commons account. For this reason, the query and results screens in the Status module behave differently per user role. Help topics for the Status module are available for both SO and PI users.

Refer to the section of this document titled Steps for AOR/SO to Check Submission Status on Page 148 if you have an SO or AO role.

Refer to the section of this document titled Status for Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PI Role) on Page 161 if you have a PI role.

13.1 Steps for AOR/SO to Check Submission Status

Looking for help on the JIT Search page below? If you are an SO doing a JIT search, click here. If you are VA Agency Staff, click here.

Signing Officials can check the status of the applications that have been submitted for their organization using the Status module in eRA Commons.

Steps:

1. Log in to eRA Commons with your Signing Official (SO) account username and password.
2. Navigate to the Status module and click the "Recent/Pending eSubmissions" search option in the left hand navigation.
3. Enter desired search criteria and click the "Search" button. The search criteria options are;
   - Accession Number
   - Grants.gov Tracking #
• eSubmission Status (Select from drop-down)
  ○ All
  ○ Pending Verification
  ○ Rejected

• Received Date
  ○ You can enter a range of dates for the received date using the “From” and “To” fields. Either enter the date(s) manually in the MM/DD/YYYY format or by clicking the calendar icon to search and select a date from the calendar. Click to view the search screen...

![Image of status search results]

4. The corresponding search results include all appropriate links for the applications. These are the same links that appear in the Status Result - General Search results. Refer to the help topic titled Status Result - General Search for information on search results.

For the purposes of eSubmission tracking, perform the following from the search results:

• Check the “eSubmission Status” column to determine if your application status is “eSubmission Error” or “Pending Verification”.
• If the status is “eSubmission Error”, you have two options to view the errors or warnings.
  ○ Click the Show Prior Errors link from the Show All Prior Errors
  ○ Click the Application ID displayed as link to open Status Information. Any existing submission errors or warnings display at the top of Status Information. Refer to the section of this document titled Status Information on Page 172 for more information on this screen.
• Click Reject eApplication to reject the eSubmission of an application. Refer to the section of this document titled How Does an SO Reject the eApplication? on Page 152.
13.2 **How does an SO track submission status?**

After submitting an application, you have a two business day application viewing window to check the application and revise it. Your application automatically moves forward to receipt and referral staff for further processing after the application viewing window has elapsed unless you explicitly "reject" the application in eRA Commons.

Also see [Submit, Track and View Your Application](#).

All signing officials are able to verify the status of the applications that have been submitted for their organization utilizing eRA Commons.

**Steps:**

1. Log in to [eRA Commons](#) with your SO account username and password.
   a. Navigate to the [Status module](#) and click the "Recent/Pending eSubmissions" search option in the left hand navigation menu. (image)

   ![Status Module](image)

   b. On the next screen, enter desired search criteria and click the "Search" button.

   Search criteria options;
   - **Accession Number:** A unique value assigned to applications before an NIH grant number is assigned.
   - **Grants.gov Tracking #** A value is assigned by Grants.gov when the application is electronically submitted.
   - **eSubmission Status** *(All, Pending Verification, or Rejected)*

---
- **Received Date** Enter a range of dates for the received date using the “From” and “To” fields. Either enter the date(s) manually in the MM/DD/YYYY format or by selecting from the calendar icon.

The corresponding search results include all appropriate links for the applications. These are the same links that appear in the Status Results - General Search results.

**To check for eSubmission errors and to reject an applications:**

1. Check the **eSubmission Status** column to determine if your application status is “eSubmission Error” or “Pending Verification”.
2. Use one of the two following methods to view the error messages and warnings. (view example).
Errors will stop the submission process and need to be addressed via a change/corrected application. Warnings will not stop the process but it is still critical to check the warning messages to ensure that any referenced issue does not apply to your application.

- **Method 1:** Click the *Show Prior Errors and Warnings* link from the *Show All Prior Errors* column.
- **Method 2:** If the status is "Pending Verification", select the Accession Number (AN:######) displayed in the *Application ID* column to open the *Status Information*. Submission errors or warnings are displayed at the top of the *Status Information* page during the two day review period before the submission deadline. Refer to the section of this document titled *Status Information* on Page 172 for more information on this screen.

3. If warranted, click *Reject eApplication* in the *Action* column to reject the eSubmission of the application. Refer to the section of this document titled *How Does an SO Reject the eApplication?* on Page 152.

### 13.3 How Does an SO Reject the eApplication?

When warranted, SOs can request to reject the eSubmission of an application using the *Reject eApplication* screen. Only Signing Officials have this option, and the application must not have been previously verified or rejected by the SO.

**To reject an eApplication:**

1. Log in to [eRA Commons](#) with your Signing Official (SO) user ID and password.
2. [Navigate to the Status module](#) and then select the *Recent/Pending eSubmissions* (or General Search) option to locate the application being rejected.
3. From the search result screen, click the *Reject eApplication* link in the *Action*
column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PDI/PI Name</th>
<th>eSubmission Status Date</th>
<th>Prior Errors</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREEMAN, PETER A</td>
<td>06/15/2016 00:10:04</td>
<td>Show Prior Errors and Warnings</td>
<td>Transmittal Sheet I Reject eApplication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **Reject eApplication** screen displays.

4. Enter the required comment in the provided text box. This message will be part of the rejection email notification.

5. Click the **Reject** button. The contact PI will receive an email notification that the SO has rejected the application.

### 13.4 Steps for SO to Re-assign a Grant

Signing Officials can use the "Reassign Grant" option from the **Status** menu in eRA Commons to change the assignment of a grant from one existing department or component to another existing department or component within their institution.

This functionality is only available to Signing Officials from grantee organizations that are classified as **Institutions of Higher Education**. This tool cannot be used to create new departments or components.

To re-assign one or more grants, log into eRA Commons with an account that has the SO (Signing Official) role and **navigate to the Status module**.
This displays the Status menu on the left. Click the "Re-assign Grant" link in the list.

- **STEP 1:** Clicking "Re-assign Grant" from the menu will open a search window. In this window, provide the search criteria for the grant or grants in question. The search can be done on any combination of; all or part of a grant number; Contact PI name; or major Department/Component. Once the search criteria has been entered, click **Search**.
The search results are displayed. Options on this screen let you select the grants that are to be moved as well as change how many results are displayed per screen. To select all visible search results, click the checkbox at the top of the column of checkboxes. You may also select a smaller subset of grants or just one.

Once you have made your selections, click Next.

You can move all of the grants visible on a page at one time however you will not be able to combine results on other pages into the current re-assignment step. Another reassignment procedure will need to be performed in order to move grants on other pages.
- **STEP 2:** The next step is to select the School and Department to which the selected grants should be moved. Use the drop-down menus to make the selections (only existing schools and departments will be shown) and then click **Next**.

- **STEP 3:** The summary is shown next. This will indicate the number of grants being moved and to which destination. If the information is correct, click **Submit**.
You will receive a final confirmation of the reassignment.

- **Items Of Note:**
  - Functionality is only available to Signing Officials from grantee organizations that are classified as Institutions of Higher Education.
  - Assignments are immediate in Commons. The new assignment can be viewed on the Re-assign Grant search page.
  - Assignments will be visible in RePORTER on the following Monday.
  - Search criteria is limited to the current and future fiscal years, for awarded grants or pending type 5 grants.
  - Grants on one page can be moved at one time, i.e. grants returned on multiple pages will require multiple moves.

### 13.5 Status Results for SOs

Status Result - General Search
The Status Result - General Search screen provides matching records from searches performed by SOs using the General Search feature in the Status module. The information displays in tables and includes links to other Commons modules and/or features depending on the application.

The Status Result - General Search screen differs from the results displayed for PI users. Refer to the section of this document titled Status for Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PI Role) on Page 161 for more information.

The screen has a limit of 100 records per view, with additional records accessed via the page number links and/or navigation arrows at the top of the results table. The results can be sorted by selecting the up/down arrow displayed in the column heading. If the arrow exists in the heading, the information can be sorted by that category.

The figure below represents a sample of various action links that could be displayed and may not reflect realistic search results.

The results include the following information:

- **Application ID**

  The application ID is provided as a link, which when selected opens the Status Information screen. Status Information includes grant/application information such as status history, study section, contacts, etc. Refer to the section of this document titled Status Information on Page 172 for more information.

  If multiple PIs exist on the project, an MPI indicator appears next to the application ID.

- **Grants.gov Tracking #**

  This column shows the number assigned when the application was submitted electronically to Grants.gov. This is a non-sortable field.
- **Proposal Title**
  The project name submitted on the application is displayed in this column.

  In the **Proposal Title** field, *NFP* (no further processing) is added to the application title to indicate that the application will not be referred for review.

- **PD/PI Name**
  This is the Contact PI on the application.

- **Application Status**
  This column displays the status of the application. To see a list of each application status, see [https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf](https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf).

- **Budget Start Date**

- **FFATA**
  This column indicates *Yes* if the application is eligible to report as a Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) application.

- **Show All Prior Errors**
  This column displays the **Show All Prior Errors** link. Selecting this link opens the *Errors/Warnings for Prior Failed eSubmissions* screen, providing any errors or warnings received for the application during eSubmission.

- **Action (links)**
  The links in this column are used to access other modules or features in Commons and vary depending on the application. Possible links are as follows:

  - **RPPR**

  - **Public Access PRAM**
    Opens the *Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM)* screen for submitting Public Access PRAM. Refer to the section of this document titled *Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Module* on Page 295
- **IC Requested PRAM**

- **Fellowship Face Page**
  Displays for Fellowship Awards only

- **Progress Report Face Page**
  Only for paper grants not SNAP eligible

- **JIT**
  This link is displayed for applications eligible to submit Just In Time materials. Selecting the link opens the *Just In Time* screen. Refer to the section of this document titled *Just in Time (JIT) Screen* on Page 225.

- **Extension**
  This link opens the No-Cost Extension (NCE) feature. Refer to the section of this document titled *No-Cost Extension (NCE) for NIH Grants* on Page 238.

- **Closed**
  This link opens the *Closeout Status* screen, which provides information on a closed grant. Refer to the section of this document titled *Closeout Status* on Page 197.

- **Requires Closeout**
  This link opens the *Closeout Status* screen, which provides a means for uploading the required documents for closeout. Refer to the section of this document titled *Closeout Status* on Page 197.

- **Reject eApplication**
  Available only to SO users, select this link to reject an electronically submitted application. If rejected, the status of the application is updated to *Refused*. Refer to the section of this document titled *How Does an SO Reject the eApplication?* on Page 152.

- **Transmittal Sheet**
  Opens the Transmittal Sheet on which is listed the institution name, proposal title, PI name, grant number, accession number, and proposal receipt date.
- **Administrative Supplement**
  For grants having at least one administrative supplement request either in progress or submitted, but not reviewed. This link is used to view the status of the request.

- **A**
  
  **F.**

- **Manage Relinquishing Statement**
  Available to SOs and used to access the feature for initiating an electronic relinquishing statement

- **Relinquishing Statement**
  Used to access the feature for editing and re-routing the electronic relinquishing statement

- **Sandy Quarterly Report**
  For grants identified as NIH Hurricane Sandy Recovery awards. The link opens the *Sandy Quarterly Report* for editing, saving, and/or submission.

- **Human Subjects**
  Provides access to the Human Subjects System (HSS) for viewing and managing inclusion enrollment data for off-cycle reporting, before the progress report is due. This link is available only for those grants requiring inclusion data. For more information about HSS via Status, refer to the separate *Human Subjects System Online Help*.

To submit inclusion enrollment data with a progress report, HSS must be accessed via the RPPR *Section G. Special Reporting Requirements* rather than through the *Human Subjects* link in the Status module. Refer to the *NIH and Other PHS Agency Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Instruction Guide* for more information.

### 13.6 Status for Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PI Role)

The Status module lets those with a PI role review basic aspects of the status of applications sent to the NIH, including pending review, review outcome, pending Advisory Council action, and award status.

Refer to the section of this document titled *Steps for AOR/SO to Check Submission Status* on Page 148 if you hold an SO role.
Upon entering the Status module, a PI is taken to a landing page with three options:

- **Recent/Pending eSubmissions**: Select this option to view a list of recent or pending electronic submissions of grant applications.
- **List of Applications/Grants**: Select this option to view a list of applications/grants on which the PI user is the contact PI or one of multiple PIs (MPI)
- **Search by Grants.gov Tracking Num**: Use this field and the Search button to display information for a specific grant application by tracking number.

A PI can grant a Commons user with the ASST role access to the Status module. ASST users granted this authority can view the status results as the PI would, however, the ASST user will not have access to the links found in the Action column. Refer to the section of this document titled Direct Delegations on Page 103 for information on delegating Status.

### 13.6.1 Viewing Recent/Pending eSubmissions

Click the **Recent/Pending eSubmissions** option to display search results meeting the following criteria:

- Applications that require action prior to submission
- Applications available for viewing prior to submission (2 business day correction window)
- Applications that have been refused by the SO
The results display in the Status - Recent/Pending eSubmissions screen in a table format. If the number of records returned by the search exceeds the amount allowed on the screen, you can use the page number links and/or navigation arrows at the top of the results table to scroll to the remaining records.

The following information is included in the table:

**Grants.gov Tracking #**

This column shows the number assigned when the application was submitted electronically to Grants.gov. This is a non-sortable field.

**Application ID**

The application ID is provided as a link, which when clicked opens the Status Information screen. Status Information includes grant/application information such as status history, study section, contacts, etc. Refer to the section of this document titled Status Information on Page 172 for more information.

**eSubmission Status**

This column shows the status of approval for the application.
Proposal Title

The project name submitted on the application is displayed in this column.

In the Proposal Title field, NFP (no further processing) is added to the application title to indicate that the application will not be referred for review.

PD/PI Name

This is the Contact PI on the application.

eSubmission Status Date

This is the date of the latest status update.

Show All Prior Errors

This column displays the Show All Prior Errors link. Clicking this link opens the Errors/Warnings for Prior Failed eSubmissions screen, providing any errors or warnings received for the application during eSubmission.

Use the Export buttons –located at the top and bottom of the screen– to view the information in an Excel spreadsheet.

To return to the search screen, click the Return to PI Search link at the top of the page.

13.6.2 Viewing the List of Applications/Grants

The Status Result - List of Applications/Grants screen provides a collected source of information pertaining to a PI’s grants/applications. The screen lets PIs view basic information for their grants; to review detailed information for their grants, including assignments, summary statements, notices of award; and to access other modules in Commons for completing tasks such as progress report, financial statement, etc.

To access the Status Result - List of Applications/Grants screen, click the List of Applications/Grants section of the screen.
The initial results display the applications collapsed into groups of grant families. From the initial display, you can see the application number (or Application ID Not Yet Assigned where applicable); the number of applications/grants within the family; the contact PD/PI; and the title.

To find the total number of your applications/grants, look for the number displayed next to the screen title.

To expand the field and display all grants/applications associated with a family, click the plus sign (+) for that particular grant family.
Applications Sample of an Expanded Grant Family on Status List of Applications/Grants

Once expanded, the following information is displayed:

Application ID
The application ID is provided as a link, which when clicked opens the Status Information screen. Status Information includes grant/application information such as status history, study section, contacts, etc. Refer to the section of this document titled Status Information on Page 172 for more information.

If multiple PIs exist on the project, an MPI indicator appears next to the application ID.

**Grants.gov Tracking #**

This column shows the number assigned when the application was submitted electronically to Grants.gov. This is a non-sortable field.

**Proposal Title**

The project name submitted on the application is displayed in this column.

**PD/PI Name**

This is the Contact PI on the application.

**eSubmission Status**

The submission status of the application.

**Current Application Status**

This column displays the status of the application. To see a list of each application status, see https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf.

**Status Date**

The date on which the current status was set.

**Available Actions (buttons)**

Use the buttons in this column to access other modules or features within Commons. Available actions vary depending on the application. Possible actions include:

**RPPR**


**Public Access PRAM**


**IC Requested PRAM**


**Fellowship Face Page**
Displays for Fellowship Awards only

**Progress Report Face Page**

Only for paper grants not SNAP eligible

**JIT**

This link is displayed for applications eligible to submit Just In Time materials. Clicking the link opens the *Just In Time* screen. Refer to the section of this document titled *Just In Time (JIT) Screen on Page 225.*

**Extension**

This link opens the No-Cost Extension (NCE) feature. Refer to the section of this document titled *No-Cost Extension (NCE) for NIH Grants on Page 238.*

**Closed**

This link opens the *Closeout Status* screen, which provides information on a closed grant. Refer to the section of this document titled *Closeout Status on Page 197.*

**Requires Closeout**

This link opens the *Closeout Status* screen, which provides a means for uploading the required documents for closeout. Refer to the section of this document titled *Closeout Status on Page 197.*

**Transmittal Sheet**

Opens the Transmittal Sheet on which is listed the institution name, proposal title, PI name, grant number, accession number, and proposal receipt date.

**Administrative Supplement**

For grants having at lease one administrative supplement request either in progress or submitted, but not reviewed. This link is used to view the status of the request.

**Relinquishing Statement**

Used to access the feature for editing and re-routing the electronic relinquishing statement

**Sandy Quarterly Report**

For grants identified as NIH Hurricane Sandy Recovery awards. The link opens the *Sandy Quarterly Report* for editing, saving, and/or submission.

**Inclusion**

Provides access to the Human Subjects System (HSS) for viewing and managing inclusion enrollment data for off-cycle reporting, before the progress report is due. This link is available only for those grants requiring inclusion data. For more information about HSS via Status, refer to the separate *Human Subjects System Online Help.*
To submit inclusion enrollment data with a progress report, HSS must be accessed via the RPPR Section G. Special Reporting Requirements rather than through the Inclusion link in the Status module. Refer to the NIH and Other PHS Agency Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Instruction Guide for more information.

Use the Export buttons – located at the top and bottom of the screen – to view the information in an Excel spreadsheet.

To return to the search screen, click the Return to PI Search link at the top of the page.

13.6.3 Searching by Grants.gov Tracking Number

To search for an application by its Grants.gov tracking number, enter the tracking number into the Tracking Number field of the Search by Grants.gov Tracking Num section and click the Search button.

The Status Result - Recent/Pending eSubmissions screen returns only the application matching the entered tracking number. You can view Errors/Warnings for Prior Failed Submissions by clicking the Show Prior Errors and Warnings button.

To return to the search screen, click the Return to PI Search link at the top of the page.
13.7 How does a PI track submission status?

The designated Contact PD/PI is able to view status information relating to their newly submitted applications during the "viewing window" (the first two business days after submission up to the submission deadline).

Note that PIs can check status information in eRA Commons on the go, using Commons Mobile (see info).

After the deadline, any applications which remains in the Pending status will also be visible.

A PI may grant a Commons user with the ASST role access to the Status module. ASST users granted this authority can view the status results as the PI would, however, the ASST user will not have access to the links found in the Action column. Refer to the section of this document titled Direct Delegations on Page 103 for information on delegating Status.

Steps to access status information:

1. Log in to eRA Commons with your Principal Investigator (PI) account username and password.
2. Navigate to the Status module and then click the "Recent/Pending eSubmissions" search option in the sub-menu bar or in the body of the page. (view screenshot)
3. The next screen will display the results.

![Image of the screen showing search results.

Use the **Export** buttons – located at the top and bottom of the screen – to view the information in an Excel spreadsheet.

To return to the search screen, click the **Return to PI Search** link at the top of the page.

The following information is included in the table:

- **Grants.gov Tracking #**
  
  *This is the number assigned when the application was submitted electronically to Grants.gov.*

- **Application ID**
  
  *A unique value assigned to applications before an NIH grant number is assigned*

- **eSubmission Status**
  
  *This shows the status of approval for the application.*

- **Proposal Title**
  
  *This is the project name submitted on the application.*

In the **Proposal Title** field, the designation of **NFP** (no further processing) is added to the application title to indicate that the application will not be referred for review.

- **PD/PI Name**
  
  *This is the Contact PI on the application.*

- **eSubmission Status Date**
  
  *This is the date of the latest status update.*

- **Show All Prior Errors**
  
  *This column displays the **Show Prior Errors and Warnings** link. Clicking this link opens the Errors/Warnings for Prior Failed eSubmissions screen and displays any errors or warnings received for the application during eSubmission.*

For the purposes of eSubmission tracking, perform the following from the search results:
1. Check the **eSubmission Status** column to determine if your application status is “eSubmission Error” or “Pending Verification”.

Errors will stop the submission process and require a change/corrected application but warnings will not. It is still critical to check the warning messages to ensure that the issue referenced does not apply to your application.

2. Use one of the two following methods to view the error messages and warnings. (show screenshot)

   ![Status Result - Recent/Pending eSubmissions](image)

   - **Method 1**: Click the **Show Prior Errors and Warnings** link from the **Show All Prior Errors** column to the right.
   - **Method 2**: If "Pending Verification", select the Accession Number (AN:#######) displayed in the **Application ID** column to open the **Status Information** page. Submission errors or warnings are displayed at the top of the **Status Information** page during the two day review period before the submission deadline. Refer to the section of this document titled **Status Information on Page 172** for more information on this screen.

### 13.8 Status Information

**Status Information** is a collection of grant information and links to grant-related documents stored in one place. **Status Information** is accessed by clicking the **Application Number** (link) from any result screen in the Status module.
13.8.0.1 The screen displays the following sections of information:

**Contacts**: Names, phone numbers, and email addresses for grant-related contacts

The **Name, Phone, and Email** displays for the following contacts:

- Scientific Review Officer (SRO*)
- Grants Management Specialist (GMS)
- Program Official (PO)

**Latest Update**: Displays the latest changes affecting the application.
**eRA Service Desk:** This section contains the contact information and operating hours for the Service Desk. The Service Desk is able to address most technical, functional, and account-related questions.

![eRA Service Desk](image)

**Screen Tools:** Under the title of the screen (Status Information) is a row that contains tools to manage the screen content.

- **Filter** provides a text field that is used to search for specific content on the screen. This tool does not search the previously listed sections on the left of the page (Contacts, Latest Update, or eRA Service Desk)

- **Expand All** and **Collapse All** will affect each of the sections under the screen title except the application information section. **Expand All** will open all of the remaining sections to show all of the contents of that section. **Collapse All** will hide the content of those sections and only show the title of the section. This applies to;
  - Status
  - Other Relevant Documents
  - Additions for Review
  - Institute/Center Assignment
  - Status History
  - Awards
  - Reference Letters
  
  Individual sections may be expanded or collapsed individually.

- **Print** initiates a print of all of the content of the screen in a print-friendly format. The content in collapsible sections will print regardless of whether or not the sections are expanded or collapsed.

**Application Information:** At the top of the screen, under the screen tools, is a section which contains the following application information:
- Application number
- Status. To see a list of each application status, see https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf.
- Project Title
- PI Name
- NIH Appl. ID
- Application ID

**Status:** Includes basic information describing the current disposition of the application using the following data points:

- Current Status of the Application. For a list of possible application statuses, see https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf.
- Last Status Update Date
- PI Name
- Institution Name
- NIH Appl. ID
- School Name
- School Category
- Division Name
- Department Name
- Proposal Receipt Date
- Proposal Title
- Project Period Begin Date
- Project Period End Date
- Current Award Notice Date
- Application Source
- eApplication Status
- FOA
In the **Proposal Title** field, *NFP* (no further processing) is added to the application title to indicate that the application will not be referred for review.

**Other Relevant Documents**: Includes links to grant-related documents.

The following links may be available within **Other Relevant Documents** depending on the application/grant:

- Abstract
- Administrative Supplement(s)
- Appendix 1 – 10 Submitted File Name
- Closeout Final Report Additional Material Request (FRAM)
- Component Appendices
- e-Application
- Final Invention Statement
- Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR)
- Fellowship Proposal Face Page
- FRAM Submission
- Institute/Center Progress Report Additional Material Request
• Just in Time
• FFR/FSR
• Notices of Grant Award
• Multi Year Progress Report(s)
• Notices of Grant Award (PDF)
• Progress Report Face Page
• Progress Report Additional Material (PRAM)
• Relinquishing Statement(s)
• Research Performance Progress Report
• Summary Statement
• Unfunded Progress Report
• xTrain Training Appointment(s)
• xTrain Termination Notice(s)

Additions for Review: Contains supplemental documents/files that were provided to the SRO to further support the application and/or individual sections.

Review: This section contains the following subsections and content:

• Application:
  ◦ Award Document Number
  ◦ FSR Accepted Code
  ◦ Snap Indicator Code
  ◦ Impact Score (PI only)
- Percentile (PI only)
- Early Stage Investigator Eligible
- New Investigator Eligible
- Eligible for FFATA Reporting

- **Study Section**
  - Scientific Review Group
  - Council Meeting Date
  - Meeting Date
  - Meeting Time
  - Study Roster

- **Advisory Council**
  - Meeting Date
  - Meeting Time

### Institute/Center Assignment:
Displays the assignment history for the application.

The following information is displayed within **Institute or Center Assignment:**

- **Institute or Center**
- **Assignment Date**
## Institute/Center Assignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institute or Center</th>
<th>Assignment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (Primary)</td>
<td>10/24/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (Primary)</td>
<td>11/04/2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Status History

**Status History**: Provides a history of the life of the application from submitted to awarded.

The following is displayed within **Status History**:

- **Effect Date**
- **Status Message**

### Awards

**Awards**: Details on awarded dollar amounts.

The following award dollar information is available:

- **Direct Amount**
- **Facilities and Administrative**
- **Fee Amount**
- **Total Amount**

### Reference Letter(s)

**Reference Letter(s)**: A list of submitted references letters.

If there are associated reference letters, the following information is available.
PIs can also view reference letter information in the Reference Letter section of their Personal Profile. Refer to the Reference Letters topic of the Commons online help system for more information.

*Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

### 13.8.1 Additions for Review

As the applicant, after submitting an application, you might send your Scientific Review Officer (SRO*) additional material that either clarifies or supplements information found on the original submission. When the SRO uploads this material, it is available to you via the Status Information screen.

Clicking the Additions for Review link from the Other Relevant Documents section of Status Information opens the Additions for Review screen. This screen provides links to the additional material along with other associated information.

The top of the screen displays general grant information including:
• Grant Number
• PI Name(s)

For multiple PIs, the names display in alphabetical order with Contact PI name in bold font with the word (Contact) following the name.

• Project Title
• Appl. Status
• Institution
• Appl ID

Below this section, you can find information specific to the uploaded material(s):

• Group

Displays the category to which the item belongs. Categories include Updated Pages; Supplimental Material; Collaboration Letters; Modified Budget Pages; Accepted Publication; Biographical Sketches; and Other.

• Document

Displays the document file name as a link, which opens the uploaded document. This document can be viewed, updated, and saved.

• Date

The date the document was uploaded.

*Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

13.8.2 Administrative Supplements

Clicking the Administrative Supplement(s) link from the Other Relevant Documents section of Status Information opens the Administrative Supplements screen. This screen provides read-only access to administrative supplements created for the particular grant.

Administrative Supplements are requests for (or the award of) additional funds during a current project period to provide for an increase in costs due to unforeseen circumstances.
The top of the screen displays general grant information including:

- **Grant Number**
- **PI Name(s)**
  
  For multiple PIs, the names display in alphabetical order with Contact PI name in bold font with the word *(Contact)* following the name.

- **Project Title**
- **Appl. Status**
- **Institution**
- **Appl ID**

Below this section, you can find information specific to the administrative supplements, displayed in a table format. You can opt to view the current support year or all support years by selecting the appropriate radio button:

- **Show Current Support Year Admin Supplements**
- **Show All Support Years Admin Supplements**

The table includes the following columns of information:

- **Identifying information**
  
  Displays the grant number as a link, which opens the *Administrative Supplement Request* PDF.

- **Accession Number**
- **Supplement Status**
- **Submitted Date**
- **Comments for Grantee**

Click the **Close** link to exit the screen.

**13.8.3 Institute/Center PRAM Requests**

Clicking the link for **Progress Report Additional Material (PRAM)** from the **Other Relevant Documents** section of *Status Information* opens the *Institute/Center
**PRAM Requests** screen. This screen provides read-only access to all current IC PRAM requests along with associated data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institute/Center PRAM Requests</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Number</strong></td>
<td>5 R1 EB123456-09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PI Name(s)</strong></td>
<td>Aiken, John, Bennett, Elizabeth (Contact), Dancy, Fibberill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Title</strong></td>
<td>Pride &amp; Prejudice and the Human Psyche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appl. Status</strong></td>
<td>Application awarded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution</strong></td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF PEMBERLEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appl ID</strong></td>
<td>8037163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top of the screen displays general grant information including:

- **Grant Number**
- **PI Name(s)**
  
  For multiple PIs, the names display in alphabetical order with Contact PI name in bold font with the word *(Contact)* following the name.
  
  - **Project Title**
  - **Appl. Status**
  - **Institution**
  - **Appl ID**

Below this section, you can find information specific to the submitted PRAM.

- **Identifying Information**

  Displays the identifying name for the information provided by the IC PRAM request sender, displayed as a link. Click the link to open a read-only copy of the I/C PRAM Request details sent to the grantee.

- **Requested Date**
- **Number of Reminders Sent**
- **Last Reminder Sent Date**

At the bottom of the screen is a link next to the title **Progress Report Additional Material**. Click this link to open a consolidated report of all submitted materials responding to the PRAM request. The link itself shows the last updated date of the PRAM and the number of times revised.

The **Progress Report Additional Materials** file opens as a PDF document. The file is formatted to provide an information header section for each PRAM submission followed by the attached documents provided during that submission. If multiple submissions of IC Requested PRAM were completed, the additional materials are separated in the document with the most recent
submission displayed first followed by earlier submissions in reverse chronological order. Information in the document can be navigated using the provided bookmarks on the left.

13.8.4 Relinquishing Statements

Clicking the link for Relinquishing Statement(s) from the Other Relevant Documents section of Status Information opens the Relinquishing Statements screen. This screen provides access to read-only versions of all relinquishing statements associated with the grant.

A relinquishing statement is required as part of the Change of Institution process allowing an extramural grantee institution to transfer an active grant to another institution. The process is initiated by the Signing Official of the institution that holds the award, who submits a Relinquishing Statement in eRA Commons and identifies the institution that will take over the award.

The top of the screen displays general grant information including:

- **Grant Number**
- **PI Name(s)**
  
  For multiple PIs, the names display in alphabetical order with Contact PI name in bold font with the word (Contact) following the name.

- **Project Title**
- **Appl. Status**
- **Institution**
- **Appl ID**

Below this section, you can find information specific to the relinquishing statement(s) for the grant.
• **Document Name**
  
The relinquishing statement name is displayed as a link, which opens a read-only version of the form.

• **Status**
  
The status of the submitted form.

• **Submitted Date**
  
The date on which the organization's SO submitted the form.

• **Comments for the Grantee**
  
Where applicable, displays comments entered by Agency staff directed to the grantee.

### 13.8.5 Closeout FRAM Requests

Clicking the link for **Closeout Final Report Additional Materials Request (FRAM)** from the Other Relevant Documents section of Status Information opens the Closeout FRAM Requests screen. This screen provides read-only access to all current Closeout FRAM requests along with associated data.

![Closeout FRAM Requests](image)

The top of the screen displays general grant information including:

- **Grant Number**
- **PI Name(s)**
  
  For multiple PIs, the names display in alphabetical order with Contact PI name in bold font with the word *(Contact)* following the name.

- **Project Title**
- **Institution**
- **Appl ID**

Below this section, you can find information specific to the submitted FRAM.
- **Identifying Information**
  Displays the identifying name for the information provided by the FRAM request sender, displayed as a link. Click the link to open a read-only copy of the FRAM Request details sent to the grantee.

- **Requested Date**
- **Number of Reminders Sent**
- **Last Reminder Sent Date**

**13.9 How Does a PI See the Review Outcome?**

Review Outcomes are found in Summary Statements. These statements are PDF documents combining reviewers' written comments and the Scientific Review Officer's (SRO*) summary of the discussion surrounding your application during the review meeting.

**Policy:** Scoring System and Procedure

As a PI, you can view your application's Summary Statement using the Status Information screen once it has been released by the SRO following the review meeting. If you are a signing official and are looking for the Summary Statement, see How Does an SO See the Review Outcome?

**13.9.1 To view your Summary Statement:**

1. Log into Commons.
2. Navigate to the Status module.
3. Click the **List of Applications/Grants** section.

![Status: PI Search](image)

The results display in either a Grouped or Flat view format. You may toggle between those views as desired. The application ID will be provided as a link which, when selected, opens the *Status Information* screen.
4. Select the application ID link for the specific application. For a list of possible application statuses, see [https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf](https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf).

The Status Information screen displays. The Status Information screen includes a section called Other Relevant Documents. This section houses links to various application-related documents, including the Summary Statement.

5. Select the link titled Summary Statement. It will open in a separate window.
Abbreviated review information is found in the Review section of the Status Information screen. Expand this section to see the following:

- **Application**:
  - Award Document Number
  - FSR Accepted Code
  - Snap Indicator Code
  - Impact Score
  - Percentile
  - Early Stage Investigator Eligible
  - New Investigator Eligible
  - Eligible for FFATA Reporting

- **Study Section**
  - Scientific Review Group
  - Council Meeting Date
  - Meeting Date
  - Meeting Time
  - Study Roster
13.10 How Does an SO See the Review Outcome?

Review Outcomes are found in Summary Statements, which include bulleted critiques from assigned reviewers, a brief summary of the discussion, the overall impact score, criterion scores from assigned reviewers and more. The summary statement combines reviewers' written comments and the Scientific Review Officer’s (SRO*) summary of the discussion surrounding your application during the review meeting.

As a signing official (SO) on an NIH or VA (Department of Veterans Affairs) grant, you can view summary statements for applications submitted by your institution after they are released by the SRO following the review meeting. You use the Status Information screen to see summary statements, as well as percentile (if available), impact score, and other review indicators resulting from the review. Impact scores are made available in eRA Commons ahead of the summary statement.

Policy: Scoring System and Procedure

Guide Notice: NOT-OD-20-126

13.10.1 To view a Summary Statement:

1. Log into eRA Commons.
2. Navigate to the Status module.
3. On the **General Search** screen, enter criteria to find a grant application and click **Search**.

4. In the **Search Results**, click the **Application/Award ID**.
   The **Status Information** screen for the application/award appears. For a list of possible application statuses, see [https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf](https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf).

5. Scroll down to the **Other Relevant Documents** section and click the **Summary Statement** link, which opens the Summary Statement PDF in a separate window. This link appears only if the application has completed a peer review process and if the granting agency is NIH or VA.
You can see abbreviated review information, including the percentile and impact score, in the Review section of the Status Information screen. Expand this section to see the following:

- **Application:**
  - Award Document Number
  - FSR Accepted Code
  - Snap Indicator Code
  - Impact score
  - Percentile
  - Early Stage Investigator Eligible
- New Investigator Eligible
- Eligible for FFATA Reporting

**Study Section**
- Scientific Review Group
- Council Meeting Date
- Meeting Date
- Meeting Time
- Study Roster

**Advisory Council**
- Meeting Date
- Meeting Time

*Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

### 13.11 Viewing the Notice of Award (NoA)

**Policy:** [Notice of Award Policy Statement](#)

**Updated Guide Notice:** [Upcoming Changes to the Notice of Award (NoA) Beginning October 1, 2020](#)

The Notice of Award (NoA) is the legal document issued to notify the recipient that an award has been made and that funds may be requested. Notices of Grant Awards are sent to the email address specified in the Institutional Profile. The signing official (SO) can update the NoA address through the institutional profile update function. You can view NoAs from the *Status Information* screen.

Beginning October 1, 2020, the NoA was updated to reflect a standardized Page One, which serves as the first page for all HSS (Department of Health and Human Services) Notices of Awards for discretionary awards. The updated Page One displays key award information in an intuitive and digitally accessible format.

To view the NoA from the *Status Information* screen:

1. Log into Commons.
2. [Navigate to the Status module](#).
3. Select the **List of Applications/Awards** section.

The results display in Grouped or Flat view. The application ID within this table is a link, which opens the **Status Information** screen.
4. Click the application ID link for the specific application. (For a list of possible application statuses, see https://era.nih.gov/docs/era_status_codes.pdf.)

The Status Information screen displays. The top of Status Information includes a section called Other Relevant Documents. This section contains links to various application-related documents, including the NoA. The NoA link is displayed as a date next to the field titled Notice(s) of Grant Award (PDF).

5. Click the Notice(s) of Grant Award link. The NoA opens in a separate window.
13.12 Closeout Status

**Policy:** [Closeout policy information](#)

Closeout is a feature that allows a grantee to electronically file the information necessary to complete grant closeout requirements. It interfaces with the Closeout system used by Agency staff to track and monitor this business process. NIH will close out grants as soon as possible after expiration of a grant that is not to be extended or after termination of a grant. Closeout includes timely submission of all required reports and adjustments for amounts due the grantee or NIH. Closeout of a grant does not automatically cancel any requirements for property accountability, record retention, or financial accountability. Following Closeout, the grantee remains obligated to return funds due, because of later refunds, corrections, or other transactions, and the Federal Government may recover amounts based on the results of an audit covering any part of the period of grant support.

If you hold an SO, PI, or FSR role, you can access the *Closeout Status* screen to perform the following:
• Track your grants that are in Closed status
• Submit reports required for closeout
• Submit any requested additional material (FRAM) related to your Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR)
• Access the FFR module of Commons to initiate and submit Federal Financial Reports (you must hold an FSR role)

13.12.1 Note about Interim RPPR and Final RPPR

• The Interim RPPR (IRPPR) is used when you are submitting a Competing Renewal application (Type 2). If you opt NOT to apply for a Competing Renewal, complete the Final RPPR as you normally would within 120 days of the project end date. If you are going to complete a Competing Renewal application (or have already submitted such an application), you will submit an Interim RPPR. This must be submitted within 120 days of the project end date.

• If you are awarded the renewal, the Interim RPPR will be treated as your annual RPPR and no other progress reporting will be needed for that segment of the study. If the application is NOT awarded, then the Interim RPPR will be accepted as the Final RPPR.

The Closeout Status screen is accessed via links on the Status result screens (Status Result - Closeout or Status Result - General Search for SOs; Status Result - List of Applications/Grants for PIs).

The links you may see on your results screen include:

• Requires Closeout: Grant has not completed the closeout process
• Closed: Grant has completed the closeout process
• In Unilateral Closeout: Grant is currently in the process of being unilaterally closed (see note below)
• Unilaterally Closed: Grant has been unilaterally closed by the IC (see note below)

NOTE: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a directive to Agencies on new policies for closeout of grant awards. NIH has revised its policies and procedures to align with the OER Policy Announcement 2014 regarding the guidance on implementation of HHS GPAM Chapter 1101 (Closeout), including Unilateral Closeout.

The policy chapter directs Institutes/Centers (ICs) to initiate a unilateral closeout – a closeout without the cooperation of the grantee – 180 days after the project end date if it has not received acceptable final reports required by the terms and conditions of an award. After making reasonable efforts to obtain the final reports ICs must close all awards no later than 270 days after the project end date. This substantially decreases the timeframe in which NIH must officially close a grant after the project end date.

At the top of the Closeout Status screen, the following Application Information displays:

• Grant Number
• PI Name
- Closeout Contact Name
- Closeout Contact Email
- Closeout Contact Phone
- Project Period
- Proposal Title

Below this information is the Closeout Submission Requirement including Instruction, Status of the requirement, Result of Actions, and Date of action. Also included are the available Action link(s), which vary and may include:

- FFR (Create New and View links)
- Final RPPR (Process Final RPPR; View; FRAM; and View FRAM links)
- Final Invention Statement (Process Final Invention Statement and View links)

Refer to the related topics for more information about FFR, Final Research Performance Progress Report, and Final Invention Statements.

At the top of the screen, text will indicate if the grant is in unilateral closeout or has been unilaterally closed, as applicable, and the date on which this occurred. While In Unilateral Closeout, links will be available in the Action column unless they have been closed by Grants Management Staff, in which case you will not see the links. When Unilaterally Closed, links will not be available. The message on the screen indicates whether links have been disabled.

eRA has recently updated the Closeout screens for PIs (and delegates) based on our new standards. SOs will see similar changes in a future release. Refer to the appropriate steps and images provided for your eRA Commons role.
## Closeout Status

### Application Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Number:</th>
<th>5R01DK123456-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PD/PI Name:</td>
<td>FATHERS, SAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closeout Contact Name:</td>
<td>MCCASLIN, ISAAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closeout Contact Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:era@nih.gov">era@nih.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closeout Contact Phone:</td>
<td>(301) 555-5555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Title:</td>
<td>Role of Nitric Oxide in Interstitial Cystitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Period:</td>
<td>09/30/1993 to 07/31/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Closeout Submission Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Result of Actions</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FFR</td>
<td>For FFR submission, you must have the Commons FSR role.</td>
<td>Not Started</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final RPPR</td>
<td>Only the SO or the PI of the Grant may process the Final RPPR</td>
<td>Not Received</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Process Final RPPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Invention Statement</td>
<td>For Submission, Final Invention Statement requires verification by the Signing Official of the Institution.</td>
<td>Not Received</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Process Final Invention Statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Form Approved OMB No. 0925-0012**

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**Status Module** 200 September 08, 2021

A Federal Financial Report (FFR) is a statement of expenditures associated with a grant. Recipients of federal funds are required to complete an FFR to report the status of funds to the sponsor of the grant.

If you have the FSR role, you can use the FFR module to search for grants and associated FFRs for your institution. In the FFR module, you can perform the following tasks:

- Manage an FFR—This redirects you to the federal Payment Management System to complete and submit the form, or to edit a saved FFR
- View a PDF of an FFR
- View the history of an FFR

With the FSR role, you can also access the FFR module from the Closeout Status screen.

13.12.3 Submitting Your Final Invention Statement (FIS)

You must submit a Final Invention Statement within 120 days following the termination of a grant award. The statement should include all inventions that were conceived or first reduced to practice during the course of work under the grant or award, from the original effective date of support through the date of completion or termination.

**Policy:** Refer to the Procedure for Submission of Final Invention Statement and Certification for more policy related information.

All actions are performed from the Submit Final Invention Statement screen, which is accessed via the Closeout Status screen. From here, SOs and PIs to do one of the following:

- Certify that no inventions were conceived or first reduced to practice during the course of work
- Add and submit information on inventions conceived/used during the course of work

Although a PI can create the FIS, only a SO can submit it to Agency.

13.12.3.1 Reporting Inventions on Your FIS

eRA has recently updated the Closeout screens for PIs (and delegates) based on our new standards. SOs will see similar changes in a future release. Refer to the appropriate steps and images provided for your eRA Commons role.

If you hold an SO or PI role, you can add inventions to the Final Invention Statement.

To add inventions to the FIS:

1. Click the Requires Closeout link for the grant from Status search results.

   The Closeout Status screen displays. Final Invention Statement is listed in the Closeout Submission Requirement column. The Action column should include a link for Process Final Invention Statement.

2. From Closeout Status, click the Process Final Invention Statement link.
The **Submit Final Invention Statement** screen displays. From this screen you can:

- Cancel out of the processing of the FIS
- Indicate that no inventions were created during the course of the project
- Report inventions created during the course of the project

Refer to the section of this document titled *Claiming No Inventions on Your FIS* on Page 206 for information on submitting an FIS with no inventions.

Follow the steps below to submit a report and claim an invention.
3. Click the **Yes** button.

   The *Add Invention* screen opens. From this screen, SOs and PIs may perform the following actions:

4. To add a new invention:
   a. Fill in the required fields.
      - **Title of Invention**
      - **Name of Inventor**
      - **Date Reported to DHHS**
   b. Click the **Add Invention** button.

The added invention displays in the **Saved Invention** section of the screen.

5. Repeat the steps above to add all of your project's inventions.

6. *Optional:* If you need to remove an invention, you can do so by clicking the **Remove** link in the **Action** column under the **Saved Invention** section.
7. Click the **Save** button.

   In a separate window, a certification statement displays.
I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all inventions are listed which were conceived or first actually reduced to practice during the course of work under the referenced DHHS grant or award for the specified period. Further, this report does not in any way relieve our obligation to promptly and fully report all inventions directly to the National Institutes of Health, as required by the terms of the grant or award.

If you are a PI saving an invention, you will also see the following statement added to the certification message:

*Note that a user with the SO privilege must verify the Final Invention Statement prior to submission.*

8. Click the **OK** button to continue.

You can click **Cancel** if you have made a mistake and need to return to the *Submit Final Invention Statement* screen.

When you save the report, the status of the FIS updates depending on whether you are an SO or a PI.

- **Status** = Saved (if SO) or Awaiting SO Verification (if PI)
- **Result of Actions** = Submitted by <your name>
- **Date** = Current date/date you saved the information
- **Action** = *Process Final Invention Statement* link

The SO must verify and submit the FIS. Refer to the section of this document titled *Submitting Your FIS on Page 210* for more information.

---

**13.12.3.2 Claiming No Inventions on Your FIS**

eRA has recently updated the Closeout screens for PIs (and delegates) based on our new standards. SOs will see similar changes in a future release. Refer to the appropriate steps.
and images provided for your eRA Commons role.

If you hold an SO or PI role, you can create a Final Invention Report indicating no inventions. To create a Final Invention Statement certifying that no inventions exist:

1. Click the **Requires Closeout** link for the grant from Status search results.

   The Closeout Status screen displays. Final Invention Statement is listed in the Closeout Submission Requirement column. The Action column should include a link for Process Final Invention Statement.

2. Click the **Process Final Invention Statement** link.
The *Submit Final Invention Statement* screen displays.

3. Click the **No** button.

   ![Submit Final Invention Statement](image1)

In a separate window, a certification statement displays.

*I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, no inventions were conceived or first actually reduced to practice during the course of work under the referenced DHHS grant or award for the specified period.*

4. Click the **OK** button to confirm.

   You can click **Cancel** if you have made a mistake and need to return to the *Submit Final Invention Statement* screen.

When you save your FIS, the *Closeout Status* screen will update to show the following:

- **Status** = Saved
- **Result of Actions** = Submitted by <your name>
- **Action = Process Final Invention Statement** link

The SO must verify and submit the FIS. Refer to the section of this document titled *Submitting Your FIS on Page 210* for more information.

### 13.12.3.3 Updating Your Saved FIS

If you hold an SO role, you can change a saved Final Invention Statement to add invention(s) or to change the certification.

To change your FIS:

1. Click the **Process Final Invention Statement** link from *Closeout Status*.

   ![Closeout Status](image)

   The *Submit Final Invention Statement* screen displays. The options available on this screen include:

   - **View Invention Statement** (<inventions reported>-or- <no inventions reported>) link
   - **Submit** (only if you have an SO role)
   - **Change**
   - **Cancel**

   ![Submit Final Invention Statement](image)

2. To change your FIS, select the **Change** button.
When **Change** is selected, you have the option to re-select **Yes** or **No** to indicate whether inventions are being reported. Select the **No** button if you wish to certify that no inventions are being reported. Otherwise, follow the next steps to update your saved inventions on the FIS.

3. To update the inventions on your FIS, select the **Yes** button.

The *Add Invention* screen displays. From here, you can add another invention or remove saved inventions. Refer to the section of this document titled *Reporting Inventions on Your FIS* on Page 202.

### 13.12.3.4 Submitting Your FIS

If you hold an SO role, you may submit a Final Invention Statement.

To submit the FIS:

1. Click the **Process Final Invention Statement** link from the Closeout Status screen.

The *Submit Final Invention Statement* screen displays. As an SO, your options include:

- **View Invention Statement** (*<inventions reported>* -or- *<no inventions reported>*)
- **Submit** (available only to SO role)
- **Change**
- **Cancel**
2. Click the **View Invention Statement** link to look the FIS over and verify its accuracy. The report will open in a separate window as a PDF document.

3. Click the **Submit** button.

In a separate window, a certification statement displays.

*I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all inventions are listed which were conceived or first actually reduced to practice during the course of work under the referenced DHHS grant or award for the specified period. Further, this report does not in any way relieve our obligation to promptly and fully report all inventions directly to the National Institutes of Health, as required by the terms of the grant or award.*

4. Click the **OK** button to confirm and continue.

Once you have submitted the report, you cannot update it. If you need to hold off on submission, you can select **Cancel** to return to the **Submit Final Invention Statement** screen.

Once you’ve submitted the FIS, the status details update as follows:

- **Status** = Received
- **Result of Actions** = Verified by *<your name>*
- **Date** = Current date/date you submitted the report
- **Action** = **View** link

The FIS is now available to view using the **View** link on **Closeout Status**. It can also be viewed from the **Status Information** screen for the grant.

### 13.12.4 Submitting Your Final Research Performance Progress Report

As of January 1, 2017, a **Final Research Performance Progress Report** (Final RPPR) is required for any grant that has ended and any grant that is not to be extended through award of a new competitive segment. The report is due within 120 days of the end of the project period. This report should be prepared in accordance with instructions provided by the awarding component. See [NIH Implementation of Final Research Performance Progress Reports (Final RPPR) — Guide Notice NOT-OD-17-022](#)
Effective February 9, 2017, if the recipient organization has submitted a renewal application on or before the date by which a Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final-RPPR) would be required for the current competitive segment, then submission of an "Interim RPPR" via eRA Commons is now required. The Interim RPPR (IRPPR) will be used for the submission of a Competing Renewal application (Type 2). See NIH Implementation of the Interim RPPR while a Renewal Application is Under Consideration (Guide Notice NOT-OD-17-037).

Both the Interim RPPR and the Final RPPR are currently identical in process and information required. The difference between the two is when and where they are made available to initiate and submit. The Interim RPPR link will be made available to the Signing Official (SO) in the Status screen when a grant is eligible for submission of a Competing Renewal application.

The Final RPPR is only available as part of the Closeout process and the Process Final RPPR link only appears on the Closeout Status screen.

The format of the Interim RPPR and the Final RPPR will be the same as the current annual RPPR, making it easier for recipients to navigate through both the Interim and the Final RPPR, based on familiarity with the existing format of the annual RPPR.

Differences between Interim/Final RPPR and the annual RPPR are few:

- In the Interim/Final RPPR, only Section D.1 is required in the Participants section
- Sections F: Changes and Section H: Budget are not part of the Interim/Final RPPR
- Section I: Outcomes is new. Section I is required for both the Interim/Final RPPR

13.12.4.1 Note about Interim RPPR and Final RPPR

- The Interim RPPR (IRPPR) is used when you are submitting a Competing Renewal application (Type 2). If you opt NOT to apply for a Competing Renewal, complete the Final RPPR as you normally would within 120 days of the project end date. If you are going to complete a Competing Renewal application (or have already submitted such an application), you will submit an Interim RPPR. This must be submitted within 120 days of the project end date.
- If you are awarded the renewal, the Interim RPPR will be treated as your annual RPPR and no other progress reporting will be needed for that segment of the study. If the application is NOT awarded, then the Interim RPPR will be accepted as the Final RPPR.
13.12.4.2 To submit your Final RPPR:

1. Click the Requires Closeout link for the grant from Status search results.

   The Closeout Status screen displays. Final RPPR is listed in the Closeout Submission Requirement column. The Action column should include a link for Process Final RPPR.

2. From Closeout Status, click the Process Final RPPR link.

   Clicking the Process Final RPPR link opens the Final RPPR Menu screen:

   ![Final RPPR Menu](image)

3. Click the Initiate button to create the Final RPPR.

   The Final RPPR Menu will then change, providing the user with the option to Edit the Final RPPR:
4. Clicking **Edit** opens the navigation to the various sections of the Final RPPR:

5. Complete each section as required. See [How to Do I Fill Out the RPPR Forms](#) for help completing each section.

   Be sure to click **SAVE** when moving between sections or unsaved data may be lost.
When done, click **Cancel** to return *Final RPPR Menu* screen.

In the *Final RPPR Menu* screen, there are several action buttons at the bottom that you can use to complete the Final RPPR:

![Final RPPR Menu](image)

For more information on these options, see:

- **Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM)**
- **Interim RPPR Overview**
- **Editing the RPPR Forms**
- **Checking for Errors and Warnings**
- **Viewing the RPPR**
- **Routing the RPPR**
- **Recalling the RPPR**
- **Submitting RPPR to Agency**

The **Cancel** button closes the *Final RPPR Menu* screen.

### 13.12.4.3 Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM)

A *Final Research Performance Progress Report* (Final RPPR) is required for any grant that has ended and any grant that is not to be extended through award of a new competitive segment. This report should be prepared in accordance with instructions provided by the awarding component.

Refer to the topic titled *Submitting Your Final Research Performance Progress Report on Page 315* for information related to the Final RPPR.
The Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM) feature provides a means for grantees to enter, review, route, and submit information in response to specific request(s) by the Program Official (PO) for additional information related to the Final RPPR.

While reviewing a submitted Final RPPR, the PO may determine that additional materials related to the submitted report are required. In this case, the PO will submit a request for this information referred to as a FRAM request. When a FRAM request is made, the PI is notified via email; Final RPPR status on Closeout Status is updated to FRAM Requested; and a FRAM Update link appears in the Closeout Status screen. The link is located as an action on the Final RPPR Report line for Closeout Submission Requirement.

This topic discusses the steps for uploading, viewing, and submitting FRAM.

For Revised Project Outcomes, please review the following information. To submit revised Project Outcomes, SOs should follow the IRAM process for outcomes for Interim RPPRs and the FRAM process for outcomes for Final RPPRs with the exception that a text box will be provided to enter the new Outcomes text and then you click an Upload button instead of an Add Attachment button as with other RAM requests.

Project Outcomes provide information regarding the cumulative outcomes or findings of the
project.
Note that outcomes will be made publicly available, allowing recipients to provide the
general public with a concise summary of the cumulative outcomes or findings of the project
at the end of a competitive segment. The name of the Primary Investigator/Project Director
will be attached to the public posting in RePORTER.

For NIH awards the length of the Outcome statement should not exceed half a page. In
addition, the summary of outcomes or findings of the award must be written in the following
format:
*** Is written for the general public in clear, concise, and comprehensible language
*** Is suitable for dissemination to the general public, as the information may be available
electronically
*** Does not include proprietary, confidential information or trade secrets

Please refer to the following link for samples of acceptable project outcomes:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/rprr/sample_project_outcomes_RPPR.htm
See NIH notices NOT-OD-17-022 and NOT-OD-17-037 for additional details on this
requirement.

Uploading Final Report Additional Materials

When FRAM is requested by the reviewing PO, an email notification will be sent to the PI (and
SO) describing the additional information being requested. It is the PI who is responsible for
uploading this requested FRAM via the Closeout module in Commons.

To upload FRAM:

1. Navigate to the Closeout Status screen.
2. Locate the Final RPPR line item under the Closeout Submission Requirement
column.

If a PO has requested additional material related to the Final RPPR, the Status will show
FRAM Requested, the Result of Action column will show FRAM Requested By <PO
Name>, and the FRAM Update link will appear in the Action column of this line item.
If this information is not there, the request was not made.
3. Click the **FRAM Update** link.

The **Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM)** screen appears. From this screen, the PI has the ability to either; upload an attachment meeting the requirements of the requested information or, for Revised Outcomes (Section I of the RPPR), a text field in which to enter the Revised Outcomes text.

You can view the original request for information from the **Status Information** screen. The **Closeout Final Report Additional Materials Request (FRAM)** link located in **Other Relevant Documents** section of **Status Information** will show the original request.

4. Use the **Add Attachment** button to search for and select the appropriate document from your local computer. The attached document must be in PDF format and no larger than 6MB.
After passing system validations, the screen will display a message as follows: *FRAM was successfully uploaded and is ready for processing by the SO in your institution.*

FRAM attachments can be viewed at any time using the View Attachment or View button on the screen. Before being submitted to Agency, FRAM attachments can be deleted using the Delete Attachment button.

When FRAM is attached, the Closeout Status screen updates to show *FRAM Updated* in the Status column and *FRAM Updated By <PI Name>* in the Result of Action column. You will
notice that the **FRAM Update** link remains as an available action. Attachments for additional requests can be uploaded using this link and following the same steps described above. Subsequent uploads will be appended in the stored PDF document viewable in Status Information.

The SO is now able to submit FRAM. Refer to the steps in the section titled **Submitting FRAM** for details on how an SO submits FRAM to Agency.

Please note that after the SO submits FRAM, the **FRAM Update** link on Closeout Status will be replaced by the View FRAM link and updates can no longer be made.

### Submitting FRAM

Once a response to a FRAM request has been uploaded by the PI using the *Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM)* screen, the SO can submit the material to Agency. Only those with an SO role in Commons can submit FRAM.

To submit FRAM:

1. Navigate to the Closeout Status screen for the specific grant.
2. Locate the Final Research Performance Progress Report line item under the Closeout Submission Requirement column.

If the PI has uploaded the additional material successfully, the Result of Action column will show *FRAM Updated By <PI Name>*. The **FRAM Update** link will appear in the Action column of this line item.
3. Click the FRAM Update link.

![Screen shot of the Closeout Status module](image1)

The Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM) screen appears with the Submit button enabled.

4. Optional: To view the FRAM response before submitting it, click the View Attachment button.

5. To submit the FRAM, click the Submit button.

![Screen shot of the Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM) module](image2)
6. Before the submission is completed, a certification message will appear on the screen. Click the I Agree button to confirm this certification and to complete the process.

After a successful submission, the screen will display a message as follows: The final progress report additional materials have been successfully submitted to Agency. The Closeout Status screen will show FRAM Submitted By <SO Name> in the Result of Action column, and the FRAM Update link available before the submission is replaced by the View FRAM link. FRAM cannot be edited after submission to Agency.

Additionally, email notification is sent to both the SO who submitted the FRAM and to the PI of the grant. A separate notification is sent to the PO of the grant. Commons will generate a PDF document containing all documents adding for the FRAM request. This document can be accessed within the Status Information screen under Other Relevant Documents.
The PO may rescind the approval of the Final RPPR submission at any time. If this event occurs, the **FRAM Update** link will be made available for submitting FRAM.

SOs can continue to add additional attachments even after submission to Agency (before acceptance of the Final RPPR). Any subsequent documents will be added to the PDF generated by Commons.

### 13.13 Just in Time (JIT) Search for SOs

This topic pertains to the Just in Time (JIT) search screen available to signing officials (SO). To see related help:
- General Search screen for SOs, see [Steps for AOR/SO to Check Submission Status](#).
- JIT screen available to VA applicants, see [Just in Time (JIT) for VA Applicants](#).
- JIT search screen available to VA agency staff, see [Just in Time (JIT) Overview for VA Agency Staff](#).

As a signing official (SO), you might receive an auto-generated email from eRA Commons alerting you that a Just in Time request has been made on one of your institution's applications. If this happens, the program director/principal investigator (PI/PD) and the SO work together to upload required requested documentation. The PI/PD can save the JIT package, but only the SO can submit the package to the agency.

**NOTE:** The **JIT** link is removed once an application has been awarded.

To search for an applicant that has a current JIT process (SOs only):

1. In eRA Commons, navigate to the **Status module**.

[Image of Status module interface]
2. Click the **Just In Time** link at left (outlined in red here).

The SO Search screen appears.

![Just In Time (JIT) Screen](image)

3. Enter search criteria to find a specific application, or use the **Just In Time** radio buttons to find:
   - **Eligible for JIT**: all applications eligible for JIT
   - **JIT in WIP**: all applications with an in-progress JIT, or
   - **JIT Submitted**: all applications with a submitted JIT. Then click **Search**.

The Search results appear in a table. See *Standard Tools for Tables* to learn about the filter and other table tool icons that appear over tables.
4. On the desired application, click the three-dot ellipsis menu and select JIT.

The JIT screen opens.

If you are working on a VA application, see Just in Time (JIT) for VA Applicants.

If you are working on a non-VA application, see Just in Time (JIT) Screen.

13.13.1 Just in Time (JIT) Screen

This topic pertains to the general Just in Time (JIT) screen. To see help for other JIT screens:
- JIT screen available to VA, see Just in Time (JIT) for VA Applicants.
- JIT approval screen available to VA agency staff, see Just in Time (JIT) Overview for VA Agency Staff.

The JIT feature of the eRA Commons allows the electronic submittal of additional grant application information after the completion of the peer review, and prior to funding. The program director/principal investigator (PD/PI) and the signing official (SO) work together to complete and submit Other Support, Budget, IACUC, IRB, and/or Human Subject Assurances information directly to the NIH when that information is requested. For information on the new header and footer and navigating between modules, see Navigating and Using the UI in eRA Modules.

NOTE: If you have the PI role, you may upload and save JIT information; however, you must be an SO to submit it to NIH.

The JIT feature is available for applications meeting established business criteria. In general this feature becomes available for applications that fall within a certain percentile or priority score range; however, applicants should not submit any JIT information until specifically requested by the agency. These requests can be eRA-system generated emails or contacts directly from the specific awarding agency via email and/or phone.
NOTE: All JIT attachments should be submitted in PDF format with a maximum size of 6MB. Each upload area can accept only a single PDF, and if you re-upload a file, it replaces the previous file.

Policy: JIT policy information also is available online. Look for the Just-in-Time Procedures section of the NIH Grants Policy Statement.

To search for a JIT as an SO, see Just in Time (JIT) Search for SOs. In Commons, the Just In Time screen is accessible from the Actions column on each of the following:

- **JIT** link on Status Result - Just In Time search or General Search (SO)
- **JIT** link on Status Result - List of Applications/Grants (PI)
Just in Time (JIT) allows the Principal Investigator (PI) or Signing Official (SO) to provide Other Support, Budget, Upload, Other Upload, IACUC, IRB, and Human Subject Assurance. Just in Time information is submitted directly to NIH when that information is requested. Guidance follows:

- Although a PI may save this information through Commons, only an SO may submit it to NIH.
- Any element of the JIT form may be submitted at different times while the JIT link is available.
- Once the information has been submitted to NIH, it will be available for viewing in Status in the Other Relevant Documents section.
- Number of Submission provides the user with the number of times the JIT form was submitted to Agency.
- All elements on the JIT form can be submitted multiple times and will be appended to the JIT report, with the latest version at the top of the report.
- If the application involves care and use of vertebrate animals or involves Human Subjects, verification of the date of the respective IACUC or IRB approval is required on this 'Just in Time' page.

Application Information

- Award Number: R21DE022619-01A1
- PI Name: KIM, HAN
- Proposal Title: Molecular determinants in biphosphonate
- Total Submissions: 0

Please provide active and pending support for all key personnel. Other Support includes all financial resources, whether Federal, non-Federal, commercial or institutional, available in direct support of an individual's research endeavors, including but not limited to research awards, cooperative agreements, contracts, and/or institutional awards. Training awards, prizes, or gifts do not need to be included.

To provide the NIH Other Support, follow the suggested format available at Other Support and upload the document using the Upload button provided below. Alternatively, you can drag and drop a file onto the respective panel. Please note that when you upload a document it is automatically attached to your application.

Other Support File:
- Last Uploaded File Name: Detail.pdf
- Date Created: Thu Oct 29 15:04:01 EDT 2020
- Number of Submissions: 0

Budget File:
- Last Uploaded File Name: None
- Date Created: None
- Number of Submissions: 0

Other File:
- Last Uploaded File Name: None
- Date Created: None
- Number of Submissions: 0

Human Subjects Information

- IRB Date: 
- Number of Submissions: 0

Your Institution must certify to NIH that the research described in this application has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval by an IRB registered at OHRP under your Human Subjects Assurance Number. If the required IRB approval has been obtained, enter the IRB approval date. By specifying a date and saving this form, you certify that you have IRB approval for this research. Please select the correct OHRP Human Subjects Assurance Number from the list of numbers associated with your Institution. Select Your Assurance Number.

Human Subject Education. This document is required for key personnel (all individuals responsible for the design and conduct of the study) that are involved in human subject research. Please upload a PDF file that includes the following:

- The names of the key personnel who are responsible for the design and conduct of the study
- The title of the education program completed by each named person plus a brief description of the program

Notes: If research meeting the criteria for Exemption 4 is proposed, documentation is recommended, but not required.

Last Uploaded File Name: HumanSubjects.pdf
- Date Created: Thu Oct 29 13:02:57 EDT 2020
- Number of Submissions: 0

Animal Subjects Information

- IACUC Date: 
- Number of Submissions: 0

The institution must verify approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of those components of the application related to the care and use of animals. By specifying a date and saving this form you confirm that IACUC approval of this application was awarded on that date. If the IACUC required any modifications in the care or use of animals as described in the Research Plan, those changes must be submitted to the appropriate NIH Awards Management office. OLAU Assurance Number listed for your Institution is A3196-01

Genome Data Sharing Certification

Genome Data Sharing Certification. An Institutional Certification is expected prior to funding award for all research generating large-scale human genomic data under the NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy (https://osp.od.nih.gov/scientific-sharing/institutional-certifications/). The Institutional Certification is a document from the authorized Institutional Signing Official of the institution submitting the data, and assures that the data submission and sharing is appropriate (see https://osp.od.nih.gov/scientific-sharing/institutional-certifications/ for templates). If a final Institutional Certification is not available at Just-In-Time, you may submit a provisional Institutional Certification along with other Just-In-Time documents. A final version of the Institutional Certification may be uploaded in the "Additional Information" section of your award folder at a later date. You should keep Program Staff of the funding IC informed of the expected date of submission of the final Institutional Certification.
13.13.1.1 Uploading, Saving, and Submitting JIT Information

A PI can upload and save JIT information, and can also view the JIT report that the JIT screen will prepare for submission based on JIT information entered on the screen. An SO can do all the same things, but in addition, an SO can submit the JIT information to the Agency.

To upload JIT files:

1. Access the Just in Time screen through the JIT link on the Status result screen(s) Action or Available Actions column.

2. Upload the appropriate file types.
   - Other Support File
   - Budget File
   - Other File
   - Human Subject Education
   - Genome Data Sharing Certification

Other Support File Information

Other Support is always available. If the application involves care and use of vertebrate animals or involves Human Subjects, verification of the date of the respective IACUC or IRB approval is required on this Just in Time screen.

For instructions regarding certifications and assurances, please refer to the Institutional Assurances and Certifications (IPF) instructions. Both PD/PIs and SOs may view the current status of the assurances and certificates but only SOs (or TTOs if no SO has been assigned) are able to make changes to the information.

It is requested that active and pending support for all key personnel be provided. Other Support includes all financial resources, whether Federal, non-Federal, commercial or institutional, available in direct support of an individual's research endeavors, including but not limited to research grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and/or institutional awards. Training awards, prizes, or gifts do not need to be included.

To provide Other Support information, follow the suggested format available at http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/othersupport.doc and upload the document using the Upload button provided. PDF uploads for Other Support File are required to be a flattened PDF. A flattened
PDF is one that does not have fillable forms or other layers, such as movable images. The easiest way to flatten a PDF using Adobe Acrobat Reader is to print the document, but choose the “Print to PDF” option in the Print dialog, and save to a new file name when prompted. If you attempt to upload and save a file that is not a flattened PDF, you see this error message, "Error Uploading PDF. Please ensure all files are flattened. ....".

a. Click the **Upload** button for each type of file you need to upload.

-OR-

b. Drag and drop the file from your Windows directory into the appropriate section of the JIT screen.

The panel shows an Upload Complete message. The panel also displays the name of the file and the date it was uploaded. Optionally, you can remove the file by clicking the **Delete** button, or simply by uploading a different file. Click the **View** button to view the contents of the PDF file in a separate browser window.

3. Enter IRB date and assurance number as appropriate.
   - **IRB Date.** The IRB date is validated such that the IRB date must be in the range of one year previous to today's date. If you enter an IRB date, you must also select an assurance number from the dropdown list.
   - **Assurance Number.** If this dropdown is empty, contact your signing official and ask for the HSA # to be entered in the Institution Profile.
4. If this grant includes animal subjects, enter the IACUC date, which should be within the last three years.

5. Click the **Save** button at the bottom of the JIT screen.

   A confirmation message displays indicating you are about to save, but not submit, the JIT information and that a user with SO authority must submit to the awarding Agency.

6. If you are a signing official, and you have added or modified the information on the screen so it is ready to submit, click the **Submit** button at the bottom of the screen to submit to the Agency. A confirmation message appears:

7. In the **Submit Confirmation** popup that appears, click the **Submit JIT Data** button. A Success message appears at the top of the JIT screen.

**Commons** performs validations upon saving or submitting. If required information is missing or invalid, error messages will appear on the screen to guide you.

Once submitted, the report is available to view from within **Status Information**. **Status Information** is accessed by selecting the application ID (displayed as a link) from any of the Status result screen. Refer to the section of this document titled **Status Information on Page 172**.

You can resubmit JIT information as many times as necessary. Each section of the JIT information can be submitted separately and more than once as long as at least one field element has been completed. After each submission, the **Just In Time** screen displays the **Number of Submissions** for each piece of information.
When a resubmission has occurred, the Status result screens display the JIT link with an indication of the number of times revised.

13.13.1.2 Viewing the Just In Time Report

If you are an SO or a PI, you can view the Just In Time report directly from the JIT screen before submission. To do this, scroll to the bottom of the JIT screen; PIs click the View Report button, while SOs click the View Just In Time Report button. The two buttons show the same report.

**IMPORTANT:** If your system is set up to view PDFs in the browser and you view the report, the PDF report will replace the JIT screen in the current browser tab, and you will lose all unsaved data. Click the Save button before viewing the report to avoid this.

If the JIT information has already been submitted to NIH, the Just In Time report can be viewed from a link within Status Information. The link displays as the date of the last submission plus the number of times submitted and is located under the Other Relevant Documents section.

Status Information is accessed by selecting the application ID (displayed as a link) from any of the Status result screens. Refer to the section of this document titled Status Information on Page 172.
13.13.2 Just in Time (JIT) for VA Applicants

This topic pertains to the Just in Time (JIT) screen available to VA applicants. To see help for other JIT screens:
- JIT screen available to applicants of NIH and other agencies, see Just in Time (JIT) Screen.
- JIT screens available to VA agency staff, see Just in Time (JIT) Overview for VA Agency Staff.

The JIT feature of eRA Commons lets you electronically submit additional grant application information after the completion of the peer review, and prior to funding. The program director/principal investigator (PD/PI) and the signing official (SO) work together to complete and submit requested information directly to the VA when that information is requested via email notification. For more information, see Just-in-Time Process to Release Funds on the VA website.

NOTES:
- Either a PI or an SO can upload and save JIT information; however, only the SO can submit it to the VA.
- All JIT attachments should be submitted in flattened PDF format with a maximum size of 6MB. Each upload area can accept only a single PDF, and if you re-upload a file for a given JIT section, it replaces the previous file.

The JIT link is available in the Status module for applications for which VA agency staff have prepared a JIT request. See Accessing the JIT Screen.

Sample JIT Screen

The JIT screen for VA applicants (PI/SO) is shown here. Keep in mind that the screen looks different depending on what categories of information that the VA agency staff have requested. You see only those categories and secondary sites that the agency staff configured for the JIT request.
### Just In Time (JIT)

**Just In Time (JIT)** allows the Principal Investigator (PI) or Signing Official (SO) to provide other supports, budget upload, other upload, IACUC, IRB, and human subject assurances just in time information directly to the agency when that information is requested. Guidelines follow:

- Although a JIT may save this information through Commons, only an SO may submit it to Agency.
- Any element of the JIT form may be submitted at different times while the JIT link is available.
- Once the information has been submitted to the Agency, it will be available for viewing in Status in the Other Relevant Documents section.
- Number of submissions will provide the user with the number of times the JIT form was submitted to the Agency.
- All elements on the JIT form can be submitted multiple times and will be appended to the JIT report, with the latest version at the top of the report.
- If the application involves care and use of vertebrate animals or involves human subjects, verification of the date of the respective IACUC or IRB approval is required in this ‘Just In Time’ page.

### Application Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Number: 018000000-01A</th>
<th>PI Name: Dyer, RAI</th>
<th>Proposal Title: Novel Mechanistic Insights</th>
<th>Total Submissions: 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Research Site: VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please provide active and pending support for all key personnel. Other support includes all financial resources, whether Federal, non-Federal, commercial or institutional, available in direct support of an individual’s research endeavors, including but not limited to research awards, cooperative agreements, contracts, and/or institutional awards. Training awards, prizes, or gifts do not need to be included.

To provide the agency other support, follow the suggested format available at Other Support and upload the document using the Upload button provided below. Alternatively, you can drag and drop a file unto the respective panel. Please note that when you upload a document it is automatically attached to your application.

### Data Monitoring Committee (DMC)/Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Analysis Plan (DAP)</th>
<th>Data Analysis Plan Supporting Documentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Uploaded File Name: None</td>
<td>Last Uploaded File Name: None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Animal Subjects Research Review

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM VA MEDICAL CENTER</td>
<td>PI Assurance Last Uploaded File Name: None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site PI</td>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Toth</td>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. DEPT/DEP AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER</th>
<th>Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site PI</td>
<td>PI Assurance Last Uploaded File Name: None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Johnson</td>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Last Uploaded File Name: None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
<td>Date Created: None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note that while the SO has a Submit button at the bottom of the screen, the PI does not because only the SO can submit. Standard award information appears at the top of the JIT screen in the Application Information section. The Total Submissions field indicates how many times the JIT has been submitted.

Accessing the JIT Screen

**NOTE:** The JIT link is removed once an application has been awarded.

**PIs: Access the JIT Screen by**

1. In eRA Commons, *navigate to the Status module.*
2. Access the List of Applications/Awards.
3. Find the application for which you need to respond to a JIT, then click the JIT link in the Available Actions column.

**SOs: Access to JIT Screen**

See *Just in Time (JIT) Search for SOs* for steps on searching for a grant that is in the JIT process.

Responding to the JIT

**Viewing Initial Agency Comments**

To access initial agency comments, which might include reminders or instructions, hover over, or click, the Additional Agency Comments link in the section, shown below. Hovering shows the comments briefly, while clicking makes the comments stay visible until the link is clicked again:

![Additional Agency Comments](https://example.com/image.png)

**Uploading Files to the JIT**

For each section in the JIT, upload one or more flattened PDFs.
Upload button. Use the **Upload** button to find and choose a file on your drive. There can be one file uploaded per **Upload** button.

Drag and Drop. You can also drag and drop a file from a Windows directory overtop of the appropriate section on the JIT screen; however, if drag and drop is used for sections that allow two files to be uploaded (which contain two **Upload** buttons), both files will be replaced. Example of two-file section:

![Example of two-file section](image)

File Format. All JIT attachments should be submitted in flattened PDF format with a maximum size of 6MB. Each upload button can accept only a single PDF, and if you re-upload a file, it replaces the previous file.

**NOTE:** A flattened PDF is one that does not have fillable forms or other layers, such as movable images. The easiest way to flatten a PDF using Adobe Acrobat Reader is to print the document, but choose the “Print to PDF” option in the Print dialog, and save to a new file name when prompted. If you attempt to upload and save a file that is not a flattened PDF, you see this error message, "Error Uploading PDF. Please ensure all files are flattened. ....".

Removing a File

To remove a file, either click its **Delete** button, or simply upload another file. The newly uploaded file will always replace the existing file.

Viewing Contents of an Uploaded File

To view a file that has already been uploaded, click its name, which is linked, to view the PDF in a browser window.

Viewing History of Submissions

To view the history of a section's submission, click the section's **History** button to see a record of all submissions for the particular section you are viewing. History includes file name, submit date, status, comment, and person who uploaded the file. Until a file for the section has been submitted, History is blank, as it only shows history of actual submissions, not uploads or saves.
Fields in a Section

**Last Uploaded File Name.** File name of file currently uploaded for the section.

**Date Created.** Date the file was uploaded (not creation date of file).

**Number of Submissions.** Number of times a file has been submitted for this section of the JIT. For example, if you see number of submissions set to 3 for the **Revised Budget** section, then 3 separate files have been submitted for the **Revised Budget** section, each file replacing the previous. Each section can have different number of submissions. This can be different from **Total Submissions** under Application Information, which indicates the total number of times an SO has clicked **Submit** for the JIT.

**Comments.** You cannot add comments when uploading, saving, or submitting. Agency staff can add comments during approval or rejection of submissions and those comments appear in this field.

**Additional Agency Comments.** Hover or click to see comments that were entered by agency staff when they configured this JIT.

**Agency Review File Name.** After submittal, agency staff can approve or reject a section. At that time, agency staff can upload a document as part of the approval/rejection; that file will then reside in the **Agency Review File Name** field. If you view the JIT after agency review, you can check that field for files the agency has provided.

**Reviewing, Saving, or Submitting the JIT**

Buttons for reviewing, saving, and submitting (only the SO sees the Submit button) are located at the bottom right of the JIT screen.

Reviewing

Before submitting, review the JIT contents. There are a few ways you can do this:

- Click on the file names of uploaded files to see their contents in a browser window or PDF reader.

- Check the indicators, shown here, that appear over each section to determine what action has been taken on each section. For instance, in the image, one file has been uploaded to the JIT package (not yet submitted), and the other has been submitted, meaning the agency can review it.
Finally, you can click the View Just In Time Report button, outlined in purple above, which shows you a concatenated PDF that contains all uploaded files that will be submitted if you click the Submit button. This does not necessarily contain all files, only those slated to be submitted at this time. Other files may have been submitted previously, and those will not appear in the report.

Submitting

The SO can submit the JIT, using the Submit button shown above outlined in green, more than once. For instance, maybe you have four out of five files prepared, but need some time to develop the last file. You can upload the four files and submit, and return later to the JIT to upload the last file and resubmit. And as long as the agency has not yet approved a particular section, you can continue to update the file in that section and resubmit.

To submit all uploaded files, SOs click the Submit button at the bottom of the screen. In the Submit Confirmation popup, click Submit JIT Data to confirm.

Saving

If you are not ready to submit, you can save at any time and return to the JIT later to change it. Saving does not submit anything to the agency, but merely saves the JIT package for you or others to work on later. To save the JIT, click the Save button at the bottom of the screen.

Accessing the JIT Later

After you submit, you can go back to the JIT and make changes. Search for the grant again, and you will see the JIT link under the three-dot ellipsis menu again, with the number of times it has been submitted. Select the JIT link to revisit the JIT.
At this point, you can:

- Upload files for any sections you omitted earlier
- Replace a file that you previously uploaded by uploading a different file. The new file replaces the existing file.

Any additional or replaced files that you upload will be submitted when the SO clicks **Submit**.

**NOTE:** The **JIT** link is removed once an application has been awarded.

### Viewing JIT Information on the Status Information Screen

Once submitted, the submitted JIT files are available to view from within the *Status Information* screen. Access the *Status Information* screen by selecting the application ID (displayed as a link) from any of the Status result screens. See *Status Information*.

**NOTE:** All versions of files you submitted are within the Just in Time report on the Status Information screen. For instance, if you submitted BudgetV1.pdf for the Budget section, then later replaced it with the updated BudgetV2.pdf, you will see both versions of the file in the report on the Status Information screen.

You can view all submitted *Just In Time* materials by clicking a link on the *Status Information* screen. The link displays as the date of the last submission plus the number of times submitted and is located under the **Other Relevant Documents** section.

**Other Relevant Documents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>e-Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Just In Time</strong> 10/29/2020 Times Revised(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eSubmission Cover Letter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 13.14 No-Cost Extension (NCE) for NIH Grants

NIH Standard Terms of Award include the provision for grantees to extend the final budget period of a previously approved project period one time for a period of up to 12 months, without additional NIH funds, and without prior approval. This action, called a No-Cost Extension (NCE), must be taken before the project period ends. An email notification is automatically sent to the grants management specialist. No further action is required by the recipient.
**AHRQ Recipients:** Recipients of Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) awards can use the Status module in eRA Commons to request a No-Cost Extension. However, the specific terms of the AHRQ NCE are different from those for an NIH grant. If you are an AHRQ grantee, please see the alternate topic No-Cost Extension (NCE) for AHRQ Grants for the requirements and steps to request an NCE.

**Policy:** Extension of Final Budget Period of a Previously Approved Project Period without Additional NIH Funds

Grantees may extend the final budget period of the project when the following conditions are met:

- If no additional funds are required from the NIH awarding office
- If there will be no change in the project’s originally approved scope
- If no term of award specifically prohibits the extension

In order to mandate an extension, one of the following criteria must be applicable:

- Additional time beyond the established expiration date is required to ensure adequate completion of the originally approved project
- Continuity of NIH grant support is required while a competing continuation application is under review
- The extension is necessary to permit an orderly phase-out of a project that will not receive continued support

The fact that funds remain at the expiration of the grant is not, in itself, sufficient justification for an extension without additional funds.

To facilitate this process, use the No-Cost Extension feature in the eRA Commons Status module, which allows signing officials (SOs) to request an NCE of between 1 and 12 months. Accessible through Status search results, the link for accessing the feature is available 90 days before the project end date and is removed at midnight on the project end date.

NIH requires grantees to use the No-Cost Extension feature, either in the Status module as shown here for automatic approvals, or in the Prior Approval module, and will not accept requests via any other channels. Use the Status module for NCEs if your grant is eligible for an automatic NCE, in which case an “Extension” link appears in the Actions column of Status grant search. If not eligible for an automatic extension, you can still request prior approval for a NCE when the grant meets certain conditions, described in Requesting a No-Cost Extension with Prior Approval.

To submit a No-Cost Extension:
1. Search for a particular grant using the Status - General Search screen.
2. Click the Extension link from Action column of the appropriate grant on the Status Result - General Search screen.
   The Extension link in the Action column does not appear if the project period was previously extended by the awarding office. Any additional project period extension beyond the one-time extension of up to 12 months requires using the Prior Approval module to request an extension.
   The Extension screen opens.
3. Select the number of months by which to extend the grant by selecting an option from the Extend drop-down list. Selecting an option updates the date in the This will extend the project to text box.
   In extending the final budget period of the project period, the grantee agrees to update all required certifications, including human subjects and animal welfare, in accordance with applicable regulations and policies.
4. Click the Extend Project Date button.

A confirmation screen displays a message You selected to extend the project period for this grant for <#> months.
5. Click the **Confirm** button to continue.

Upon notification, the NIH awarding office will revise the project period ending date and provide an acknowledgment to the grantee.

When an extension without cost is submitted but cannot be processed due to an internal business error, the link displays in Status Result as Extension Error. This link will continue to display until the error has been corrected. Instruction will be given on whom to contact if you need to have the error corrected before resubmitting. Once the error has been corrected, the No-Cost Extension will be processed, and the appropriate eNotifications sent.

### 13.15 No-Cost Extension (NCE) for AHRQ Grants

AHRQ grants under expanded authorities include the provision for grantees to automatically extend the final budget period of a previously approved project period one time for a period of up to 12 months, without additional AHRQ funds, and without prior approval.

This action, called a No-Cost Extension (NCE), must be taken before the project period ends.

**IMPORTANT:** This topic is specifically for Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) awards. For help requesting an extension for an NIH grant, please view this topic: *No-Cost Extension (NCE) for NIH Grants.*

For a full explanation of terms, conditions, and requirements for NCEs for AHRQ grants, go to the following link: [https://www.ahrq.gov/funding/grant-mgmt/nces.html](https://www.ahrq.gov/funding/grant-mgmt/nces.html)

Grantees may extend the final budget period of the project when the following conditions are met:

- If no additional funds are required from the AHRQ awarding office
- If there will be no change in the project’s originally approved scope
If no term of award specifically prohibits the extension

In order to mandate an extension, one of the following criteria must be applicable:

- Additional time beyond the established expiration date is required to ensure adequate completion of the originally approved project
- Continuity of grant support is required while a competing continuation application is under review
- The extension is necessary to permit an orderly phase-out of a project that will not receive continued support

The fact that funds remain at the expiration of the grant is not, in itself, sufficient justification for an extension without additional funds.

To receive an extension, use the No-Cost Extension (NCE) feature that exists in eRA Commons Status module, which allows signing official (SO) users to request an NCE of 1 to 12 months. Accessible through Status search results, the link for accessing the feature is available 90 days before the project end date and is removed at midnight on the project end date.

AHRQ requires grantees to use the No-Cost Extension feature in the Status module, as shown here, for automatic first-time approvals and will not accept requests via other channels. Do not use the Prior Approval module No-Cost Extension feature if you need to make a second No-Cost Extension; instead see [https://www.ahrq.gov/funding/grant-mgmt/nces.html](https://www.ahrq.gov/funding/grant-mgmt/nces.html) for instructions.

To submit a No-Cost Extension:

1. Search for a particular grant using the *Status - General Search* screen.
2. Click the *Extension* link from *Action* column of the appropriate grant on the *Status Result - General Search* screen.
   - The *Extension* link in the *Action* column does not appear if the project period was previously extended by the awarding office. Any additional project period extension beyond the one-time extension of up to 12 months requires contacting the grants management specialist on your most recent Notice of Award.

   The *Extension* screen opens.

3. Select the number of months by which to extend the grant by selecting an option from the *Extend* drop-down list. Selecting an option updates the date in the *This will extend the project to* text box.

In extending the final budget period of the project period, the grantee agrees to update all required certifications, including human subjects and animal welfare, in accordance with applicable regulations and policies.
4. Click the **Extend Project Date** button.

A confirmation screen displays a message **You selected to extend the project period for this grant for <#> months.**

5. Click the **Confirm** button to continue.

Upon completion, the project period end date will be updated and an acknowledgment will be emailed to the grantee.

When an extension without cost is submitted but cannot be processed due to an internal business error, the link displays in Status Result as Extension Error. This link will continue to display until the error has been corrected. Instruction will be given on whom to contact if you need to have the error corrected before resubmitting. Once the error has been corrected, the No-Cost Extension will be processed, and the appropriate eNotifications sent.
13.16 Change of Institution

The Change of Institution process in eRA Commons allows extramural grantee institutions to submit Relinquishing Statements electronically via Commons. Relinquishing Statements (RS) are the official documents relinquishing interests and rights to Public Health Service (PHS) research grants and typically accompany a change of institution or successor in interest request.

The Manage Relinquishing Statement and Relinquishing Statement screens are accessible via the Status module.

For more information, refer to the collection of topics within the Commons Online Help for Change of Institution (http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/commons/default.htm#ChgInst_Overview.htm) or the Commons Change of Institution User Guide (http://era.nih.gov/files/ccoi_userguide.pdf).

13.17 Unfunded Application Notification

NIH will send centralized automated correspondence to applicant organizations notifying them of NIH’s intent not to fund the indicated applications. A consolidated email, listing the applications which NIH does not intend to fund, will be sent by the NIH eRA system to the authorized organization representative (AOR) and signing official (SO) listed in the grant application, and the Notice of Award email address listed in the applicant’s Institutional Profile. The email will be sent approximately 14 months after the application’s council date.

In addition to receiving official email correspondence, applicants can identify if the Unfunded Application Notification has been sent for a specific grant application in the eRA Commons.

Please also note that the funding decisions indicated in the correspondence are specific to the applications included in the email and have no impact on subsequent submissions, including resubmissions. No changes have been made to NIH’s application submission/resubmission policy, as outlined in NOT-OD-18-197.

Authorized eRA Commons users (PIs, SOs, and delegated Assistants) can see if an unfunded application notification has been sent for a specific application by viewing the Status Information in eRA Commons, which also shows the date the unfunded notification was sent. However, external users cannot view the content of the notification through eRA Commons.
13.18 Additional Materials Requests

Some award types allow grantees to upload and submit additional materials to the funding agency. You can use the Add Additional Materials action in the Status module to access the screen to add additional materials.

If you are working on an "Other Transactions" (OT) agreement (screen is named OTA - Submitting Additional Materials to Agency), see:

Responding to Additional Materials Requests from the Funding Agency

If you are working on a Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics awards for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) grant (screen is named Submitting Additional Materials to Agency), see:

Submitting Interim Reports for RADx Grants

13.18.1 Responding to Additional Materials Requests from the Funding Agency

Some award types, such as "Other Transactions" (OT) types, allow awardees to upload and submit additional materials to the funding agency. In the Status module of eRA Commons, awardees for these award types can submit relevant information, such as progress reports, at the frequency required by the awarding agency, or to provide a response to an ad-hoc request made outside the eRA system.

"Other Transactions" (OT) are funding mechanisms other than contracts, grants or cooperative agreements. Awards funded under Other Transactions Authority (OTA) are referred to as OT or OTA and have "OT" as the activity code portion of the award number.

Contact principal investigators (PI) can start the process by uploading requested documents and notifying the signing official (SO), who then logs into eRA Commons and ultimately approves the submission by submitting it to the agency. Requests for additional materials may take place outside the Status module through email or some other communication mechanism or as part of the Notice of Award conditions.
Only signing officials can actually submit the additional materials. Contact principal investigators can add the requested materials and notify the SO via the Submitting Additional Materials to Agency screen, but the SO must sign into eRA Commons and actually submit the materials.

In a Status search results list, awardees initially see Add Additional Materials in the Action column for their award. If materials have been added but not yet submitted, the option is labeled Edit Additional Materials.

![Status Result - List of Applications/Awards](image)

Principal Investigator View of Status Results

![Status Result - General Search](image)

Signing Official View of Status Results

**To Submit Additional Materials for an Award:**

1. Log in to [eRA Commons](https://era.nih.gov) with your PI or SO user ID and password.
2. Open the Status module and locate the award that requires additional materials. See Steps for AOR/SO to Check Submission Status or Status for Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PI Role).
3. Click the Add Additional Materials option in the Actions column. The Submitting Additional Materials to Agency screen appears.
4. Click **Upload** and add a file from your drive. You are limited to 10 files per Additional Materials submission, and the files must be one of these common file types: gif, .jpg, .bmp, .png, .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx, .msg and .pdf; otherwise an error message appears. For uploaded files, you can:
   - Click **View** and the browser will open or download the file.
   - Click **Delete** to remove the file.

You can upload multiple files simultaneously by dragging and dropping the files to the upload files area of the screen.

5. In the comments field, give details on what the material is or why it is being submitted. Any comments entered by the PI and/or SO can be viewed by agency staff. The PI/SO can also review submissions, including comments, on the **Status Information** screen.

6. At the bottom of the form, click one of the buttons, which are different if you are an SO vs. a PI:
   - **Save.** Saves the submission and attached materials without submitting. Do this if you plan to come back to the request later and add or edit materials.
- **Delete.** Removes the submission and attached materials. Do this if you decide you do not need to add additional materials at this time.

- **Notify SO.** If you are a PI, you see the **Notify SO** button. Only the SO can submit the materials to the agency. Click the **Notify SO** button if you are ready for the SO to review and submit the additional materials, then click OK in the confirmation message that appears. The SO will subsequently receive a notification email to log in and submit materials.

- **Submit.** If you are an SO, you see a Submit button whether you prepared the additional materials submission yourself, or if a PI prepared the submission earlier. As an SO, you can also view documents and make any desired changes to the submission prepared by a PI before submitting.

![Image of Cancel, Save, Delete, and Submit buttons]

After you submit additional materials, you will receive an email notifying you of the submission. Agency staff will view the submission in the Grant Folder, and will return the submission if it is found to be insufficient. All submissions, including those that are returned, are accessible to you in the **Submissions by Awardee** area of the detailed **Status Information** screen, which will include a rationale for returning the submission.

**To Check Additional Materials Submission Status:**

The PI and SO can view submission details, including comments, on the **Status Information** screen. Additionally, comments entered by the PI or SO can be viewed by agency staff.

1. Log in to [eRA Commons](https://era.nih.gov/) with your PI or SO user ID and password.
2. Open the **Status** module and search for the award that requires additional materials. See [Steps for AOR/SO to Check Submission Status](https://era.nih.gov/). or [Status for Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PI Role)](https://era.nih.gov/).

3. In Status search results, click the award number in the **Application/Award ID** column, which opens the detailed **Status Information** screen.

4. Scroll to the **Submission by Awardee** section and view the Status.
   - **Submitted.** Submitted but not yet evaluated by agency.
   - **Rejected.** Submitted and not accepted by agency due to insufficiencies.
5. Click the **View** button and read the **Comments** section to see comments from the agency.

If a submission is rejected, the awardee can address rejection comments by making another submission.

### 13.18.2 Submitting Interim Reports for RADx Grants

Certain *Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics* (RADx) grantees can submit their interim reports using the **Add Additional Materials** action in the Status module.

The following guide notices provide instructions on content and frequency of reports for the RADx grants eligible to use this functionality:
Updated Instructions on Interim Reporting and Carryover for RADx-UP Recipients

Updated Reporting Requirements for RADx-rad Grant Recipients

Further information on the RADx programs can be found on the RadX Programs website.

Contact principal investigators (PI) can start the process by uploading requested documents and notifying the signing official (SO), who then logs into eRA Commons and ultimately approves the submission by submitting it to the agency. Requests for additional materials may take place outside the Status module through email or some other communication mechanism or as part of the Notice of Award conditions.

Only signing officials can actually submit the additional materials. Contact principal investigators can add the requested materials and notify the SO via the Submitting Additional Materials to Agency screen, but the SO must sign into eRA Commons and actually submit the materials.

In a Status search results list, awardees initially see Add Additional Materials in the Action column for their award. If materials have been added but not yet submitted, the option is labeled Edit Additional Materials.

Principal Investigator View of Status Results
Signing Official View of Status Results

To Submit Additional Materials for an Award:

1. Log in to eRA Commons with your PI or SO user ID and password.
2. Open the Status module and locate the award that requires additional materials. See Steps for AOR/SO to Check Submission Status or Status for Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PI Role).
3. Click the Add Additional Materials option in the Actions column. The Submitting Additional Materials to Agency screen appears.

4. Click Upload and add a file from your drive. You are limited to 10 files per Additional Materials submission, and the files must be one of these common file types: gif, .jpg, .bmp, .png, .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx, .msg and .pdf; otherwise an error message appears. For uploaded files, you can:
   - Click View and the browser will open or download the file.
   - Click Delete to remove the file.
You can upload multiple files simultaneously by dragging and dropping the files to the upload files area of the screen.

5. In the comments field, give details on what the material is or why it is being submitted. Any comments entered by the PI and/or SO can be viewed by agency staff. The PI/SO can also review submissions, including comments, on the Status Information screen.

6. At the bottom of the form, click one of the buttons, which are different if you are an SO vs. a PI:
   - **Save.** Saves the submission and attached materials without submitting. Do this if you plan to come back to the request later and add or edit materials.
   - **Delete.** Removes the submission and attached materials. Do this if you decide you do not need to add additional materials at this time.
   - **Notify SO.** If you are a PI, you see the Notify SO button. Only the SO can submit the materials to the agency. Click the Notify SO button if you are ready for the SO to review and submit the additional materials, then click OK in the confirmation message that appears. The SO will subsequently receive a notification email to log in and submit materials.
   - **Submit.** If you are an SO, you see a Submit button whether you prepared the additional materials submission yourself, or if a PI prepared the submission earlier. As an SO, you can also view documents and make any desired changes to the submission prepared by a PI before submitting.

After you submit additional materials, you will receive an email notifying you of the submission. Agency staff will view the submission in the Grant Folder, and will return the submission if it is found to be insufficient. All submissions, including those that are returned, are accessible to you in the **Submissions by Awardee** area of the detailed Status Information screen, which will include a rationale for returning the submission.

**To Check Additional Materials Submission Status:**

The PI/SO can view submission details including comments in the Status Information folder. Additionally, comments entered by the PI and/or SO can be viewed by agency staff.

1. Log in to [ERA Commons](https://era-commons.gov) with your PI or SO user ID and password.
2. Open the **Status** module and search for the award that requires additional materials.
   - See [Steps for AOR/SO to Check Submission Status](https://era-commons.gov) or [Status for Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PI Role)](https://era-commons.gov).

---

Status Module 252 September 08, 2021
3. In Status search results, click the award number in the Application/Award ID column, which opens the detailed Status Information screen.

4. Scroll to the Submission by Awardee section and view the Status.
   - **Submitted.** Submitted but not yet evaluated by agency.
   - **Rejected.** Submitted and not accepted by agency due to insufficiencies.

5. Click the View button and read the Comments section to see comments from the agency.
If a submission is rejected, the awardee can address rejection comments by making another submission.
14 Prior Approval Module

**Policy:** See section 2.3.7.2 under "Policies Affecting Applications"

NIH Policy allows grantees a level of discretion when making changes to budgeting or grant-related activities. However, some changes require written prior approval.

The Prior Approval module lets principal investigators (PIs) and signing officials (SOs) respond to a 500K prior approval invitations from the granting agency or to withdraw from successfully submitted grant application that has not yet been awarded. In addition, SOs can also request a change of the PD/PI on a grant and request No Cost Extensions when the grant meets specific conditions.

Signing officials (SO) and program directors/principal investigators (PD/PIs) can access the Prior Approval module by logging into eRA Commons and then clicking Prior Approval in eRA Commons navigation.

To initiate a $500K request, first contact your program official. (See the 500K section for more detail.)

**To access the Prior Approval module:**

1. Log in to eRA Commons.
2. Navigate to the Prior Approval module.
   a. On the main Prior Approval screen, PIs can
      - Initiate a Withdrawal Request
      - Respond to a 500K invitation if one exists.
      - See prior requests made by the PI using the List My Requests button.
   b. On the main Prior Approval screen, SOs can
      - Initiate a Withdrawal Request, Change of PD/PI, No Cost Extension, or Carryover.
      - List existing requests for the institution.
      - Search for existing requests.
14.1 List My Requests

You can use **List My Requests** on the *Prior Approval* landing screen to view existing Prior Approval Requests.

**List My Requests** is available to both PIs and SOs.

The **PI view** of **List My Request** displays all Prior Approval Requests for applications on which the PI is the Contact PI.

The **SO view** of **List My Request** displays all Prior Approval Requests in status *Pending SO* for the institution. If the SO would like to see a Prior Approval that is not in *Pending SO* status, they should use the **Search Prior Approval** feature.

1. To access the List My Request list, select **List My Requests** from the *Prior Approval Landing* screen.
The user is taken to the hitlist of Prior Approval requests.

2. Select the grant you wish to initiate the request for.
3. The system will initiate the request and redirect the user to the Modify Request screen.

If the request was initiated in error, the user may choose to delete the request via the Delete button on the Modify Request page.

If the request was routed to a reviewer and needs to be recalled, please follow those instructions in the Recall section.

14.2 Search for Existing Prior Approval Requests

Only SOs can access the Search for Requests option under the Existing Prior Approval Requests on the Prior Approval landing screen.

An SO must be affiliated with the institution that initiated the request.

PIs use the List My Requests option to see a hitlist of requests where they are the current reviewer. See the List My Requests topic for more information.

To search for a request:
1. To search for existing requests, select **Search For Requests**.

![Search for Requests](image1)

2. The "Search Prior Approval Requests" screen will open. On this screen, use any of the available search fields to find requests for the institution.

![Search Prior Approval Requests](image2)

3. Search on the following criteria:
   - Request ID
   - Request Type (select from "Withdrawal Request or "500K Request")
   - Request Status (select from "Submitted to Agency", "In Progress SO", or "In Progress PI").
   - PI Lookup (names of valid, matching PIs begin to appear as the user begins typing)
   - Activity Code, IC, Serial
   - Submission Date Range (From: and To:)

4. After entering search criteria, select the **Search** button to perform the search. Selecting **Clear Search** clears the search boxes in preparation for another search.
   - Once **Search** has been selected, the screen expands to display a hit list of all requests based on the search criteria.
5. Choose available View and Modify options from the Actions column.

- **View PDF** Opens a read-only PDF version of the request
- **View History** - to view the progress of the request
- **Modify** opens the **Modify Request** screen to allow editing
- **View** the request - opens the **View Request** screen that displays a read-only version of the request.

### 14.3 $500K Requests

If you are an applicant planning to submit a grant application with $500,000 or more in direct costs in any one budget year (excluding consortium F & A costs), you are required to contact your program official (PO) and obtain approval from the funding agency six (6) weeks prior to application submission.

If the PO determines that you want to receive the request through an electronic process, the PO initiates an invitation to the principal investigator (PI), which opens up a request in the **Prior Approval** module. The PI and the Notice of Award contact for the organization/application will receive an email notifying them of the invitation.

The option to submit a $500K request is not visible in the **Prior Approval** module of eRA Commons until the PO has initiated the invitation.

**Go to the Prior Approval module** in eRA Commons to begin the process.

**Respond to $500K Request from PO**

1. On the **Prior Approval** main screen, under the **Existing Prior Approval Requests** section, click the **List My Requests** button (PI), or **Search for Requests** button (SO).
Signing Officials are taken to a search screen where they can search for requests within their institution. If a request is in the status of "In Progress SO", the SO can proceed to modify the request. However, if the request is in another status, the SO must perform a recall to modify it.

2. For PIs, the next screen shows a list of Prior Approval requests that are available to modify. Select the "Modify" link in the Action column. The Request Type will be "500K" and the Prior Approval Status will be "In Progress PI".

For SOS to modify the request, they will need to be the current reviewer or they will need to perform a recall as noted above in order to become the current reviewer. Once the request is in the "In Progress SO" status, the SO will be able to modify the request.
PI

SO View after Recall process

PI
1. The Prior Approval Request 500K - Modify Request screen displays.

The system will pre-populate these fields:

- Principal Investigator (PI)
- Organization
- IC (to which the application will be submitted)
- Program Official information (based on the invitation from the PO.)

2. The following required [*] fields must be populated in order to continue the process:
   - Project Title
   - FOA
   - Anticipated Submission Date
   - Justification

SO
1. The Prior Approval Request 500K - Modify Request screen displays.

```
Principal Investigator (PI)
WEBB, CHARLOTTE

Project Title
[Project Title (as it will be submitted)]

Organization
UNIVERSITY OF CAVITUS

FOA
[foa]

Anticipated Submission Date
[anticipated submission date]

Program Official
WILLIAMS, GARTH

Activity Code
[activity code]

Serial
[serial]

Justification
[Provide an abstract-type of justification here for the project. The character limit is 500]

Supporting Documents

File Name Date Created Action
Quaresa.pdf 08/08/2016 View Delete

Cancel View History Save Route Submit
```

2. On the modify screen, the SO must provide the following information in order to continue the process:
   - **Project Title**
   - **FOA** (Funding Opportunity Announcement Number)
   - **Anticipated Submission Date** - The date the application is expected to be submitted. This date may not be in the past, or more than 120 days in the future.
   - **Justification** - This is a brief description of the justification to submit for over $500K. The character limit 500.

If the $500K request is being submitted for a Renewal (Type 2) application, the user may also provide the Activity Code and Serial Number of the grant family.

3. When finished, click the appropriate button at the bottom of the $500K - Modify Request screen for the next action.

**Submitting the $500K Request**
All required (*) fields must be populated before submission.

- The PI may now submit the request.
- If the PI chooses to do so, they may route the request to an SO for review and final submission.
- Upon a successful submission, the system will send an email notification the submitter, as well as to the associated PI, informing them that the request was submitted to the Agency.

1. Click **Submit**.

   The *Submit Confirmation* screen will appear.

   ![Submit Confirmation]

   

   2. Click **Yes** and a *Success* notification will appear at the top of the screen.

   ![Success notification]

### 14.4 Withdraw a Grant Application

Both PIs and SOs may initiate Withdrawal Requests but only an SO may submit them.

**Initiate a Withdrawal request:**

1. On the **Prior Approval** main page, select *Withdrawal Request* from **Request type:** dropdown and click **Go**.
The system displays a hitlist of all grant applications eligible for withdrawal in the Withdrawal - Available Grants screen. The type of information displayed is based on the users' role.

A PI will see grants that are eligible for withdrawal on which they are the contact PI.

An SO will see grants eligible for withdrawal at their institution. The SO also has the ability to search by entering; Grants.gov Tracking #; Application ID (Grant Number); or the PI name, and then selecting the Search button.

When searching by PI, the hitlist will only show those grants on which that investigator is the contact PI. If the investigator is associated with a Multi-PI grant, but is not the contact PI, those grants will not be part of the search results.
Applications that have gone through council review and any with the following statuses will not display in the hit list.
- Awarded
- Withdrawn
- Canceled

2. Select one grant application by clicking the radio button on the left.
3. Click the **Initiate Withdrawal Request** button to initiate the withdrawal request.
   - The user is redirected to the **Modify Request** screen, where they can add justifications and supporting documents for the request withdrawal (see [Modify Prior Approval Requests](#)).

There are times that the agency may be taking action on the application that will prevent users from withdrawing their application through Prior Approval system. In these cases, the system will display the following error: **There is a pending agency action on Application, please submit your withdrawal request to Division of Receipt and Referral.**

Once the Withdrawal Request is ready to submit, an SO must perform that action. See [Submit a Withdrawal Request](#) for more information.

**Modify an Existing Prior Approval Request**

Once a Prior Approval Request is initiated, it is available for modification by the current reviewer.

Users are taken to the **Modify Request** screen when the user selects:
- The **Initiate** button from the **Available Grants** screen
- The **Modify** button from either the **List My Requests** hitlist, or the **Search Prior Approval Request** hitlist.

**To Modify the Request:**
The *Modify Request* screen contains a read-only heading section and request information.

Users may perform the following actions on the Modify Request screen:

1. Enter or modify Justification.
2. Upload PDF documents (not to exceed 5MB. Some limits on the number of documents may apply per FOA or PO direction). The user may also delete uploaded PDF documents.
3. Select the **View History** button to see the actions taken so far.
4. **Route** the request (from SO to PI or vice versa).
5. **Delete** the request.
6. Select the **Save** button to save any changes on the screen.
7. Select the **Cancel** button to return to the *Prior Approval* landing page.

$500K requests cannot be deleted

**Submit a Withdrawal Request**

Only a Signing Official (SO) can submit a withdrawal request and only when the SO is the current reviewer of the report.

Grantees are strongly encouraged to review the Withdrawal Request prior to submission, to ensure all relevant information and attachments are provided.

**To submit the Withdrawal Request to agency:**

1. Select the **Modify** button from the **Action** column of the *List My Requests* screen. Users are automatically directed to the *Modify Request* screen.
2. Once the required justification has been entered, and all supporting documents have been uploaded, select the **Submit** button from the bottom of the *Modify Request* screen.

3. A confirmation box displays. Click **Yes**.

- A message displays on the screen indicating that the request has been successfully submitted.

- A notification is sent to the submitting SO and PI(s) that the Withdrawal request has been submitted to Agency.

### 14.5 Request a No Cost Extension with Prior Approval

Most grants allow an automatic No-Cost Extension via the Extension link in the Status module. If the grant is not eligible for the automatic extension via the Status module, you can instead use the Prior Approval module to request an extension, which is contingent on NIH approval.
**AHRQ Recipients:** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) does not support the Prior Approval method of requesting an NCE. Recipients of AHRQ awards must use the Status module in eRA Commons to request a no cost extension. The specific terms for an AHRQ NCE are different from an NIH grant. If you are a AHRQ grantee, please see the alternate help topic *No-Cost Extension (NCE) for AHRQ Grants* for the requirements and steps to request an NCE.

A signing official (SO) can request a No-Cost Extension in the following situations:

- If the Grant has previously had a No Cost Extension and less than 90 days remain before project period End Date.
- The Grant has previously had a No cost Extension and the application is within 270 days after the end of the project period End Date has passed, but the grant has not been closed.
- The Grant does not have an expanded authority and less than 90 days remain before the project period end date.
- The Grant does not have an expanded authority and the application is within 270 days after the end of the project period end date has passed, but the grant has not been closed.

Users may modify these requests until they are submitted to the agency.

NCEs may not be submitted if they contain errors but they may be submitted with warnings.

NCE request may not be submitted for grants for which the closeout process has begun.

**Initiate a No Cost Extension**

Log into Commons and select the *Prior Approval tab*.

From the drop-down menu in the *Initiate a Prior Approval Request* section, select the option for a *No Cost Extension* and click the *Go* button.

The *No Cost Extension - Modify Request* screen will open. All fields and listed documents are required in order to submit the request.
Saving the request for later completion and submission (if needed)

If it is necessary to complete the request at a later time, click the **Save** button. A confirmation message will be displayed if all required fields have been completed.
Modifying a request

Between the time that a request has been initiated and before it is submitted to the agency, an SO may modify the request.

The SO may perform this action by clicking either List My Requests (if the SO initiated it), or Search for Requests (if a different SO initiated the request) from the Prior Approval landing page.

From the resulting hitlist, click the Modify link in the Action column. This will take you to the Modify Request screen.

On the Modify Request screen, update the information as appropriate. At this stage, all of the action buttons at the bottom are available. You may choose to,

- **Submit** - if all of the information is entered and accurate
- **Save** - if additional updates may still be required
- **View History** - to see the actions that have been taken so far and who performed the action
- **Cancel** - if the current actions should not be saved
- **Delete** - to remove the request entirely.

**Canceling a request**

When you click the **Cancel** button your browser will leave the *Modify Request* page and go back to the previous page. You will be presented with a confirmation message to confirm your actions. Once **Yes** is clicked, you will be taken back to the previous page. If you have saved any information in the *Modify Request* page, it will still be available to update later.
Deleting a request

If you decide to delete the request while on the Modify Request page, simply click the Delete button and any activity you have performed will be deleted and the screen will return to the prior page.

If you have saved information and are no longer on the Modify Request page, you may still look up the request from the Prior Approval landing page. Click the List My Requests button to list requests that you have initiated, or click the Search for Requests button and perform a search to find the request to be deleted.

From the resulting hitlist, for either method, click the Modify link in the Action column for the desired request. This action will open the Modify Request page. At the bottom of the page, click the Delete button. You will be presented with a confirmation message to confirm your actions. Once Yes is clicked, you will be taken back to the Prior Approval landing page.

Submitting the request to the agency

When all fields have been populated and all required files have been uploaded, click Submit to send the request to the Agency. A confirmation message will be displayed asking for a second confirmation that you wish to submit. Click the Yes button on that message to submit. Once the system validates that all required fields have been completed and all required documents uploaded, a message will be displayed indicating a successful submission.

If the grant has been closed, it will not be eligible for an NCE and an error message will display.
View the history of the request

Use either the **List My Requests** or the **Search for Requests** button to find the request.

In the resulting hitlist, select the **Modify** or **View History** link in the **Actions** column. The link will say **Modify** until the request has been submitted to the agency. After a successful submission, the link will change to **View History**.

Clicking the **Modify** link will open up the same **Modify Request** screen used for the initial information. At the bottom of the screen, click the **View History** button to see the history of the request.
Clicking the View History link from the search results Action column or the View History button from the Modify Request screen will open up the View History screen that will show what actions have taken place on the request.

![View History Screen](image)

### 14.6 Requesting a Change of PD/PI on a Grant

When it is necessary to change the program director/principal investigator (PD/PI) on a grant, a signing official (SO) can use the Prior Approval module to create and submit the request to the agency.

PD/PIs do not see the option for a change of PD/PI(s) in the Prior Approval module.

The following are the available functions for a change of PD/PI and who may process them:

- **Initiate**: any SO
- **Modify/Save**: Current reviewer*
- **Delete**: Current reviewer*
- **Route**: Current reviewer*
- **Submit to Agency**: any SO
- **View**: Person who is not the current reviewer*

* Current Reviewer is determined by the role of the user and the Change of PD/PI Status (for example, if a Change of PD/PI is SO Pending, any SO can work on the request.)

**Initiate a Change of PD/PI Request (SO Role)**

1. Select Change of PD/PI Request from the Request type: drop-down menu and click Go.
2. Grants *eligible* for this change are displayed:
3. • Grant year is the most recent awarded year in the segment
   • Grant family is not past the Project Period End Date
   • Grant is not a Fellowship
   • Grant is from an IC/Agency that supports Change of PD/PI
   • Administrative Supplements cannot have a Change of PD/PI initiated

4. SO selects a grant and initiates request:

   If the grant selected already has a pending Change of PD/PI request already pending in the PA Module, the system will display an error message. This error message will contain the pending request number which is a link from which user can access the pending request.

   - If no pending request exists, the system assigns a Prior Approval ID number to the request
   - Request is set to: In Progress SO
   - The user is taken to the Change of PD/PI Modify Request page
### Prior Approval Request
Change of PD/PI - Modify Request

**Application Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PD/PI User ID</th>
<th>Name of PD/PI</th>
<th>Grants Management Specialist</th>
<th>Program Official</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRYSTALMAX</td>
<td>Crystal, Billy</td>
<td>Max, Miracle</td>
<td>Montoya, Inigo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:eRATest@mail.nih.gov">eRATest@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:eRATest@mail.nih.gov">eRATest@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grant #:** Type Act IC Serial# Year Suffix
1K01HL123456-01

**Institution:** UNIVERSITY OF FLORIN

**Budget Period:** 08/01/2016 - 07/31/2017

**Project Period:** 08/01/2016 - 07/31/2021

### Request Detail

**Request ID:** 400

**PD/PI Assigned to Current Grant Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PD/PI Name</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>CRYSTALMAX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PD/PI Name**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name, First name</th>
<th>PD/PI ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Biosketch**

**Add/New**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PD/PI Name</th>
<th>PD/PI ID</th>
<th>Contact PD/PI</th>
<th>Cal</th>
<th>Aca</th>
<th>Sum</th>
<th>Bio Sketch</th>
<th>Other Support</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crystal, Billy</td>
<td>CRYSTALMAX</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Effective Date**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mm/dd/yyyy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Justification Document**

Drag up to 1 file(s) here to upload.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Name</th>
<th>Date Created</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No documents provided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Cancel] [View History] [Save] [Delete] [Submit]
The Change of PD/PI Modify Request page consists of a read only header, OPERA-mandated questions (which may be optional), and IC-specified document uploads.

The current reviewer can modify the following on a Change of PD/PI Modify Request:

- Add a PD/PI
- Remove PD/PI
- Mark PD/PI as Contact PD/PI
- Add Level of effort for PD/PI (calendar, or academic and/or summer. May not be zero "0".)
- Effective Date
- Justification
- Leadership for Grants that will become MPI
- Upload Bio Sketch (for each PD/PI)
  - Limit one (1) PDF per PD/PI, and file may not exceed 6 MB.
- Human Subjects checkbox
- Other Support upload (for each PD/PI)
- Other Documents (up to 10, 6 MB size limit per file)
- IC specific upload

4. When information for a new PD/PI is entered, click the Add/New button. A confirmation pop-up will open, click the Yes button to confirm the change.

5. The SO may Save the request at this time if the request is not ready to submit. When the Save button is clicked, a message should appear at the top of the page indicating that the request has been saved.

Submit the request to the agency
When all fields have been populated and all required files have been uploaded, click **Submit** to send the request to the Agency. A confirmation message will be displayed asking for a second confirmation that you wish to submit. Click the **Yes** button on that message to submit. Once the system validates that all required fields have been completed and all required documents uploaded, a message will be displayed indicating a successful submission.

Other actions that occur are:

- System generates a PDF of the request including uploaded documents
- System sends notifications (SO, GMS, PO)
- System Stores PDF in Grant Folder for internal and external users

**Cancel a request**

When you click the **Cancel** button your browser will leave the **Modify Request** page and go back to the previous page. You will be presented with a confirmation message to confirm your actions. Once **Yes** is clicked, you will be taken back to the previous page. If you have saved any information in the **Modify Request** page, it will still be available to update later.

**Delete a request**

If you decide to delete the request while on the **Modify Request** page, simply click the **Delete** button and any activity you have performed will be deleted and the screen will return to the prior page.

If you have saved information and are no longer on the Modify Request page, you may still look up the request from the **Prior Approval** landing page. Click the **List My Requests** button.
to list requests that you have initiated, or click the **Search for Requests** button and perform a search to find the request to be deleted.

From the resulting hitlist, for either method, click the **Modify** link in the **Action** column for the desired request. This action will open the **Modify Request** page. At the bottom of the page, click the **Delete** button. You will be presented with a confirmation message to confirm your actions. Once **Yes** is clicked, you will be taken back to the **Prior Approval** landing page.

**View the history of the request**

Use either the **List My Requests** or the **Search for Requests** button to find the request.

In the resulting hitlist, select the **Modify** or **View History** link in the **Actions** column. The link will say **Modify** until the request has been submitted to the agency. After a successful submission, the link will change to **View History**.

Clicking the **Modify** link will open up the same **Modify Request** screen used for the initial information. At the bottom of the screen, click the **View History** button to see the history of the request.

Clicking the **View History** link from the search results **Action** column or the **View History** button from the **Modify Request** screen will open up the **View History** screen that will show what actions have taken place on the request.
14.7 Carryover

14.7.1 Overview

Carryover is a process through which unobligated funds remaining at the end of the budget period may be carried forward to the next budget period. The carryover of funds allows the Grantees to use the unused prior year funds in the current budget period. Grantees are allowed to carryover funds automatically if they have the expanded authority for their application for all others, Grantees need to submit a carryover request to their respective Grants Management Specialists and Program Officials who will review their request.

14.7.2 Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Carryover request through the Prior Approval module, the Grantees should have satisfied the following conditions:

- The grant is still active, meaning the project period has not ended, or a Prior Approval NCE request has been submitted by the institution requesting additional time and the grant has not gone into closeout or unilateral closeout.
- The grant does not have an Expanded authority (Expanded authority is based on the activity code of the application, or set by the IC in GM Module).
- The request date is within the current budget period date.
- The grant is not for a Fellowship application.

14.7.3 Required Information and Documents

Grantees who satisfy the above conditions are allowed to submit their request through the Prior Approval module available in their Commons system. When submitting their request, enter the amount of the funds to be carried over in the Request Details section. In the remaining sections, upload the following PDF documents:

- Explanation of unobligated balance
- Detailed Budget
- Scientific Justification
14.7.4 Validation on Submission

When the request is submitted, the NIH system will verify;

- That all required fields have been filled out.
- The system will display a warning message if:
  - There are any Prior year outstanding FFRs (Federal Financial Reports) that need to be submitted.

Or

- Any prior year FFR has been submitted and rejected by the agency and the grantee has resubmitted the FFR.

14.7.5 No Cost Extension and Carryover

If the grant is eligible for a No Cost Extension when the Carryover request is initiated, the system will provide the ability to initiate a No Cost Extension. A No Cost Extension request can be initiated if either of the following conditions are satisfied

- If Project period end date is with 90 days.

Or

- The Project Period End Date has passed, and the grant is not in closeout or unilateral closeout.

14.8 Carryover Request Process

You must hold an SO role to initiate a carryover request.

14.8.1 Initiate Carryover Request

On the Prior Approval main screen, select Carryover from the Initiate a Prior Approval Request drop-down menu.

All grants eligible for Carryover are displayed.
Optionally, filter the list by entering a complete grant number, or a partial PI name, and clicking **Search**.

**Clear Search** shows all eligible grants again.

Select a grant from the list and then click the **Initiate Carryover** button.

The **Modify Request** screen for Carryover opens.
Prior Approval Request Carryover - Modify Request

Application Information

PD/PI User ID: KHAN
Name of PD/PI: KHAN, DINESH

Grant #: Type Act IC Serial# Year Suffix: 5UM1AI144298-02

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR

Grants Management Specialist: Dilo, Maria
Maria@nih.gov

Application Title: University of Michigan Clinical Autoimm

Budget Period: 05/01/2020 - 04/30/2021

Request Detail

Request ID: 12552

Amount of Funds to be Carried Over: 20000

Explanation of Unobligated Balance

Upload Complete.

Upload
Browse

File Name
Explanation.pdf

Detailed Budget

Upload Complete.

Upload
Browse

File Name
budget.pdf

Scientific Justification

Upload Complete.

Upload
Browse
• Each section of the Modify Request page is required. These sections include:
  ○ **Application Information** - Pre-populated from system information. If the grant is a Multi-IC grant, the PO shown is the one associated with the primary IC.
  ○ **Request Detail** - The Request ID is system-generated. You must enter the amount of funds to carryover. This field only accepts numbers and period with values up to two decimals.
  ○ **Explanation of Unobligated Balance** - Upload a single PDF document in this section detailing why funds were not spent.
  ○ **Detailed Budget** - Upload single a PDF document in this section with a budget that incorporates how the carryover funds will be spent.
  ○ **Scientific Justification** - Upload a single PDF document in this section that explains the need for the carryover funding from a scientific perspective.

• Click on **Save** to preserve any changes made. A message is displayed to indicate a successful save and they system will remain on the page.

• Once you enter and upload all necessary information, click **Submit**. This validates the request to ensure all required items have been included and marks the application as "Submitted to the agency".

• After you click either **Save** or **Submit**, the **View History** button becomes available to show the progression of changes made to the request.

• If you want to discard changes made on this screen, click the **Cancel** button. This takes you back to the page from which they entered the Modify Request page.

• To remove the Carryover request if you previously saved it, select the **Delete** button. A pop-up message will appear to confirm the action. If "Yes" is selected, all information related to the request will be removed. If "No" is selected, the system will stay on the Modify Request page.

### 14.8.2 View Saved or Submitted Requests

• Once a Carryover request has been saved or submitted, you can view it again by going to the Prior Approval main screen and selecting:
  ○ **List my Requests** to display a list of all prior approval requests, which might be numerous and unwieldy. See [List My Requests](#).
  ○ **Search for Requests** to enter search criteria to narrow the results shown. You can search specifically for Carryover requests by selecting Carryover Request from the Request Type dropdown in the search screen. See [Search for Existing Prior Approval Requests](#).

• The resulting search displays only Carryover requests. The options the three-dot ellipsis menu in the **Action** column are determined by the status of the request.
  ○ If the status is In Progress SO, you can Modify the request.
  ○ If the status is Submitted to Agency will have the options to **View History** and **View PDF**.
14.8.3 Modify Request

If you are a SO, you can modify 'In Progress SO' requests. If you are a PI, you can modify 'In Progress PI' requests. Requests that are submitted to the Agency cannot be modified. If you want to change a request, first find it using the List My Requests or Search for Requests buttons.
- Click on the Modify link in the **Actions** column.
- The *Modify Request* screen will open showing what the information that has been entered and uploaded.
Prior Approval Request

Application Information
- PD/PI User ID: GADGETGUY
- Name of PD/PI: BROWN JONATHAN
- Grants Management Specialist: Sumner, Dee
  - eRAInfo@mail.nih.gov
  - 240-555-0000
- Program Official: Adams, Don
  - eRAInfo@mail.nih.gov
  - 301-555-0000
- Grant #: Type Act IC Serial Year Suffix: SUM1A123456-11
- Budget Period: 12/01/2016 - 11/30/2017
- Project Period: 01/01/2017 - 11/30/2020

Request Detail
- Request ID: 1234
- Amount of funds to be carried over: Unobligated Funds

Explanation of Unobligated Balance
- File Name: 20120726012430-2.pdf
  - Date Created: 06/01/2017
  - Action: View

Detailed Budget
- File Name: 20120726012430-2.pdf
  - Date Created: 06/01/2017
  - Action: View

Scientific Justification
- File Name: 20120726012430-2.pdf
  - Date Created: 06/01/2017
  - Action: View

No Cost Extension
- You have submitted No Cost Extension Request #1234 on 05/26/2017, you may view your request here 1234.
- You have submitted No Cost Extension Request #0000 on 04/05/2017, you may view your request here 0000.
- Your project period ends on 05/31/2017, do you wish to initiate another No Cost Extension Request?
  - Yes
  - No

Actions: Cancel, View History, Save, Delete, Submit
In the Modify Request screen, the amount requested may be changed and any uploaded documents may be replaced by deleting the current document and uploading the new one. Click **Save** if more data will be added later or **Submit** if the request is complete.

- No Cost Extensions already submitted for the grant will be listed with the request number serving as a link to view that request. This section asks if you want to initiate another NCE, and you must click the "Yes" or "No" radio button to save or submit the request.

### 14.9 Route a Prior Approval Request

The routing feature is found towards the bottom of the Modify Request screen.

If a request is *In Progress PI*, the PI can route it to the SO. If the request is *In Progress SO*, the SO can route it to the PI.

**To route a Prior Approval Request to the next reviewer:**

1. Select **Route** from the bottom of the Modify Request screen.
   - The **Confirmation** screen displays.

   ![Confirmation Screen](image.png)

2. [Optional] **Enter comments in the Comments box to provide information to the next reviewer.**
3. Click the **Route to [SO/PI]** button. The system will notify the recipient of a request that is pending their action.
   - If the Routing is successful, a message displays on the Prior Approval Request screen.

   ![Success Message](image.png)
The person who routed the Prior Approval Request can no longer edit the report. The modifying feature is now only available to a new reviewer.

14.10 Recall a Prior Approval Request

Prior Approval Requests that have been routed to a reviewer can be recalled by the previous reviewer. An SO may recall a request even if they were not the last reviewer.

After the status of the request becomes, "Submitted to Agency", it can no longer be recalled.

To recall a request:

1. Select the Recall button from the View Request screen.
   - A message displays on the screen indicating that the request has been successfully recalled.

The request is now displayed in the Modify Request screen, and is available to be Modified, Saved, Routed, Deleted, Submitted, Canceled, or View History.

14.11 View History of a Request

The View History screen enables users to view the progress of requests.

View History is an option before the request is submitted. The button is displayed at the bottom of the Modify Request or View Request screens.
PIs and SOs access the **Modify** screen slightly differently.

Before Submission, **PIs** can access the link through the **Action** column in the *My Requests* hitlist and select **Modify** and then **View History**.

Before Submission **SOs** can access the link through the **Action** column of the *Search Prior Approval* hitlist and select **Modify** and then **View History**.
Post Submission

View a History of Requests - Post Submission for SO

1. Login to eRA Commons.
2. **Navigate to the Prior Approval module.**
3. Click Search for Requests.
4. Search for Requests with a status of Submitted to Agency.

5. When the results return, click View History.

6. The View History page will be presented.
Prior Approval Request 500k - View History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request ID</th>
<th>Principal Investigator (PI)</th>
<th>Application ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0009</td>
<td>NER SNER, SANER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Title**
Test Title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Taken By</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Action Date</th>
<th>Request Status</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABER SDR</td>
<td>Ind initialization</td>
<td>09/12/2016</td>
<td>In Progress PI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSAN SNR, SANAN</td>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>09/12/2016</td>
<td>Submitted to Agency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries.

View a History of Requests - Post Submission for PI

1. Login to eRA Commons.
2. Navigate to the Prior Approval module.
4. Click View History.

List my Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request ID</th>
<th>Request Type</th>
<th>Prior Approval Status</th>
<th>Application ID</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5092</td>
<td>Withdrawal</td>
<td>In Progress PI</td>
<td>1R01NS083093-01A1</td>
<td>The tinnitus/diabetes channel in schizophrenia</td>
<td>Modify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5091</td>
<td>Withdrawal</td>
<td>Submitted to Agency</td>
<td>1R01HL050297-09</td>
<td>Stroke: therapeutic target in ischemic ischemic stroke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Show 10 entries.
15 Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Module

The RPPR module allows extramural grantee institutions to electronically submit Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR) to the Grants Management community.

RPPR module features include:

- Electronic initiation of an RPPR
- Electronic routing of an RPPR to authorizing officials at the applicant institution for review and approval prior to submission to the agency
- Viewing of RPPR routing history
- Error checking capabilities
- Electronic submission of an RPPR
- Creation of Interim RPPR
- Electronic submission of Interim RPPR
- Creation of Final RPPR
- Electronic submission of Final RPPR
- Ability for an SO to delegate authority to a PD/PI for submitting an RPPR
- PDF generated version stored in the electronic grant folder (Commons Status Information screen)


15.1 Initiating the RPPR

Only the PD/PI or the PD/PI delegate may initiate an RPPR. When there are multiple PIs (MPI), only the Contact PI or the PD/PI delegate of the Contact PI may initiate the report.

To initiate, the user can choose from one of two ways to access the RPPR functionality:

1. Access RPPR from Status.
   a. Navigate to the Status module in eRA Commons.
   b. Click the List of Applications/Grants link from the Status screen or from the menu options.
a. From the *Status Result - List of Applications/Grants* screen, locate the grant and click the **RPPR** link from the **Actions** drop-down menu in the **Available Actions** column for the specific grant (use *Flat View*). The **RPPR** link for the current reporting period is available once the Notice of Award for the prior year has been issued. This link remains available until the RPPR for the current reporting year has been submitted.

For multi-year funded awards, the link will display as **RPPR Year <X>**, the <X> representing the reporting year. The link for a multi-year funded award is available two months prior to the RPPR due date for the current reporting period and remains available until the RPPR is submitted. Note that AHRQ has not yet implemented the RPPR for multi-year funded awards.

While **RPPR Year <X>** links for multiple years may appear at the same time in *Status*, you are prevented from initiating a reporting year’s progress report until the progress report(s) of the previous year(s) has been submitted.
-OR-

1. Access RPPR from RPPR tab.
   a. Navigate to the RPPR module in eRA Commons.

   The Manage RPPR screen displays. Manage RPPR is used to view the progress reports to which the user has access and allows the user to select a progress report in order to perform various actions. PD/PIs or users delegated PD/PI updating authority uses the Manage RPPR screen to view their own progress reports. SOs and AOs use the screen to search for grants from their institutions and/or for grants routed to them for review.

   b. Select the specific grant by clicking the link in the Grant Number column on the Manage RPPR screen.
If an RPPR exists already, Commons displays the report for editing.
The RPPR Menu screen displays. The options for the uninitiated report are Initiate and Cancel. Once an RPPR is in progress, the buttons for other options are enabled.

For multi-year funded awards, the following message displays when attempting to initiate an RPPR if the previous year's report has not been submitted:

The Multi-Year RPPR for the previous year must be submitted prior to initiating this Multi-Year RPPR.

In this case, the option to initiate is disabled.

The RPPR Menu screen includes the following fields:

**Grant Number**
This is the complete number of the grant

**Grantee Institution**
This field contains the name of the applicant’s institution

**PD/PI Name**
The PD/PI of the grant award for which the progress report is being prepared. In the case of MPIs, a list of PD/PI names displays with the Contact PD/PI indicated by the word Contact.

**Project Title**
The project title of the grant

**Due Date**

*NIH*
The due date of the progress report for awards issued under the SNAP (Streamlined Noncompeting Award Process) provisions is the 15th of the month preceding the month in which the budget period ends (e.g., if the budget period ends 11/30, the due date is 10/15). If the award is not issued under SNAP provisions, the progress report is due the first of the month preceding the month in which the budget period ends (e.g., if the budget period ends 11/30, the due date is 10/1). If the due date falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the due date is automatically extended to the next business day. Progress reports for Fellowships are due two months before the beginning date of the next budget period. Occasionally the Notice of Award (NoA) will indicate a different due date which will supersede these dates. Grantees should consult the NoA to determine when SNAP procedures apply.

**AHRQ**

All AHRQ progress reports due in FY 2015 (10/1/14 – 9/30/15) and beyond are due 3 months before the anniversary of the award. For example, for an FY2014 award issued with a start date of 2/1/14, the annual progress report is due 11/1/14 (i.e., three months before the FY2015 budget period start date (i.e. anniversary date) of 2/1/15). However, if the budget period start date is between 1/1/15 and 4/1/15, grantees will not be penalized if the progress report is received 2 months before the next budget period start date rather than 3 months. If the due date falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the due date is automatically extended to the next business day.

**Current Reviewer**

The name of the current reviewer or organization (e.g., PD/PI name, NIH). This value is blank before the RPPR is initiated.

**Status**

The current state of the progress report. Possible values are as follows: Not Started, PD/PI Work in Progress, Reviewer Work in Progress, and Submitted to Agency.

**Buttons**

The displayed and enabled buttons vary depending on the status of the RPPR and/or the limitations of the current user’s role.

**Initiate**: Begins the RPPR process. Available for grants with a status of Not Started. Access is granted to PD/PIs and PD/PI delegates. An RPPR can be initiated even if required information in the Personal Profile and Institution Profile sections is missing. If any of this information is incorrect or missing, a prompt will appear to correct/complete the information after initiating the report. Processing may continue on the RPPR without making the corrections; however, the RPPR will not pass validations for submission to the agency until the errors are corrected.

**Edit**: Opens the RPPR for edits. Available for progress reports with a status of Work in Progress (WIP). Access is granted to PD/PIs or PD/PI delegates when the PD/PI is the current reviewer, AOs when the AO is the current reviewer, and SOs when the SO is the current reviewer. The Edit button allows the user to view and edit RPPR information.
**View:** Opens the RPPR report in PDF format, as it will be seen by the agency. Available for progress reports with a status of Work in Progress (WIP) or Submitted to Agency. Access is granted to PD/PIs, PD/PI delegates, and reviewers. Until the RPPR is submitted to agency, the PDF report shows a status of Draft and a blank submission date.

**Check for Errors:** Checks the RPPR for any errors or warnings. Available for progress reports with a status of Work in Progress (WIP). Access is granted to any user with access to the grant. The RPPR can be validated at any time while in the status of WIP and can be validated multiple times.

**View Routing History:** Opens a page that displays a routing history table. Available for progress reports with a status of Work in Progress (WIP) or Submitted to Agency. Access is granted to PD/PIs, PD/PI delegates, and reviewers.

**Route:** Routes the RPPR to the next reviewer for further review or corrections. Available for progress reports with a status of Work in Progress (WIP). Access is granted to the current reviewer. A PD/PI delegate cannot route an RPPR to the next reviewer.

**Recall:** Recalls RPPRs that have been forwarded to another reviewer and resets the user as the current reviewer. Available for reports with a status of Work in Progress (WIP). Access is granted to the last reviewer (who recalls the report from the current reviewer). Signing Officials and PD/PIs can recall an RPPR even if they are not the last reviewer whenever it has a status of Reviewer Work in Progress. This is useful in situations when a RPPR has been routed to the wrong person or to someone who is unavailable.

**Submit:** Submits the RPPR to the Agency. Available for reports with a status of Work in Progress (WIP). Access is granted to the SO when the SO is the current reviewer and to the PD/PI when the PD/PI has been delegated Progress Report authority.

A PD/PI with Progress Report authority cannot submit a non-SNAP or F RPPR.

**Cancel:** Closes the RPPR Menu screen and returns the user to the previous screen.

2. Click the **Initiate** button to begin the RPPR.

Once initiated, Commons creates the report in a PD/PI Work in Progress status and sets the current reviewer. A message displays as follows:

*The RPPR has been successfully initiated.*
If at any time initiation fails due to business rules validations, error or warning messages display on the screen.

Once initiated, the editing process can begin. The RPPR is accessed for editing via the RPPR Menu screen. The editing feature for single-project RPPRs is different from those of multi-project RPPRs. The steps for accessing each type of RPPR are outlined in other topics. Refer to Accessing a Single-Project RPPR for Editing or Accessing a Multi-Project or Single-Project with Complicated Structure for Editing as appropriate.

### 15.2 Routing the RPPR

If you are looking for help routing PRAM, click this link: Routing PRAM

Progress reports in Work in Progress (WIP) status can be routed to others for review or corrections by the current reviewer of the report. The routing feature is found on the RPPR Menu screen.

A PD/PI delegate cannot route an RPPR to the next reviewer.

To route an RPPR to the next reviewer:

1. Click the **Route** button from the RPPR Menu.

The figure above shows a single-project RPPR's RPPR Menu, however, multi-project RPPRs have a similar **Route** button on their own RPPR Menu screen.

The Route RPPR to Next Reviewer screen displays. From this screen, the next reviewer can be chosen from a list of reviewers, and comments can be added.

2. Select a reviewer from the **Next Reviewer** drop-down list.
3. **Optional:** Enter comments in the **Comments** box to provide information to the next reviewer.
4. Click the **Submit** button.

![Image of Submit button]

5. **When routed by the PD/PI only**: The PD/PI Assurance statement displays. Click the **I Agree** button to continue.

![Image of PD/PI Assurance]

The **RPPR Menu** displays once again. If the routing is successful, the message on the screen reads as follows:

*The RPPR was successfully routed to [Selected Reviewer User ID], [Selected Reviewer Name].*

The person who routed the RPPR can no longer edit the report (**Edit** button becomes disabled). The editing feature is now available only to the new reviewer. The RPPR status is updated to **Reviewer Work in Progress**.

![Image of RPPR successfully routed]

15.3 RPPR Routing History

From initiation to submission to Agency, the routing of an RPPR is captured for auditing purposes. PD/Pis, PD/PI delegates, and reviewers can view the routing history for Work in Progress or Submitted to Agency RPPRs at any time, even when not they are not the current reviewer.

To view the routing history:

1. Click the View Routing History button from the RPPR Menu screen.

The Routing History screen displays showing the Reviewer Name, Action, Notification Sent (date and time), Date of Action, Next Reviewer Name, and Comments (when available).

2. To close the screen, click the Back button.

15.4 Submitting RPPR to Agency

Grantees are strongly encouraged to view the RPPR prior to submission to ensure that the correct information and attachments are provided. Refer to the section of this document titled Viewing the RPPR on Page 363.

Completed and validated RPPRs in a status of Work in Progress can be submitted to the Agency for acceptance. This act is performed by the Signing Official (SO) when the SO is the current reviewer of the report. For SNAP awards only, PD/PIs may also submit the report if they have been delegated submit authority by the SO.

A PD/PI with Progress Report authority cannot submit a non-SNAP or F RPPR.
To submit the RPPR to agency:

1. Click the **Submit** button from the *RPPR Menu* screen.

![RPPR Menu Screen](image)

The Submit RPPR screen displays a certification statement.

*In submitting this RPPR, the SO (or PD/PI with delegated authority), certifies to the best of his/her knowledge that the grantee organization is in compliance with the terms and conditions specified in the Notice of Award and Grants Policy Statement, and verifies the accuracy and validity of all administrative, fiscal, and scientific information in the progress report. The SO (or PD/PI with delegated authority) further certifies that the grantee organization will be accountable for the appropriate use of any funds awarded and for the performance of the grant-supported project or activities resulting from the progress report. Deliberate withholding, falsification, or misrepresentation of information could result in administrative actions such as withdrawal of a progress report, suspension and/or termination of an award, debarment of individuals, as well as possible criminal penalties. The grantee institution may be liable for the reimbursement of funds associated with any inappropriate or fraudulent conduct of the project activity.*

2. Click the **I Agree** button to sign off on certification.

The RPPR is validated for systemic and business rules. If there are any validation failures, they are indicated by error messages on the *RPPR Menu* screen. Errors must be corrected in order to submit the RPPR.

If warnings exist, they are displayed on the *RPPR Menu* screen. Although the RPPR can be submitted with warnings present, the warning messages should be reviewed to determine if an issue should be addressed.

3. *If Warnings Exist:* To address issues associated with warnings, click the **Cancel** button, correct the issue, and resubmit the RPPR again. To continue with submission despite the warnings, click the **OK** button.

If all validations pass, the *RPPR Menu* screen displays the following message: *The RPPR has been successfully submitted to PHS.*
The current reviewer is updated to the awarding agency, the RPPR status is updated to *Submitted to Agency*, and the RPPR Submission date is recorded. The routing history is updated to reflect the submission to Agency.

Any citations associated with the RPPR in **C.1. Publications** are officially associated with the award in MyNCBI.

If inclusion enrollment data are reported in the RPPR, this information will be provided in a structured data form and updated into the eRA inclusion data system for NIH staff review and acceptance. The data then becomes the data of record for the particular grant year.

When an RPPR is submitted to Agency, email notification is sent to the PD/PI (Contact PI) on the grant and the SO and AO assigned to the RPPR.

### 15.4.1 Submission Errors & Warnings for Multi-Project RPPRs

Upon submission, multi-project RPPRs are validated for systemic and business rules just as are single-project RPPRs. However, for multi-projects, the errors and warnings are displayed differently. When errors and/or warnings are found on multi-project RPPRs, the *RPPR Menu* screen displays the Overall messages followed by the messages of the other components.

All errors must be corrected in order to submit the RPPR.

If warnings exist, they are displayed on the *RPPR Menu* screen under the errors. Although the RPPR can be submitted with warnings present, the warning messages should be reviewed to determine if an issue should be addressed.

Click here to view a sample of possible error messages.
15.5 Overview of the Interim RPPR

As of January 1, 2017, a Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR) is required for any grant that has ended and any grant that is not to be extended through award of a new competitive segment. The report is due within 120 days of the end of the project period. This report should be prepared in accordance with instructions provided by the awarding component. See NIH Implementation of Final Research Performance Progress Reports (Final RPPR) — Guide Notice NOT-OD-17-022

Effective February 9, 2017, if the recipient organization has submitted a renewal application on or before the date by which a Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final-RPPR) would be required for the current competitive segment, then submission of an "Interim RPPR" via eRA Commons is now required. The Interim RPPR (IRPPR) will be used for the submission of a Competing Renewal application (Type 2). See NIH Implementation of the Interim RPPR while a Renewal Application is Under Consideration (Guide Notice NOT-OD-17-037).

Both the Interim RPPR and the Final RPPR are currently identical in process and information required. The difference between the two is when and where they are made available to initiate and submit. The Interim RPPR link will made available to the Signing Official (SO) and the Principal Investigator (PI) in the Status screen when a grant is eligible for submission of a Competing Renewal application.

The Final RPPR is only available as part of the Closeout process and the Process Final RPPR link only appears on the Closeout Status screen.

If a system check by the Agency does not detect that there is a pending Type 5 renewal application associated with the award when the grant goes into a Closeout Module, any Interim RPPR that has been started will be converted to a Final RPPR and will be accessible through the Closeout link in the Status column.

The format of the Interim RPPR and the Final RPPR will be the same as the current annual RPPR, making it easier for recipients to navigate through both the Interim and the Final RPPR,
based on familiarity with the existing format of the annual RPPR. Differences between Interim/Final RPPR and the annual RPPR are few:

- In the Interim/Final RPPR, only Section D.1 is required in the Participants section
- Sections F: Changes and Section H: Budget are not part of the Interim/Final RPPR
- Section I: Outcomes is new. Section I is required for both the Interim/Final RPPR

Since a renewal application is competitive, there is no guarantee it will be funded. Therefore the following scenarios should be noted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competing Renewal Application Status</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not submitting a Competing Renewal application</td>
<td>Submit a Final RPPR no later than 120 days from the project period end date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitting a Competing Renewal application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded</td>
<td>The Interim RPPR is accepted as the annual RPPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Funded</td>
<td>The Interim RPPR is accepted as the Final RPPR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


15.5.1 Department of Veterans Affairs

Progress reports (RPPRs) are required to continue support of a VA-ORD award for each budget year within a competitive segment. Interim reports are due when the project period is over and the award is not in Closeout (i.e., a renewal application is pending or has been selected for funding). If the pending renewal application is not funded, the Interim report becomes the Final report. Final reports are required for any funded award that has ended and will not be extended through renewal. Note: For VA awards the outcomes are not published. Guidance on completing report content specific to VA-ORD requirements, as well as navigating, validating,
routing and submitting the report to VA-ORD for review and approval can be found at: https://www.research.va.gov/resources/RPPR.cfm. It is important to review the VA-ORD instructions as there are sections where specific VA-ORD information is requested that differs from that noted within the NIH progress report template.

15.5.2 Submitting Your Interim RPPR

15.5.2.1 To submit your Interim RPPR:

1. Click the Interim RPPR link for the grant from Status search results.

   The Interim RPPR link will appear for both the Principal Investigator (PI) and the Signing Official (SO) one day after the budget period end date and before the award moves to Closeout.

2. Clicking the Interim RPPR link opens the Interim RPPR Menu screen:

   ![Interim RPPR Menu](image)

3. Click the Initiate button to create the Interim RPPR.

   The Final RPPR Menu will then change, providing the user with the option to Edit the Interim RPPR:
4. Clicking **Edit** opens the navigation to the various sections of the Interim RPPR:
5. Complete each section as required. See How to Do I Fill Out the RPPR Forms for help completing each section.

Be sure to click SAVE when moving between sections or unsaved data may be lost.

When done, click Cancel to return Interim RPPR Menu screen.

In the Final RPPR Menu screen, there are several action buttons at the bottom that you can use to complete the Interim RPPR:
For more information on these options, see:

- Final RPPR
- Editing the RPPR Forms
- Checking for Errors and Warnings
- Viewing the RPPR
- Routing the RPPR
- Recalling the RPPR
- Submitting RPPR to Agency

The Cancel button closes the Interim RPPR Menu screen.

15.5.3 Interim Report Additional Materials (IRAM)

The Agency may use Interim Report Additional Materials (IRAM) to provide a means for the grantee to enter, review, route, and submit information in response to specific request(s) by the Program Official at the IC (or AHRQ, if applicable) for additional information following the submission of an Interim RPPR.

As with the RPPR, a PD/PI (or Contact PI in the case of multiple PIs) can enter the IRAM. However, only the SO can submit the IRAM to the agency.

For Revised Project Outcomes, please review the following information:

To submit revised Project Outcomes, SOs should follow the IRAM process for outcomes for Interim RPPRs and the FRAM process for outcomes for Final RPPRs with the exception that a text box will be provided to enter the new Outcomes text and click Upload instead of an Add Attachment button as with other RAM requests.
Project Outcomes provide information regarding the cumulative outcomes or findings of the project. Note that outcomes will be made publicly available, allowing recipients to provide the general public with a concise summary of the cumulative outcomes or findings of the project at the end of a competitive segment. The name of the Primary Investigator/Project Director will be attached to the public posting in RePORTER.

For NIH awards the length of the Outcome statement should not exceed half a page. In
addition, the summary of outcomes or findings of the award must be written in the following format:
* Is written for the general public in clear, concise, and comprehensible language
* Is suitable for dissemination to the general public, as the information may be available electronically
* Does not include proprietary, confidential information or trade secrets

Please refer to the following link for samples of acceptable project outcomes:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/rprr/sample_project_outcomes_RPPR.htm
See NIH notices NOT-OD-17-022 and NOT-OD-17-037 for additional details on this requirement.

The link for the request will be displayed in the Available Actions column as "IRAM".
When you click the link, the IRAM screen opens and provides an **Upload** button. Click this button to select the PDF file that satisfies the agency request as well as any appropriate comments related to the request and/or file.

For **Revised Outcomes**, use the text box to directly enter (or copy and paste) the Revised Outcomes text and then it can be uploaded as per the **IMPORTANT**: information box above. The text box caption will read, *Please provide Revised Outcomes here. Note, text in this field will be publicly available in RePORTER.*

The character limit for the comments is 2,000 characters.

After selecting the appropriate document, you are returned to the IRAM screen where you can enter comments and then use the buttons at the bottom of the page to:

- **Cancel** - No changes will be made and you will be returned to the **Status Results** page
- **Preview** - This opens the submission to let you view the uploaded document and comments that will be sent to the Agency.
- **Save** - The selected document and comments (if any) will be saved for future submission.
- **Delete** - The selected document will be removed and a different document can be uploaded.
- **Submit** - Send the document and comments to the Agency.
You can also upload additional documents [limit 10] as well as View or Delete individual documents.

See Also:

- Submitting Your Interim RPPR
- Submitting Final RPPR
- Editing the RPPR Forms
- Checking for Errors and Warnings
- Viewing the RPPR
- Routing the RPPR
- Recalling the RPPR
- Submitting RPPR to Agency

15.6 Submitting Your Final Research Performance Progress Report

As of January 1, 2017, a Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final RPPR) is required for any grant that has ended and any grant that is not to be extended through award of a new competitive segment. The report is due within 120 days of the end of the project period. This report should be prepared in accordance with instructions provided by the awarding component. See NIH Implementation of Final Research Performance Progress Reports (Final RPPR) — Guide Notice NOT-OD-17-022
Effective February 9, 2017, if the recipient organization has submitted a renewal application on or before the date by which a Final Research Performance Progress Report (Final-RPPR) would be required for the current competitive segment, then submission of an "Interim RPPR" via eRA Commons is now required. The Interim RPPR (IRPPR) will be used for the submission of a Competing Renewal application (Type 2). See NIH Implementation of the Interim RPPR while a Renewal Application is Under Consideration (Guide Notice NOT-OD-17-037).

Both the Interim RPPR and the Final RPPR are currently identical in process and information required. The difference between the two is when and where they are made available to initiate and submit. The Interim RPPR link will be made available to the Signing Official (SO) in the Status screen when a grant is eligible for submission of a Competing Renewal application.

The Final RPPR is only available as part of the Closeout process and the Process Final RPPR link only appears on the Closeout Status screen.

The format of the Interim RPPR and the Final RPPR will be the same as the current annual RPPR, making it easier for recipients to navigate through both the Interim and the Final RPPR, based on familiarity with the existing format of the annual RPPR.

Differences between Interim/Final RPPR and the annual RPPR are few:

- In the Interim/Final RPPR, only Section D.1 is required in the Participants section
- Sections F: Changes and Section H: Budget are not part of the Interim/Final RPPR
- Section I: Outcomes is new. Section I is required for both the Interim/Final RPPR

15.6.1 Note about Interim RPPR and Final RPPR

- The Interim RPPR (IRPPR) is used when you are submitting a Competing Renewal application (Type 2). If you opt NOT to apply for a Competing Renewal, complete the Final RPPR as you normally would within 120 days of the project end date. If you are going to complete a Competing Renewal application (or have already submitted such an application), you will submit an Interim RPPR. This must be submitted within 120 days of the project end date.
- If you are awarded the renewal, the Interim RPPR will be treated as your annual RPPR and no other progress reporting will be needed for that segment of the study. If the application is NOT awarded, then the Interim RPPR will be accepted as the Final RPPR.

15.6.2 To submit your Final RPPR:

1. Click the Requires Closeout link for the grant from Status search results.

   The Closeout Status screen displays. Final RPPR is listed in the Closeout Submission Requirement column. The Action column should include a link for Process Final RPPR.

2. From Closeout Status, click the Process Final RPPR link.

   Clicking the Process Final RPPR link opens the Final RPPR Menu screen:
3. Click the Initiate button to create the Final RPPR.

The Final RPPR Menu will then change, providing the user with the option to Edit the Final RPPR:
4. Clicking **Edit** opens the navigation to the various sections of the Final RPPR:

![A. Cover Page](image)

5. Complete each section as required. See [How to Do I Fill Out the RPPR Forms](#) for help completing each section.

   Be sure to click **SAVE** when moving between sections or unsaved data may be lost.

   When done, click **Cancel** to return **Final RPPR Menu** screen.

   In the **Final RPPR Menu** screen, there are several action buttons at the bottom that you can use to complete the Final RPPR:
For more information on these options, see:

Final Progress Report Additional Materials (FRAM)
Interim RPPR Overview
Editing the RPPR Forms
Checking for Errors and Warnings
Viewing the RPPR
Routing the RPPR
Recalling the RPPR
Submitting RPPR to Agency

The Cancel button closes the Final RPPR Menu screen.

15.7 Manage RPPR Screen

The Manage RPPR screen is the portal into all RPPR functionality. The screen displays when you select the RPPR tab from the Commons menu and provides the following information related to your RPPR:

- Grant Number
- PD/PI Name
- Project Title
- Due Date
- Status
- Current Reviewer
To process your RPPR, select the grant number displayed as a link within the Grant Number column. Selecting this link opens the RPPR Menu screen from which you can access all features including initiating, editing, routing, etc.

Click here for sample image:

**15.8 RPPR Menu**

The RPPR Menu screen provides access to various functions used to complete and process your RPPR. You access these features using the buttons found on this screen.

The following buttons are found on the RPPR Menu screen:

- Initiate
- Edit
- Check for Errors
- View
- View Routing History
- Route
- Recall
- Submit

Click here for a sample image.

Not all buttons will be enabled. Depending on your Commons role and/or the status of the report, some buttons may be disabled.

Individual help topics exist for each of the features. Please refer to the specific help topics linked below.
15.9 RPPR Navigation

The RPPR is completed using eRA Commons. The report in Commons consists of separate screens for each of the sections listed below:

A. Cover Page
B. Accomplishments
C. Products
D. Participants (only section D.1 for FRPPR)
E. Impact
F. Changes (not used for FRPPR)
G. Special Reporting Requirements
H. Budget (not used for FRPPR)
I. Outcomes (only used for FRPPR)

Users can work on various sections in any order, however, it is important to click the Save button in the navigation bar before leaving a screen in order to retain data entered on that screen. Upon submission to the awarding agency, the system will generate a PDF of the progress report, which may be viewed from the RPPR Menu screen using the View button.

Once submitted, the Final RPPR, in PDF format, is accessible in Commons via the Status Information screen. Refer to the section of this document titled Viewing the RPPR in Commons on Page 363.


NOTE: PDF uploads for the D.2.b New Senior/Key Personnel and D.2.c Changes in Other Support sections are required to be a flattened PDF. A flattened PDF is one that does not have fillable forms or other layers, such as movable images. The easiest way to flatten a PDF using Adobe Acrobat Reader is to print the document, but choose the "Print to PDF" option in the Print dialog, and save to a new file name when prompted. If you attempt to upload and
save a file that is not a flattened PDF, you see this error message, "Error Uploading PDF. Please ensure all files are flattened. ....".

15.10 How Do I Fill Out the RPPR Forms?


Please refer to the following sections of the instruction guide when completing your report:

- **Cover Page** - Section A (PDF section 6.1, pg. 69)
- **Accomplishments** - Section B (PDF section 6.2, pg 70)
- **Products** - Section C (PDF section 6.3 , pg. 75)
- **Participants** - Section D (PDF section 6.4, pg. 82)
- **Impact** - Section E (PDF section 6.5, pg. 88)
- **Changes** - Section F (PDF section 6.6, pg. 89)
- **Special Reporting Requirements** - Section G (PDF section 6.7, pg. 91)
- **Budget** - Section H (PDF section 6.8, pg. 102)
- **Outcomes** - Section I (PDF section 6.9, pg. 104)

**NOTE:** Question B.4 of the Accomplishments section of the RPPR has a link to generate the automated Trainee Diversity Report for certain research training, career development, and research education grant types (if trainee data has been entered into xTrain). If you see the following link in the RPPR Accomplishments section, see Generate the Trainee Diversity Report for online help on the diversity report. Also see the NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-20-178 and the Electronic Trainee Diversity Report video tutorial.

Is the **Save** button in RPPR not working as expected? Please note that on some sections, you must click the **Add/New** button before clicking the **Save** button. For example, in section D, if you make a change to, or add to, "D.1 What individuals have worked on the project," you must click the **Add/New** button before saving.

**NOTE:** PDF uploads for the **D.2.b New Senior/Key Personnel** and **D.2.c Changes in Other Support** sections are required to be a flattened PDF. A flattened PDF is one that does not have fillable forms or other layers, such as movable images. The easiest way to flatten a PDF using Adobe Acrobat Reader is to print the document, but choose the “Print to PDF” option in the Print dialog, and save to a new file name when prompted. If you attempt to upload and
save a file that is not a flattened PDF, you see this error message, "Error Uploading PDF. Please ensure all files are flattened. ....".

15.11 Editing the RPPR

Once an RPPR is initiated, its status becomes PD/PI Work in Progress and it becomes available for editing. The PD/PI or delegate uses the Edit option for viewing and completing the report. Additionally, this option is available to the SO or AO when that user is the current reviewer of the report.

For RPPRs with multiple PD/PIs (MPI awards), only the Contact PD/PI has access to the Edit feature unless the Contact PD/PI has granted progress report authority to other PD/PIs. Without this authority, MPIs can only view the RPPR PDF and its routing history.

There are two means of accessing the progress report for editing. These are similar methods used for initiating the report and are as follows:

1. Access RPPR from the Status module.
   a. Navigate to the Status module in eRA Commons.
   b. Click the List of Applications/Grants link from the Status screen or from the menu options.
c. From the Status Result - List of Applications/Grants screen, locate the grant and click the RPPR link from the Action column for the specific grant. For multi-year funded awards, the link displays as RPPR Year <X>, the <X> representing the reporting year.
1. Access RPPR from RPPR module.
   a. Navigate to the RPPR module in eRA Commons.
   b. Select the specific grant by clicking the link in the Grant Number column on the Manage RPPR screen. SOs/AOs must perform a query first.

The appropriate RPPR Menu screen – either for single-project or multi-project RPPRs – displays with editing options.

15.11.1 Access Human Subjects System (HSS)

The Human Subjects System can be accessed by Principal Investigators (PIs) or Signing Officials (SOs) through either the RPPR or through the Status screen in eRA Commons

15.11.1.1 Human subjects information may need to be updated in the following scenarios:

- Post-award for updates to the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)
- Pre-award (post review) for just-in-time information or correction of human subjects data
- Off-cycle updates as required in the Funding Opportunity Announcement or terms and
conditions of award

- Corrections to human subject data

### 15.11.1.2 To edit an existing study, log into eRA Commons and access the Human Subjects link via the RPPR or Status tabs.
• The Application Information screen is displayed, showing a summary of your grant. Click the HSCT Post Submission tab. This will take you to a summary page Study Record(s) screen where all study records and delayed onset studies associated with your grant are displayed.

- Click the View button to bring up a study.
- To update the human subjects information on that study, including inclusion enrollment data, click the Edit button at the top of the screen.
Inclusion data is found at the end of Section 2.
There are two ways to edit the existing Inclusion Enrollment Report (IER) data for Cumulative (Actual) counts:

1. You can update the cells online in the existing report itself.
2. Or you can download a spreadsheet template for entering participant-level data by clicking the 'Download Participant Level Data Template’ button.
   - Fill the template out with data and then upload the spreadsheet by clicking the 'Upload Participant Level Data Attachment’ button. This uploaded data will populate the cells in the report.
   - You can click the 'Download Current Participant Level Data’ button to download the file containing the data for your own records.

### Cumulative (Actual)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Categories</th>
<th>Not Hispanic or Latino</th>
<th>Hispanic or Latino</th>
<th>Unknown/Not Reported Ethnicity</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Unknown/Not Reported</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>3526</td>
<td>2863</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than One Race</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown or Not Reported</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Need Help**: Participant level data file (CSV):

- Download Participant Level Data Template
- Upload Participant Level Data Attachment
- Download Current Participant Level Data
- Remove Current Participant Level Data
- Save and Keep Lock
- Save and Release Lock
- Save and Add
- Cancel and Release Lock
- Remove Report

**Notes**: If you plan to upload the data, you must use the template by selecting the **Download Participant Level Data Template**. This will be a CSV file that can be updated with new totals.
Once the new totals have been entered into the template and the file has been saved, use the **Upload Participant Level Data Attachment** button to upload the file which will update the Cumulative counts.

Individual-level participant data on sex/gender, race, ethnicity and age at enrollment will be required in progress reports for competitive applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2019 (See NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-18-116). Since NIH will be piloting providing individual level data starting in June, we encourage you to get familiar with the template as we believe it will cut down on duplicate entry and save you time.

- For the Planned counts, the cells must be updated online in the report itself.

### Planned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial Categories</th>
<th>Ethnic Categories</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than One Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The entire study can be previewed before submission by clicking the Preview Study button on the left navigational column under Actions.
If the PI is making changes:

- The PI can click the **Save and Release Lock** button to save the changes.
- The submission status changes to *Work in Progress*.
- PI changes status to *Ready for Submission*.
- Signing Official (SO) gets an email that the application is ready for submission.
- SO logs into ASSIST, finds the application and submits it.

If the SO is making changes:

- The SO can click the **Save and Keep Lock** button to save the changes.
- The submission status changes to *Work in Progress*.
- SO changes status to *Ready for Submission*.
- The *Submit* action becomes active on the Application Information page.
- SO clicks on the **Submit** button

Only the SO can submit the application to NIH. The submission sends all updated study records associated with the application to NIH at one time.

Program officials and grant specialists are notified automatically of study changes and can review those changes. Some changes may require prior approval.

**15.11.2 Accessing Single-Project RPPR for Editing**

For single-project awards, the *RPPR Menu* screen displays the following available buttons:

- Edit
- Check for Errors
- View
- View Routing History
- Route
- Cancel

Once an RPPR has been routed for review, the **Recall** and **Submit** buttons are enabled. These functions are covered in other topics.

Select the **Edit** button to open the RPPR for editing.
Refer to the section of this document titled *Editing the RPPR Forms on Page 336* for more information on editing the forms.

### 15.11.3 Accessing a Multi-Project or Single-Project with Complicated Structure RPPR for Editing

A *multi-project RPPR* is a progress report submitted for a funded program (activity code) which has multiple, interrelated components sharing a common focus or objective.

A *component* (for the purposes of applications and progress reports) is a distinct, reviewable part of the multi-project application or progress report for which there is a business need to gather detailed information identified in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA).

Components typically include general information (component organization, project periods, project title, etc.), performance sites, personnel, and budget. The FOA defines the construction and naming convention for the application; the funded application defines the construction and naming convention for the progress report.

When you access the RPPR for a multi-project award, you can select awarded components rather than manually adding them.

For multi-project awards, the *RPPR Menu* screen displays the following available buttons on the **Application Information** section of the screen:

- View
- View Routing History
- Route
- Cancel

Once an RPPR has been routed for review, the **Recall** and **Submit** buttons are enabled. These functions are covered in other topics.
Overall Component

Below the Application Information is a table of information for the Overall component, showing the ID, Actions, Project Title, and Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) Name.

The RPPR Menu for a multi-project RPPR without components does not include the component table. Additionally, the No radio button on the Does the project have components? field is selected and disabled.

Refer to the figure below for an example of a single-project with complicated structure RPPR.
To edit the RPPR for the Overall component, click the three-dot ellipsis menu in the **Actions** column, and select **Edit**.

**Adding Individual Components**

If the award has individual components (e.g., a multi-project award), each component must be reported in the RPPR. To add components if none are displayed, select the **Yes** radio button next to the question **Does the project have components?** Selecting **Yes** displays the **Add Component** feature for the individual components.

Any individual components previously added will already be displayed in a table beneath this feature. In this scenario, the **Does this project have components?** option is disabled. This includes components which were part of a previously submitted progress report for the grant.

There are two ways to add a component for multi-component grants: you can select components from a list, or add components manually. The list of components is pulled from the beginning of the segment award of the last completing application that was awarded, plus whatever was entered manually prior.

To add components from a list, use the left method shown at the bottom of the screen:

1. Click the **Select from existing App Components** button.

The **Existing App Components** window appears.
2. Select the component you want to add and click the **Add Component** button.

Components you add appear in the **Added Components** table.

3. To edit the RPPR of the component you added, click its three-dot ellipsis menu and select **Edit**.

To add an individual component manually, use the correct method shown at the bottom right of the screen:

1. Enter the **New Component Project Title**.
2. Select the correct option from the **Select New Component Type** drop-down list.
3. Click the **Add Component** button.

Components you add appear in the **Added Components** table.
4. To edit the RPPR of the component you added, click its three-dot ellipsis menu and select **Edit**.

Refer to the section of this document titled *Editing the RPPR Forms* on Page 336 for more information on editing the RPPR forms.

To remove a component from the Added Components under the Overall RPPR component:

1. For the component you want to remove, click its three-dot ellipsis menu and select **Delete**.
2. Click OK in the confirmation message.

You can delete added components, but you cannot delete the Overall component.

If you choose to delete a component, all data related to this component – including all budget data – will be lost. *This data cannot be recovered once it has been deleted.*

To check for RPPR errors on either the Overall component or an individual component, click its three-dot ellipsis menu and select **Check for Errors**. Errors will be displayed at the top of the screen.

### 15.11.4 Editing the RPPR Forms

After selecting the appropriate editing option, the RPPR section **A. Cover Page** displays. The **Cover Page** includes information about the grant, PD/PI, signing and administrative officials, organization, and project/reporting/budget periods. Some of this information may be auto-populated. For more information on the **Cover Page**, refer to the [NIH Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Instruction Guide](#).

1. Update the information as necessary and click the **Save** button.

   The **Cover Page** includes tabs at the top and links at the bottom of the page for navigating to the other sections (e.g., **Accomplishments, Participants**), which may be completed in any order. Before navigating to and from any of these sections, it is always necessary to click the **Save** button to save all changes on the current page. Navigating away from any page on the RPPR without clicking **Save** results in the loss of any information entered prior to the last save.

2. Sections can be completed in any order. To navigate and populate the other sections of the RPPR, select the appropriate link from the top or bottom of the page. The same navigational links appear on each section of the RPPR.
3. Complete the appropriate fields of the report.
Details for completing each section are discussed in the Instruction Guide (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/rppr_instruction_guide.pdf). Many of the fields on these pages, however, behave in a similar manner.

**NOTE:** Question B.4 of the Accomplishments section of the RPPR has a link to generate the automated Trainee Diversity Report for certain research training, career development, and research education grant types (if trainee data has been entered into xTrain). If you see the following link in the RPPR Accomplishments section, see Generate the Trainee Diversity Report for online help on the diversity report. Also see the NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-20-178 and the Electronic Trainee Diversity Report video tutorial.

Click here to display examples of common field types.

**Add New**

To use the Add/New feature, enter or select data in the appropriate fields. Click the **Add/New** button to add the data to the table. After being added, items can be edited or deleted from the table using the **Action** links.

**Text Box**

All text boxes on the RPPR have character limits. The number of characters available is reflected beneath each text box as characters are entered.
Changing Saved Responses

While in WIP status, answers may be changed. A warning message displays as follows:

*The entered/uploaded response will be deleted. Do you wish to continue?*

The user editing the information can choose to Continue or Cancel the action. Choosing Continue deletes the previous response, removes any attachments, and disables the relevant fields associated with the question. Choosing Cancel cancels the change.

4. Click the Save button before navigating to the next page.
5. To return to the RPPR Menu, click the Cancel button.

When an RPPR is ready for review and submission, it is routed to the next reviewer. Refer to the section of this document titled *Routing the RPPR on Page 301*

**NOTE:** PDF uploads for the **D.2.b New Senior/Key Personnel** and **D.2.c Changes in Other Support** sections are required to be a flattened PDF. A flattened PDF is one that does not have fillable forms or other layers, such as movable images. The easiest way to flatten a PDF using Adobe Acrobat Reader is to print the document, but choose the “Print to PDF” option in the Print dialog, and save to a new file name when prompted. If you attempt to upload and save a file that is not a flattened PDF, you see this error message, "Error Uploading PDF. Please ensure all files are flattened. .....”.

15.11.5 Editing the RPPR Budget Forms

15.11.5.1 Budget Form (H.1)

To add a budget, choose an option from the drop-down list and click the Add Budget button. The added budget type appears in the first table. Use the Edit link in the Action column to open the form for editing. Click the Save button before exiting the form. Most awards now use the SF424 R&R budget form. However, training awards may use the SF424 and/or the PHS 398 training budget. The PHS Additional Indirect Costs budget form is available as an optional
form for the Overall component of a multi-project award with multiple institutions/organizations. Please contact the Grants Management Specialist assigned to your grant if you have questions on the appropriate form to use.

Budget types include:

- SF 424 Research & Related Budget form
- PHS 398 Training Budget
- PHS Additional Indirect Costs form

Budget types can be deleted by clicking the Delete link from the Action column for the specific budget. After deleting a form, be sure to save the RPPR before navigating away from the H.Budget tab. Save buttons are located at the top and bottom of the screen.

15.11.5.2 Subaward Budget Form (H.2)

To add a subaward budget, choose an option from the drop-down list and click the Add Subaward button. The added budget type appears in the second table. Click the Edit link in the Action column to open the form for editing. Click the Save button before exiting the form.

Subaward budget types include:

- SF 424 Research & Related Subaward Budget form
- PHS 398 Subaward Training Budget

Subaward budget types can be deleted by clicking the Delete link from the Action column for the specific subaward.

Click here to display an image of the RPPR H.Budget screen.
Remember to save the information before exiting the form by clicking one of the Save buttons located at the top and bottom of the form.

15.11.5.3 DUNS Number

For single-project RPPRs, the DUNS number will automatically populate the DUNS number of the grantee organization on the budget form.
For multi-component RPPRs the grantee must enter the DUNS and Organization Name fields, as the DUNS number will not automatically populate the DUNS number.

To add the DUNS number:

Enter the DUNS number into the Organizational DUNS field or click the magnifying glass icon to search for and select the DUNS number. You can search using a secondary DUNS number, however, the form will reflect the primary DUNS after you select the organization.

The Organizational DUNS field updates with the information and the Enter Name of Organization field updates to reflect the new DUNS.

To add the organization name:

Enter the organization name into the Organization Name field or click the magnifying glass icon to search for and select the new organization name.

The Organization Name field updates with the information and the Organizational DUNS field updates to reflect the new organization.

If subaward budgets are completed, the system will not calculate the budget line item F.5 for the main budget (click to view figure). Total consortium costs for the main budget MUST be computed and entered manually into budget line item F.5.

15.11.5.4 SF 424 Research and Related Budget

For assistance with the information required on the forms, please refer to the Application Guide.
15.11.5.5 SF 424 Research and Related Sub Award Budget

For assistance with the information required on the forms, please refer to the Application Guide.

Policy: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-e/general/g.300-r&r-budget-form.htm

15.11.5.6 PHS 398 Training Budget

For assistance with the information required on the forms, please refer to the Application Guide.

Policy: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-e/general/g.310-r&r-subaward-budget-attachment(s)-form.htm

15.11.5.7 PHS 398 Training Sub Award

For assistance with the information required on the forms, please refer to the Application Guide.


15.12 Editing Inclusion Enrollment Data

This topic discusses inclusion data in the Human Subjects System (HSS) as accessed and processed via your RPPR. For more information on HHS or accessing HSS via Commons, please refer to the HSS Online Help.

To update inclusion enrollment data, click the Human Subjects link from question G.4.b of section G. Special Reporting Requirements. For additional information on inclusion procedures in the RPPR, please review Chapter 6.7 Section G–Special Reporting Requirements of the NIH and Other PHS Agency Research Performance Progress Report (RRPR) Instruction Guide.

Before clicking the Human Subjects link, click the Save button on the RPPR to save all your work in Section G. Failure to do so will result in a loss of data on your report.

If this link is clicked more than 60 days before the progress report due date, the following warning is displayed:

Based on the due date of this RPPR, inclusion data is not yet needed. If you proceed, access to the inclusion data via Commons/Status will be blocked. You cannot undo this action. Are you sure you want to proceed?

Clicking Cancel will abort the action and HSS will not be opened. Continuing will result in
inclusion data being blocked for editing when accessed via Commons Status (View action only). In this event, you will see the following message when accessing via Status: RPPR has been initiated. Currently, the data is editable accessing via RPPR only.

The ability to edit IERs via the Commons Status module will be restored after the successful submission of the RPPR and until the award of the current year.

The Application Information screen is displayed, showing a summary of your grant. Click the Human Subjects Post Submission tab. This will take you to a Study Record(s) screen where all study records and delayed onset studies associated with your grant are displayed.
Click the **View** button to bring up a study.
Now you will see that the existing study has an **Edit** button available and there are additional buttons to add regular or delayed onset studies.

Clicking the **Edit** button for the existing study will open the *Application Information* screen.

If the initial competitive segment was submitted on or after January 25, 2018 (i.e. a Forms E application) without a ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier (an NCT number), enter the appropriate NCT number in the field numbered 1.5. Click the **Populate** button and the system will do a best effort copy of form data from the official Clinical Trials records.
15.12.1 Inclusion Enrollment Report

Standalone PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report forms are no longer used. Instead, data collection for up to 20 Inclusion Enrollment Reports has been folded into each Study Record. Click the link in Section 2 of the Study Record screen to initiate the Inclusion Enrollment Report.
For each *Inclusion Enrollment Report*, applicants will need to indicate whether an existing dataset or resource will be used and whether the enrollment location type is domestic or foreign.

There are also a few optional fields in the report, including a text entry *Comments* section.
Planned and Cumulative enrollment data collection has been separated into separate tables.
15.12.2 Editing Inclusion counts

Inclusion data is found at the end of Section 2.
There are two ways to edit the existing Inclusion Enrollment Report (IER) data for Cumulative (Actual) counts:

1. You can update the cells online in the existing report itself.
2. You can download a template for entering participant-level data by clicking the Download Participant Level Data Template button. This will download a spreadsheet file in the proper CSV format to be used by the system.
   - Fill the template out with data, save the changes, and then upload the spreadsheet by clicking the Upload Participant Level Data Attachment button. This uploaded data will populate the cells in the report.
   - You can click the Download Current Participant Level Data button to download the file containing the data for your own records.
If you need to clear the current records, use the **Remove Current Participant Level Data** button.

If you plan to upload the data, you must use the **Download Participant Level Data Template** button. This is a CSV file that can be updated with new totals.

Once the new totals have been entered into the template and the file has been saved, click the **Upload Participant Level Data Attachment** button to upload the file which will update the Cumulative counts.

Individual-level participant data on sex/gender, race, ethnicity and age at enrollment will be required in progress reports for competitive applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2019 (See NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-18-116).
For the Planned counts, the cells must be updated online in the report itself.

The entire study can be previewed before submission by clicking the **Preview Study** button on the left navigational column under Actions.

### 15.12.3 PI and SO Actions

#### 15.12.3.1 If the PI is making changes:

- The PI can click the **Save and Release Lock** button to save the changes.
- The submission status changes to **Work in Progress**.
- PI changes status to **Ready for Submission**.
- SO logs into ASSIST, finds the application, and submits it.
15.12.3.2 If the SO is making changes:

- The SO can click the **Save and Keep Lock** button to save the changes.
- The submission status remains in *Work in Progress*.
- The SO must click the **Save and Release Lock** button to allow the application to have the status changed.
- SO changes status to *Ready for Submission*.
- The *Submit* action becomes active on the *Application Information* page.
- SO clicks on the **Submit** button

Only the SO can submit the application to NIH. The submission sends all updated study records associated with the application to NIH at one time.

Program officials and grant specialists are notified automatically of study changes and can review those changes. Some changes may require prior approval.

If the application has been submitted and needs to be placed back into a work in progress status, refer to these instructions to perform this action; [https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ASSIST/default.htm#ASSIST_Help_Topics/5_Preview_Print_Submit/Revise_Application.htm?Highlight=status](https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ASSIST/default.htm#ASSIST_Help_Topics/5_Preview_Print_Submit/Revise_Application.htm?Highlight=status)

15.12.4 Changes to Planned Enrollment

If there are changes from the planned enrollment originally approved for funding, contact the program officer to discuss updating/revising the planned enrollment. Please refer to [Chapter 6.7 Section G–Special Reporting Requirements](https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ASSIST/default.htm#ASSIST_Help_Topics/5_Preview_Print_Submit/Revise_Application.htm?Highlight=status) of the *NIH and Other PHS Agency Research Performance Progress Report (RRPR) Instruction Guide* for more information.

Click the *Human Subjects* link in the **Action** column of the *Status Results* screen. This opens the *Application Screen*. Click the *HSCT Post Submission* tab and then the **View** button for the study requiring updates.
This will open the Clinical Trial Post Submission form. In SECTION 2 - STUDY POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS, click the View button for the report you wish to update.
When the report opens, click the **Edit** button.

The Inclusion Enrollment Report will open in a new view and fields will be editable.
If the PI is making changes:

- The PI can click the **Save and Release Lock** button to save the changes.
- The submission status changes to *Work in Progress*.
- PI changes status to *Ready for Submission*.
- SO logs into ASSIST, finds the application, and submits it.

If the SO is making changes:

- The SO can click the **Save and Keep Lock** button to save the changes.
- The submission status remains in *Work in Progress*.
- The SO must click the **Save and Release Lock** button to allow the application to have the status changed.
- SO changes status to *Ready for Submission*.
- The *Submit* action becomes active on the *Application Information* page.
- SO clicks on the **Submit** button

Only the SO can submit the application to NIH. The submission sends all updated study records associated with the application to NIH at one time.
Program officials and grant specialists are notified automatically of study changes and can review those changes. Some changes may require prior approval.

If the application has been submitted and needs to be placed back into a work in progress status, refer to these instructions to perform this action; https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ASSIST/default.htm#ASSIST_Help_Topics/5_Preview_Print_Submit/Revise_Application.htm?Highlight=status

**POLICY:** For additional information on racial and ethnic categories or inclusion policy, refer to PHS Supplemental Instructions for Human Subjects or the OER inclusion web page.

### 15.12.5 No Inclusion Enrollment Records Provided

When inclusion monitoring is required and no IERs exist, the RPPR system will not allow the submission of the progress report without an IER. An error message will be displayed:

"NIH policy requires inclusion to be monitored on Study# <Study#, Study#>, but no Inclusion Enrollment Report(s) have been provided for this study. Please navigate to G.4.b of the RPPR to update this study and provide an Inclusion Enrollment Report"

Click this link for an image of the screen.

Warning messages may also display when additional data is expected or when actuals have not been updated in over one year. Those situations and the resulting warning messages are below:

- When the study level inclusion code is Yes, and IERs exist without Cumulative totals (only Planned totals), you should receive a warning message.

  "No Cumulative inclusion enrollment data has been provided for the Study# <study#, study#>. Is this correct? If enrollment has not begun, you may proceed and submit the
RPPR. If participants have been enrolled, navigate to section G.4.b of the RPPR to update inclusion enrollment report(s) cumulative enrollment data for these studies.”

- When the study level inclusion code is Yes, and IERs exist with Cumulative totals, but the dataset and actuals have not been updated in the past year (365 days) you should receive a warning message.

“Updates to Inclusion enrollment report(s) have not been made for study#<study #, study#>. If updates are needed, navigate to G.4.b of the RPPR to access this study and update inclusion enrollment reports.”

15.12.6 Submit New Planned Inclusion Record

Click the Submit New Planned Inclusion Record link to access the Edit Planned Inclusion Data screen and submit planned enrollment and create a new IER. For multi-year funded awards, this link is available only for the current fiscal year. Upon a successful save of a new IER, attributes (Study Title, Foreign/domestic indicator/planned comments), Planned Inclusion Data (as entered), and Cumulative Inclusion Data (as zeroes) are also created; the new IER is assigned a unique IER #; and the IER status is set to Grantee Updates in Progress (when accessing through Status in Commons).

15.12.7 Inclusion Enrollment Record (IER) Statuses

A status will be maintained for each study version. IER Status values are as follows:

Accepted – Not Rolled Forward: The IER is either marked as Not Funded or as Type 2 Progress Report. The project is awarded, but the IER is not rolled forward into an out year record.

Accepted (Original Submission): The IER has been accepted at award issuance based on what was originally submitted. (Data migrated from the previous data system may also have this status when awarded.)

Accepted (PI Revisions): Grantee has modified the IER after original submission, but before release of the award

Accepted by Agency: OER has frozen ability to modify inclusion enrollment records for IERs on contracts or intramural projects for the selected FY.

Grantee Updates in Progress: Grantee user has created the IER; Grantee user has initiated updates on an IER (Edit Planned or Edit Cumulative); and/or SO has routed an IER back to the PI

Inclusion Updated: Grantee has updated cumulative (actual) enrollment counts via the RPPR module in Commons

Previous FY Data: Data from previous fiscal year has been rolled forward into the next project record

Pending SO: IER has been routed to the Institution’s Signing Official (SO)
**Received by Agency:** IER form (Planned or Cumulative) has been received as part of the electronic application submission (i.e., Grants.gov/eSub or ASSIST); Grantee user (SO) has routed the IER via HSS in the Commons Status module to the Agency; Agency user has created a new IER in HSS; IER is inserted or updated via web service. This applies to intramural projects and certain contracts.

**Received by Agency – RPPR:** Grantee user submitted IER to Agency as part of the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)

**15.12.8 When Should I Access HSS via the Status Module?**

HSS is used to view and maintain inclusion data associated with your grant(s) and can be accessed in one of two ways, both through the eRA Commons system: via the **Status** module — or — via the RPPR **Section G. Special Reporting Requirements**.

**15.12.8.1 When to Use the Status Module Instead of RPPR**

There are a number of reasons why you might need to access inclusion data through Commons Status rather than through your progress report. For example:

- Before award of a competitive application, changes may be necessary to the inclusion data submitted with the application via Grants.gov.
- Post-award, there may be a requirement to provide more frequent updates to inclusion enrollment in addition to any reporting associated with the RPPR.

Inclusion data cannot always be updated using Status. When application is undergoing peer review, the inclusion data is not accessible in the Human Subjects System. Also, after a grant is awarded, only the View links will be available for the IERs associated with fiscal year award. The data for a given fiscal year is locked when the award is issued and no further updates can be made. At that point, you can make updates via Status for the record associated with the next fiscal year.

For details on using the Status module for accessing HSS, please refer to Access HSS. You can also access the HSS Online Help by selecting the help icons (❓) on any of the HSS screens.

**15.13 Checking for Errors and Warnings**

At any time before an RPPR is submitted to agency, an error check can be performed to verify that the report passes the business rules and system validations in place. Any user who has access to the RPPR may perform the error check.

Refer to the section of this document titled **Checking for Errors on Single-Project RPPRs** on Page 360 for more information on error checking single-project RPPRs.

Refer to the section of this document titled **Checking for Errors on a Multi-Project RPPR** on Page 360 for more information on error checking multi-project RPPRs.

**NOTE:** All PDFs you upload are recommended to be a flattened PDF, and may cause an error if not flattened. For more information on flattening PDFs, see the FAQ titled, "When submitting PDFs to eRA Commons, particularly for RPPRs and Just-in-Time, I am getting an error telling..."
me to ensure all files are flattened PDFs. What does flattening a PDF mean and how do you do it?

15.13.1 Checking for Errors on Single-Project RPPRs

To perform an error check on the RPPR for single-project RPPRs, click the **Check for Errors** button from the **RPPR Menu** screen.

If errors or a warning exist, the appropriate error or warning message displays for each failed occurrence. **All errors must be corrected prior to submission**; the system will prevent submission of an RPPR containing errors. However, the system will not prevent submission of an RPPR when a warning message is displayed.

If all validations pass, a message displays indicating: **No errors found on validation.**

15.13.2 Checking for Errors on a Multi-Project RPPR

To perform an error check on the Overall or individual component of a multi-project RPPRs, click the **Check for Errors** link from the **Actions** column of the **RPPR Menu** screen for the Overall or individual component being validated.
Refer to the section of this document titled *Accessing a Multi-Project or Single-Project with Complicated Structure RPPR for Editing on Page 332* for information on adding individual components to the RPPR.

If errors or a warning exist for the chosen component, the appropriate error or warning message displays for each failed occurrence. Click the **Check for Errors** button of the other components to perform a check against them.

All errors must be corrected prior to submission; the system will prevent submission of an RPPR containing errors. However, the system will not prevent submission of an RPPR when a warning message is displayed.
If all validations pass, a message displays indicating: *No errors found on validation.*

### 15.14 Recalling the RPPR

RPPRs that have been routed to a reviewer can be recalled by the person who performed the routing action. This is useful in situations when the report was routed to the wrong person or the reviewer is unavailable. The last reviewer of the report is able to recall it; however, Signing Officials at the Institution and the Contact PD/PI who are not the last reviewer can also recall the report when it is in a status of *Reviewer Work in Progress.*

A PD/PI delegate does not have the ability to recall the RPPR.

To recall an RPPR, click the **Recall** button from the *RPPR Menu* screen.

A message displays on the screen indicating: *The RPPR has been successfully recalled. You have been set as the Current RPPR Reviewer.*

The status of the RPPR is updated to *PD/PI Work in Progress* or *Reviewer Work in Progress,* the reviewer from whom the RPPR is recalled receives an email informing him of the action, and the RPPR routing audit history is updated to reflect the action.
Additionally, the **Edit** and **Route** buttons are enabled, providing the new reviewer with the ability to continue editing the RPPR or to route it to another reviewer.

![RPPR has been successfully recalled](image)

### 15.15 Viewing the RPPR

Grantees are **strongly** encouraged to view the RPPR prior to submission to ensure that the correct information and attachments are provided. Refer to the section of this document titled *Submitting RPPR to Agency* on Page 303.

PD/PIs, PD/PI delegates, and reviewers can view a PDF version of an RPPR in *Work in Progress (WIP)* or *Submitted to Agency* status to see how it will be seen by the Agency. Until the RPPR is submitted to agency, the PDF report shows a status of *Draft* and a blank submission date.

To view the RPPR form, click the **View** button from the *RPPR Menu* screen.

![RPPR Menu](image)

### 15.16 Viewing the RPPR in Commons

The RPPR, in PDF format, is accessible in Commons within the *Status Information* screen. To view the RPPR, perform the following steps:
1. Navigate to the **Status module** in eRA Commons.
2. Click the link for **List of Applications/Grants**.

3. From the **Status Result – List of Applications/Grants** screen, select the link for the specific Application ID.
The Status Information screen displays with the Other Relevant Documents section in the top right corner.

4. The progress reports for incrementally-funded and multi-year funded awards are displayed differently in Other Relevant Documents.
   a. For an incrementally-funded RPPR: Click the e-Application link from the Other Relevant Documents section of the Status Information screen.
a. For multi-year funded awards: Click the appropriate year's link in the **Research Performance Progress Report** section. Links will appear as follows: **RPPR Year <X> <MM/DD/YYYY>**.

The PDF version of the RPPR opens in a separate window.

The submitted RPPR can also be accessed from the **RPPR Menu** screen. The **View** button opens the PDF version of the RPPR.

**15.17 PD/PI Assurance Report**

The **PD/PI Assurance Report** displays instances when PI users agreed to the PD/PI Assurance message upon routing or submitting a Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR).

If you hold an SO role, you have access to this information. To view this information:

1. **Navigate to the RPPR module** in eRA Commons.
2. From the **Manage RPPR** screen, select the **PD/PI Assurance Report** option.
1.

The **PD/PI Assurance Report** screen opens. You can perform a search for a specific PI or by a range of dates for all PIs in the organization. You can search by PD/PI Name, a range of dates, or both. A search with no specified PI will return the records for all PIs in the organization.

2. Enter your search criteria and click the **Search** button.

The search results display at the bottom of the screen.
15.18 Public Access PRAM

The Public Access Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) feature provides a means for the grantee to enter, review, and submit information in response to the automated notification sent when an NIH grantee organization submits an RPPR with non-compliant publications. The system sends the automated email to the PD/PI requesting verification that all publications are in compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy. The SO and AO assigned to the RPPR on the cover page will receive a copy (cc:) of the email. While an email response to the GMS and PO is acceptable at this time, the grantee is encouraged respond using the Public Access PRAM feature in eRA Commons. AHRQ does not currently use the PRAM feature for public access compliance notifications.

Using the PRAM feature, grantees can upload and submit a My NCBI PDF report demonstrating that previously non-compliant papers reported on the RPPR are now compliant. Compliant papers have a status of Complete, N/A (not applicable), PMC Journal in Process, or In process at NIHMS. Please see http://publicaccess.nih.gov/include-pmcid-citations.htm for additional information. If unable to provide the verification of compliance, grantees can upload and submit justification for why specific publications cannot be brought into compliance.

As with the RPPR, a PD/PI (or Contact PI in the case of multiple PIs) can enter the Public Access PRAM, but can only submit it if the PD/PI is delegated with Submit Progress Report authority. Otherwise, only the SO can submit the PRAM to Agency.

15.18.1 Initiating Public Access PRAM

The PD/PI (Contact PI) or PD/PI Delegate can initiate Public Access PRAM by following the steps below:
1. Access the **Status Result – List of Applications/Grants** screen.
2. Click the **Public Access PRAM** link from the **Action** column of the appropriate grant.

The **Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM)** screen displays **Grant Information** including Grant Number, PD/PI Name, Project Title, Institution, Status, and Current Reviewer displays at the top of the screen. The **Public Access Compliance** section at the bottom contains guidance for responding to the automated email requesting evidence of compliance with a field and buttons for uploading and maintaining attachments.

3. Click the **Add Attachment** button to browse and select the My NCBI PDF or another PDF document providing justification. Note that clicking the **Cancel** button closes the screen instead.

4. Enter a response in the text box in 2,000 characters or less and click the **Route** button at the bottom of the screen.
The buttons for **Delete Attachment** and **View Attachment** display once an attachment has been uploaded. **Save**, **View**, and **Route History** may be selected at this time. Clicking **Cancel** closes the screen without saving or routing the PRAM information.

5. **Optional:** Click the **View Attachment** button to view the document. Click the **Delete Attachment** button to remove the document.

   When you click the **Route** button, the **Route PRAM to Next Reviewer** screen displays. A list of all available reviewers exists in the drop-down for **Next Reviewer**.

6. Select an SO from the **Next Reviewer** drop-down list.
7. Enter text into the **Comments** field as necessary. This is not a mandatory field.
8. Click the **Submit** button to continue.

The **Route PRAM to Next Reviewer** screen displays the PD/PI Assurance statement.

9. Read the assurance statement and click the **Submit** button to agree to the content and continue routing the PRAM to the next reviewer.

The **Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM)** screen displays with a message indicating that the PRAM was successfully routed to the selected reviewer. Additionally, the status is updated and shown as **Reviewer Work in Progress**. At this point, the PD/PI can only view the PRAM and may not edit it. To be able to allow the PD/PI to edit the PRAM, the SO needs to route the PRAM back to the PD/PI using steps similar to those above.

At the time of routing, an email is sent to the PD/PI and the selected SO (or other Next Reviewer) to notify them of the event.
15.18.2 Recalling Public Access PRAM

Public Access PRAM that has been routed to a reviewer can be recalled by the person who performed the routing action until the PRAM has been submitted to the Agency. This is useful in situations when the report was routed to the wrong person or the reviewer is unavailable. The last reviewer of the report is able to recall it; however, Signing Officials at the Institution and the Contact PD/PI who are not the last reviewer can also recall the report when it is in a status of Reviewer Work in Progress.

A PD/PI delegate does not have the ability to recall the PRAM.

To recall an Public Access PRAM, click the Recall button from the Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) screen.
A message displays on the screen indicating: *The PRAM has been successfully recalled. You have been set as the Current PRAM Reviewer.*

The status of the PRAM is updated to *PD/PI Work in Progress* if recalled by the PI or *Reviewer Work in Progress* if recalled by the SO; the reviewer from whom the PRAM is recalled receives an email informing him of the action; and the PRAM routing audit history is updated to reflect the action.

Additionally, the ability to delete the attachment is restored and the **Route** button is enabled, providing the current reviewer the ability to update the PRAM and route it to another reviewer.

### 15.18.3 Submitting Public Access PRAM

When the Public Access PRAM is in *Reviewer Work in Progress* status, the Signing Official (SO) can submit it to the Agency. PD/PIs may also submit the information if they have been delegated *Submit Progress Report* authority by the SO.

To submit the Public Access PRAM:

1. **Access the Status screen.**
2. Enter the appropriate query parameters to locate the grant and click the **Search** button.

   The *Status Result – General Search* screen displays with the matching information.
3. From the **Action** column, click the link for **PRAM**.

The *Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM)* screen displays. The screen displays **Grant Information** on top and the PD/PI comments in the text box at the bottom of the screen. In addition to submitting the PRAM, from this screen, the SO can also **View** the PRAM as a PDF, **Route** it to another reviewer (or back to the PD/PI), and view the **Route History**. Click any of the appropriate buttons to perform these actions. Follow the steps below to continue submitting the PRAM.

4. Click the **Submit** button.

The *Submit PRAM to Agency* screen displays. By continuing from this screen, the SO certifies that the submitting organization is in compliance with the terms and conditions specified in the Notice of Award and Grants Policy Statement. The SO also verifies that the information provided in the PRAM is valid and accurate.
5. Read certification agreement. Click the I Agree button to continue submitting the information. (Clicking the Cancel button closes the screen and returns the Progress Report Additional Materials screen without submitting the material.)

The Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) screen displays with a message indicating that the PRAM was successfully submitted. The current reviewer is updated to the awarding agency, the PRAM status is updated to Submitted to Agency, and the PRAM submission date is recorded. The routing history is updated to reflect the submission to Agency.

When PRAM is submitted to Agency, an email notification is sent to the PD/PI (Contact PI) on the grant, the submitting SO, the SO assigned to the RPPR, and AO assigned to the RPPR and the Public Access PRAM link will no longer be available.

To view the submitted PRAM, click the View button on the Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) screen. This option opens the PRAM PDF in a separate window. The Public
Access PRAM will appear as the final page of the PDF document. See below for display of IC Requested PRAM.

15.18.4 View Public Access PRAM for Multi-Year Funded Awards

After submitting Public Access PRAM for multi-year funded awards, users with access to the grant information can view the PRAM via the Status Information screen. Access the Status Information screen by clicking the Application ID link from the Status Result – General Search (SOs) and Status Result – List of Applications/Grants (PIs) screens.

From the Status Information screen, click the link in the area marked Progress Report Additional Material (PRAM) in the Other Relevant Documents section. The PRAM links for multi-year funded awards display as PRAM Year <X> <date submitted>.
15.19 **IC (Agency) Requested PRAM**

The Agency Requested Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) feature provides a means for the grantee to enter, review, route, and submit information in response to specific request(s) by the program official (PO) at the IC (or AHRQ, if applicable) for additional information following the submission of an RPPR.

As with the RPPR, a PD/PI (or Contact PI in the case of multiple PIs) can enter the PRAM, but can only submit it if the PD/PI is delegated with Submit Progress Report authority. Otherwise, only the SO can submit the PRAM to Agency.

Agency requested PRAM is not available for multi-year funded awards at this time.

15.19.1 **Initiating Agency Requested PRAM**

The PD/PI (Contact PI) or PD/PI Delegate can initiate Agency Requested PRAM by following the steps below:

1. Access the *Status Result – List of Applications/Grants* screen.
2. Click the **Agency Requested PRAM** link from the **Action** column of the appropriate grant.

The *Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM)* screen displays. **Grant Information**, including Grant Number, PD/PI Name, Project Title, Institution, Status, and Current Reviewer, displays at the top of the screen. The **Additional Materials Requested by Agency** section at the bottom provides a means for adding the requested materials. Up to 100 attachments can be submitted, but all attachments must be in the form of PDF files.

3. Click the **Add Attachment** button in the **Additional Materials Requested by Agency** section of the screen.
4. Use the *Upload Attachment* popup *Browse* and *Upload* buttons to search for and attach the appropriate file. Repeat for all necessary attachments.

The *Additional Materials Requested by Agency* section updates to show a table of all attachments. The table displays the *Document Name* and *Action* links of *View* and *Delete* for each attachment.

5. *Optional:* Click the document’s *View* link in the *Action* column to view the attachment.

6. *Optional:* Click the document’s *Delete* link in the *Action* column to remove the attachment.

The options for *View* and *Route History* can be selected at this time. Clicking *Cancel* closes the screen without saving or routing the PRAM information.
7. Click the **Route** button to send the PRAM for review.

When you click the **Route** button, the **Route PRAM to Next Reviewer** screen displays. A list of all available reviewers exists in the drop-down for **Next Reviewer**.

8. Select a name from the **Next Reviewer** drop-down list.
9. Enter text into the **Comments** field as necessary. This is not a mandatory field.
10. Click the **Submit** button to continue.

The **Route PRAM to Next Reviewer** screen displays the PD/PI Assurance statement.

11. Read the assurance statement and click the **Submit** button to agree to the content and continue routing the PRAM to the next reviewer.
The Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) screen displays with a message indicating that the PRAM was successfully routed to the selected reviewer. Additionally, the status is updated and shown as Reviewer Work in Progress. At this point, the PD/PI can only view the PRAM, the attachments, and the Route History; the PD/PI may not edit the PRAM. To be able to allow the PD/PI to edit the PRAM, the SO needs to route the PRAM back to the PD/PI using routing steps similar to those above.

At the time of routing, an email is sent to the PD/PI and the selected SO (or other Next Reviewer) to notify them of the event.

15.19.2 Recalling Agency Requested PRAM

Agency Requested PRAM that has been routed to a reviewer can be recalled by the person who performed the routing action up until the submission of the current PRAM attachment(s) to the Agency. This is useful in situations when the report was routed to the wrong person or the reviewer is unavailable. The last reviewer of the report is able to recall it; however, Signing Officials at the Institution and the Contact PD/PI who are not the last reviewer can also recall the report when it is in a status of Reviewer Work in Progress.

A PD/PI delegate does not have the ability to recall the PRAM.

To recall an Agency Requested PRAM, click the Recall button from the Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) screen.
A message displays on the screen indicating: *The PRAM has been successfully recalled. You have been set as the Current PRAM Reviewer.*

Only items which have not already been submitted can be recalled. If prior Agency Requested PRAM submissions to the Agency exist, these attachments are not included in the recall.

The status of the PRAM is updated to *PD/PI Work in Progress* if recalled by the PI or *Reviewer Work in Progress* if recalled by the SO; the reviewer from whom the PRAM is recalled receives an email informing him of the action; and the PRAM routing audit history is updated to reflect the action.

Additionally, the ability to delete the attachment is restored and Add Attachment and Route buttons are enabled, providing the current reviewer the ability to update the PRAM and route it to another reviewer.

**15.19.3 Submitting Agency Requested PRAM**

When the Agency Requested Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) is in *Reviewer Work in Progress* status, the Signing Official (SO) can submit it to the Agency. PD/PIs may also submit the information if they have been delegated *Submit Progress Report* authority by the SO.

To submit the PRAM:

1. Access the Status module.
2. Enter the appropriate query parameters to locate the grant and select the Search button.

   The Status Result – General Search screen displays with the matching information.
3. From the **Action** column, select the link for **Agency Requested PRAM**.

The *Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM)* screen displays. The screen displays **Grant Information** on top and the files attached by the PD/PI in the **Additional Materials Requested by Agency** portion at the bottom. The attached files may be viewed or removed and additional PDF files may be added if necessary.

4. **Optional**: Select the document’s **View** link in the **Action** column to view the attachment.

5. **Optional**: Select the document’s **Delete** link in the **Action** column to remove the attachment.

6. **Optional**: Select the **Add Attachment** button to attach additional files. Up to 100 PDF files may be attached.

Before submitting, the SO also may **View** the PRAM as a PDF, **Route** it to another reviewer (or back to the PD/PI), and view the **Route History**. Select any of the appropriate buttons to perform these actions. Follow the steps below to continue submitting the PRAM.
7. Select the **Submit** button.

The *Submit PRAM to Agency* screen displays. By continuing from this screen, the SO certifies that the submitting organization is in compliance with the terms and conditions specified in the Notice of Award and Grants Policy Statement. The SO also verifies that the information provided in the PRAM is valid and accurate.

8. Read certification agreement. Select the **I Agree** button to continue submitting the information. (Selecting the **Cancel** button closes the screen and returns the *Progress Report Additional Materials* screen without submitting the material.)

The *Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM)* screen displays with a message indicating that the PRAM was successfully submitted. The current reviewer is updated to NIH, the PRAM status is updated to Submitted to Agency, and the PRAM submission date is recorded. The routing history is updated to reflect the submission to Agency.
When PRAM is submitted to Agency, an email notification is sent to the PD/PI (Contact PI) on the grant, the submitting SO, the SO assigned to the RPPR, and AO assigned to the RPPR.

Once the IC Requested PRAM is submitted, the **View** button remains on the PRAM screen to provide a preview of the latest PRAM submission; however, the ability to view or delete the individual attachments is removed. The ability to upload and submit additional attachments remains until the grant is awarded. Follow the steps provided in the **Initiating Agency Requested PRAM** section to add additional attachments *(starting with Step 3)*.

If multiple PRAM submissions were completed, selecting the **View** button only provides a preview of the latest PRAM submission. To view all submissions as one document, access the **Status Information** screen for the grant and select the PRAM link. Refer to the section of this document titled **View Agency Requested PRAM from Status Information** on Page 383 for more information.

### 15.19.4 View Agency Requested PRAM from Status Information

After submitting Agency Requested PRAM, Commons users with access to the grant information can view the PRAM via the Status Information screen.

The **Status Information** is accessed by any of the following methods:

Click the **Grant Number** link from the **Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM)** screen
Click the **Application ID** link from *Status Result – List of Applications/Grants (PIs)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application ID</th>
<th>Grants.gov Tracking #</th>
<th>Proposal Title</th>
<th>PDPI Name</th>
<th>eSubmission Status</th>
<th>Current Application Status</th>
<th>Status Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R02HD12486-02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>JEFFERSON, THOMAS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>09/10/2012</td>
<td>RPPR I nervous (Requested RPPR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOP1446421-58</td>
<td>GRANT0123456</td>
<td></td>
<td>JEFFERSON, THOMAS</td>
<td>Submission Complete</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>09/20/2012</td>
<td>Transmittal Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN1234567</td>
<td>GRANT00234567</td>
<td></td>
<td>JEFFERSON, THOMAS</td>
<td>Submission Complete</td>
<td>Application has been entered into computer</td>
<td>09/02/2012</td>
<td>Transmittal Sheet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click the **Application ID** link from *Status Result – General Search (SOs)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application ID</th>
<th>Grants.gov Tracking #</th>
<th>Proposal Title</th>
<th>PDPI Name</th>
<th>Application Status</th>
<th>Budget Start Date</th>
<th>FATA</th>
<th>Show All Prior Errors</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R02HD12486-02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>JEFFERSON, THOMAS</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>05/02/2013</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>RPPR I nervous (Requested RPPR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the *Status Information* screen, click the link in the area marked **Progress Report Additional Material (PRAM)** in the **Other Relevant Documents** section.
The Progress Report Additional Materials file opens as a PDF document. The file is formatted to provide an information header section for each PRAM submission followed by the attached documents provided during that submission. If multiple submissions of Agency Requested PRAM were completed, the additional materials are separated in the document with the most recent submission displayed first followed by earlier submissions in reverse chronological order. Information in the document can be navigated using the provided bookmarks on the left.
16 Internet Assisted Review (IAR)

Internet Assisted Review (IAR) is an Electronic Research Administration (eRA) module used in tandem with the Peer Review module to help expedite the scientific review of grant applications by providing a standard process for Reviewers to submit their critiques, preliminary scores, and final scores and to view grant applications and related meeting materials via Commons. IAR also has the ability to enable reviewers to view the critiques of others before the actual meeting (unless conflicts of interest exist). As a result, review meetings can contain more informed discussions.

If you hold the IAR role - and you are enabled for review meeting(s) - you can access the features included in the module.

IAR has its own online help system for reviewers. If you hold an IAR role, you can access the IAR online help system for reviewers by selecting any of the question mark (?) help icons on the screens within the module or access it directly via this link: http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/IAR_Rev.
17 xTrain

The xTrain module provides external and internal users with online capabilities for working with trainee appointments and the termination notices of trainees and fellows.

If you hold one of the following roles, you can access xTrain and its features:

- TRAINEE
- PI
- SO
- BO
- SPONSOR
- ASST (when delegated by SPONSOR or PI)

xTrain has its own online help system. You can access the xTrain online help by selecting any of the question mark (?) help icons on the screens within the module or access it directly via this link http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/xTrain.

**Policy:** [Ruth L Kirschstein National Research Service Awards](http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/xTrain)

**Policy:** [Reporting and Assurance Requirements for Institutions Receiving Awards for Training of Graduate Students for Doctoral Degrees](http://era.nih.gov/erahelp/xTrain)
18 Administrative Supplement Request

The Administrative Supplements module in eRA Commons lets authorized staff at extramural grantee institutions initiate an electronic request for additional funds within the scope of the approved project. After initiating a request, you are redirected to the ASSIST module to complete the request.

You can also search for existing administrative supplements and open those supplements in ASSIST for editing.

To initiate an administrative supplement from eRA Commons, you must have a role such as principal investigator (PI), signing official (SO), or assistant (ASST) with RPPR delegation from the PI. In eRA Commons, navigate to the Admin Supp tab to start the process.

For help with ASSIST, see:

- Using ASSIST for compete help on using ASSIST.
- Initiate an Administrative Supplement Application for help on initiating an administrative supplement request in ASSIST.
- Forms Data Entry for help on editing the forms of an administrative supplement request in ASSIST.

18.1 View Admin Supplements Via the Status Module

Administrative supplement requests are accessible through the Status module. For grants having administrative supplement requests initiated against them, the Action column of the Status Result – List of Applications/Grants screen contains the Admin Supplements link. Selecting this link opens the Administrative Supplement Status screen for the specific grant.

Click Admin Supplements in the Action column to be taken to the list of administrative supplement applications. From there, you can use the Action column to click View to view a PDF of the application or you can click View Routing History to view the routing history of the application.
## Administrative Supplement Routing History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewer Name</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
<th>Next Reviewer Name</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAU ANNA</td>
<td>Created</td>
<td>2015-03-21</td>
<td>LAU ANNA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Cancel]
19 Change of Institution Overview

The Commons Change of Institution process allows the extramural grantee institution to submit an electronic version of a Relinquishing Statement (RS) to the Grants Management community for processing and allows the other grantee institution that is proposed to take over the relinquished grant to access the submitted RS.

The institution holding the grant must complete a Relinquishing Statement through eRA Commons that states it is giving up the grant and identifies the receiving institution. The receiving institution must submit an application via Grants.gov using the Parent Funding Opportunity Announcement listed at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/parent_announcements.htm. Please look for an NIH Guide Notice.

This functionality only applies to NIH grants. This is an open pilot. This means that either the electronic process documented here can be used or the traditional paper process can be used.

19.1 Features

The Commons system has the following features to accommodate a Change of Institution:

- Create, view, update, save, submit, and route the RS via the Commons Status screen
- Create RS in PDF format upon submitting the RS to the Agency
- Event generated and time sensitive eMail Notifications to appropriate users

19.2 Users

The following users are involved in the Change of Institution process.

1. Signing Official (SO)
   a. The original institution’s SO can perform the following RS functions: Start a new one, View, Edit, Save, Route, Cancel, Delete and Submit RS to Agency.
   b. The receiving institution’s SO can perform the following functions: View RS

2. Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI)
   a. The original institution’s PD/PI can perform the following RS functions: View, Edit, Save, Cancel changes, and Route the RS to the SO for submitting to the Agency.

3. NIH Internal User
   a. The internal user can perform the following RS functions: View, Save, Cancel changes, and Link the RS.

4. Grants Management Official (GMO) or Grants Management Specialist (GMS)
   a. The GMO or GMS can perform the following RS functions: View, Receive, and Return the RS.
19.3 Business Rules

19.3.1 Eligible Grants

All awarded and active grants are eligible to be relinquished except for the ones with the following statuses:

- 02 – Withdrawn
- 21 – Ineligible organization - application withdrawn
- 30 – Withdrawn by Institute/Center (IC)
- 34 – Administratively withdrawn by IC prior to review or council

Subprojects, Institutional Allowances, and Supplements are excluded from being eligible.

RS(s) can be submitted for any activity code.

19.3.2 Access to Relinquishing Statements

Only users with the SO authority at the grantee institution can access the Change of Institution option on the Commons Status screen.

The RS can be accessed only by the SO for grant applications from their grantee institution eligible for transfer.

Only the SO for the grantee institution has the authority to submit the RS to the Agency.

The RS can be accessed by the PD/PI for grantee applications where the PD/PI role is the current reviewer of the RS.

The internal user is able to access the RS in Submitted or Accepted for Consideration status and is able to update the New Institution Name, IPF code and DUNS number of the new institution to which a grant is relinquished.

19.3.3 Relinquishing Statement Reviewers

If the SO initiated the RS and routed it to the PD/PI, then the PD/PI can review, edit specific fields, save and route the RS back to the SO.

Any SO at the grantee institution is able to create, review, edit, save, route, and submit the RS.

19.3.4 Relinquishing Statement Routing Order

The next reviewer in the list of valid next reviewers is always the contact PD/PI on the application. The current user is not shown in the list of valid next reviewers on the RS. If SO is the current reviewer, then the contact PD/PI is the next reviewer by default.

If the PD/PI is the current reviewer, the SO who initiated the RS is the first and default entry in the list on the RS. All other users with the SO role appear alphabetically by last name after the first entry. The information displayed for each valid next reviewer is as follows: Name (LAST, FIRST).
If the SO routes the RS to the PD/PI, the Route to Next Reviewer screen is named: Route to PD/PI.

If the PD/PI routes the RS to the SO, the Route to Next Reviewer screen is named: Route to SO.

The RS can be routed back and forth between the SO and the PD/PI for an unlimited number of times.

### 19.3.5 Validation

PD/PI verification is not required. The SO is able to submit the RS without routing it to the PD/PI.

The PD/PI has edit capability only for the New Institution Name information and Contact information in the new Institution Section of the RS.

Saving the RS does not execute any validations. The RS is validated upon submitting it to the Agency. The exception is that new Institution data is validated upon routing the RS by the PD/PI to the SO.

The RS cannot be submitted to the Agency with validation errors, but the RS can be submitted to Agency with validation warnings.

RS(s) submitted for pre-award are not validated for the costs relinquished. They can be zero or the original application’s requested funds amounts.

### 19.3.6 Other Rules

The system allows multiple RS submissions. The SO is able to submit a new RS only if no RS has been submitted or if the existing RS(s) have been acknowledged (Accepted for Consideration or Refused status) by the Grants Management Specialist (GMS) user.

The RS can be deleted by the SO from the relinquishing institution if it is in the SO Work In Progress (WIP) state and has never been submitted to the Agency.

All submitted and accepted versions of the RS(s) are visible to the receiving institution.

Grant applications for the new institution should be submitted within thirty days after the Relinquishing Statement is submitted from the former institution.

The Relinquishing Statement should be submitted within thirty days of the grant application for the new institution.

### 19.4 Relinquishing SO Responsibilities

#### 19.4.1 Start or Edit a Relinquishing Statement

The Change of Institution process is initiated by the Signing Official for the original grantee institution that has agreed to relinquish responsibility for an active grant. This must occur before the expiration of the approved project period.
1. On the Commons Status screen, click the **Change of Institution** link.

The system displays the **Status – Change of Institution** search options.

2. To find the grant to relinquish, complete at minimum the required fields: **Institution Code** and **Serial Num**.

   The required fields are noted by an asterisk.

3. Click the **Search** button.
The system displays the search results on the Status Result – Change of Institution screen.

The RS functionality is not available from other Status search result’s screens.

4. After the grant to be relinquished is found, click the Manage Relinquishing Statement link on the Status Result – Change of Institution screen.

![Status Result - Change of Institution](image)

The system displays the Manage Relinquishing Statement screen.

If the award is in a no cost extension or within three months of the project period end date, the following informational pop-up message appears:

You have selected an award in a no-cost extension/within three months of the project period end date. NIH Institutes & Centers (ICs) policies may limit change of grantee organization requests based on the amount of time remaining on the award. Please contact the awarding IC to determine IC policy.

If this pop-up message screen appears, click the OK button to proceed to the Manage Relinquishing Statement screen.

5. To start a new RS: Click the Start a new RS button.

If an RS has already been submitted, a new RS cannot be submitted unless the prior RS (s) shows a status of Accepted for Consideration or Refused.
6. To edit a RS that is in progress: Click the **Edit** link.

To edit an RS, the RS’s status must be **SO Work in Progress (WIP)** or Returned.
When either the **Start a new RS** button or **Edit** link is selected, the system displays the *Relinquishing Statement* screen.

7. Complete or edit the RS Form as follows:

   The required fields are noted by an asterisk. The following fields are required: **New Institution Name**, **Contact Email at the Institution**, **Requested Termination Date (MMDDYYYY)**, and **Direct Cost** $.

   a. Click the **Search** button in the **New Institution Name** section to search for the receiving institution within the NIH eRA Commons database. For more information please refer to the topic titled *Search for Institution on Page 397*.

   b. Complete the remaining fields: **Contact Email at the Institution**, **Requested Termination Date (MMDDYYYY)**, **Direct Cost** $, and **Indirect Cost** $.

   c. Type, NONE, in the **Equipment Transferring with the Project** section if there is no equipment to be transferred.

8. To save the RS, click the **Save** button.
The system displays the RS Form on the Relinquishing Statement screen and sets its status to SO Work in Progress.

19.4.2 Search for Institution

When you click the Search button for the New Institution Name: field on the Manage Relinquishing Statement screen, the system displays the New Institution – Search screen.

To search for an institution:

1. Type in the receiving institution’s name, IPF or DUNS number and click the Search button.
2. If the receiving institution is found, click on the receiving institution’s **IPF Code**.

![New Institution - Search](image)

The system inserts the receiving institution’s name, DUNS number and IPF Code in the appropriate text boxes on the *Relinquishing Statement* screen.

If a new institution is registered with the eRA Commons, it is highly recommended to choose it from the search results. DUNS Number and IPF code are pre-populated from the institutional profile file.

The IPF Code is used to link the submitted RS to the receiving institution and to make it viewable for SO at the receiving institution.

3. If the receiving institution is not found, type the receiving institution’s name in the **New Institution Name** text box and click the **Insert** button.

![New Institution - Search](image)

The system inserts the new receiving institution’s name in the appropriate text box on the *Manage Relinquishing Statement* screen.
If the receiving institution is not registered in the NIH eRA Commons (IPF Code is not provided), it may not be able to view the relinquishing statement until it is registered in the eRA Commons. The New Institution needs to register in the eRA Commons and contact the eRA Service Desk for assistance in linking the relinquishing statement to the new institution account.

19.4.3 Delete a Relinquishing Statement

The RS can be deleted if the RS is in SO Work in Progress state and has never been submitted to the Agency.

1. To delete an RS, click the Delete link on the Manage Relinquishing Statement screen.

![Manage Relinquishing Statement Screen](image)

The system displays the RS in a non-editable form and the following message appears on the Delete Relinquishing Statement screen:

*Please confirm that you would like to delete the following relinquishing statement.*

If you no longer wish to delete the RS, you can stop the action by selecting the Cancel button.
2. Click the Delete button on the Delete Relinquishing Statement screen to delete the RS.

If the **Delete** button is clicked, the system deletes all data associated with the RS and returns to the *Manage Relinquishing Statement* screen.

### 19.4.4 Route to PD/PI

SOs can route the relinquishing statement to the PD/PI for if necessary.

To route the RS to the appropriate PD/PI:

1. Click the **Route to PI** button on the bottom of the *Relinquishing Statement* screen.

   The Route Relinquishing Statement screen appears. The **Next Reviewer** field displays the contact PD/PI.
2. Optional: Enter comments as necessary.

3. Select the **Route to PI** button.

   The system displays *Route Relinquishing Statement* screen with the confirmation message and sends an email notification to the PD/PI regarding the RS. For more information please refer to the section titled *eMail Notifications*.

4. Click the **OK** button to go back to the *Manage Relinquishing Statement* screen.

   The system returns to the *Manage Relinquishing Statement* screen.
The **Status of RS** field displays *PD/PI Work in Progress*. If the routing process was canceled (**Cancel** button) before completion, the **Status of RS** field displays *SO Work in Progress*.

### 19.4.5 Submit a Relinquishing Statement

Only an institution’s Signing Official can submit a Relinquishing Statement to the Agency.

To submit the Relinquishing Statement:

1. Click the **Submit** button on the *Relinquishing Statement* screen.
The institution name and contact information are required at the time of submission to the Agency.

The system displays the Submit Relinquishing Statement to NIH screen. The Certification Acceptance Statement is displayed and reads as follows:

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE:

In view of the fact that we do not wish to nominate another program director/principal investigator or continue the research project at this Institution, this is to signify our willingness to terminate this grant as of [Requested Termination Date] and to relinquish all claims to any unexpended and uncommitted funds remaining in the grant as of that date, as well as to all recommended future support of this project.

That portion of the estimated unexpended balance which has been received will be returned to the Public Health Service, upon request, with a final adjustment, if required, to be made after the grant account has been audited.

I certify that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief, and accept the obligation to comply with Public Health Services terms and conditions if a grant is terminated as a result of this application. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.

2. Click the I Agree button to submit the RS or click the Cancel button to exit the screen.

If the Cancel button is clicked, the following screen message appears:

This relinquishing statement will not be submitted to the National Institutes of Health without agreement to the ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE statement.
If the **Cancel** button is clicked, the following screen message appears:

> This relinquishing statement will not be submitted to the National Institutes of Health without agreement to the ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE statement.

When the **I Agree** button is clicked, the system displays the **Manage Relinquishing Statement** screen with the following message:

> The Relinquishing Statement has been submitted to NIH.

The system also creates the RS PDF file. If the system takes from thirty seconds to two minutes to generate the RS, then the system displays an informational message.

> The next reviewer is internal NIH user.

The system returns to the **Manage Relinquishing Statement** screen. The **Status of RS** field displays *Submitted to Agency*.

For post-awarded and post-review applications, email notifications are sent to; the centralized IC mailbox; the currently assigned GMS; and the PO. For pre-review applications, email notifications are sent to; the Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR); the SRO, if assigned; and the receiving institution contact email provided on the RS electronic form. For more information please refer to the section titled [eMail Notifications](#).

3. To **View** the RS or **View Routing History**, click the appropriate link. Please refer to the topics titled *Signing Official Search/View Relinquishing Statement* on Page 409 or *PD/PI Search/View Relinquishing Statement* on Page 416 for more information.
19.5 Program Director/Principal Investigator Responsibilities

If the Relinquishing Statement is routed to a PD/PI, the RS can be edited and routed back to the SO at the relinquishing institution. The PD/PI can edit only the institution information and contact email address.

19.5.1 Edit Relinquishing Statement

Perform the following steps to find and edit a Relinquishing Statement:

1. Find the appropriate grant on the Status Result – List of Applications screen and click the Relinquishing Statement link.

If there are multiple PIs for a grant, the letters MPI appear to the right of the Application ID.

The system displays the Relinquishing Statement screen.

2. If necessary: To add or change the institution information on the RS form, click the Search button in the New Institution Name section to search for the receiving institution within the NIH eRA Commons database. For more information please refer to the Search for Institution topic.

The system inserts the new receiving institution’s name in the appropriate text box on the Manage Relinquishing Statement screen.
4. *If necessary*: Complete the **Contact Email at the Institution** address.

The email address should be in the following format: user_name@domain_name.com.
If the email address is not entered, an error message is produced. For more information please refer to the section titled Error Messages.

5. Perform one of the following on the Relinquishing Statement screen:
   a. To save the edits to the RS, click the Save button.
   b. To cancel editing the RS, click the Cancel button.

19.5.2 Route Relinquishing Statement to SO

After the appropriate edits have been made to the RS, the RS is routed back to the SO for submission to the Agency. To route the RS back to the SO:

1. Select the Route to SO button on the Relinquishing Statement screen.

   If the new institution name has not been provided, then the following warning message is displayed:

   The New Institution Name has not been provided. This information will be required at time of submission to agency.

   If the new institution’s name is not blank, the new institution’s IPF number has to be provided. If the IPF number is not provided, then the following warning message is displayed:
You have selected an institution not registered in the NIH eRA Commons. Please verify the institution information. The new institution may not receive notification and will not be able to view the relinquishing statement until it is registered in the NIH Commons. The New Institution will need to register in the eRA Commons and contact the eRA Service Desk to access the relinquishing statement.

The system displays the Route Relinquishing Statement screen. The Next Reviewer is the relinquishing SO. If there is multiple SOs at the relinquishing institution, the Next Reviewer drop down menu can be used to select the appropriate SO to route the RS to that person. The names are displayed as last name, first name.

2. Click the Route to SO button to route the RS to the SO.

   If you wish to abort the action, selecting the Cancel button to return to the Relinquishing Statement screen.

If the Route to SO button is clicked, the system displays the Route Relinquishing Statement screen with an OK button. The following message is displayed: The relinquishing statement was routed to <next reviewer commons user id>.

3. Click the OK button to complete the routing to the relinquishing SO.

   An email notification is sent to the selected SO notifying that the RS has been routed back. For more information please refer to the section titled eMail Notifications.
19.5.3 Signing Official Search/View Relinquishing Statement

Perform the following steps to search for a grant to relinquish or to view an RS:

1. Click the **Change of Institution** link on the *Status* screen.

The system displays the *Status – Change of Institution* screen.

19.5.3.1 Search for a Grant to Relinquish or to View RS

This search is designed for the SOs at the original (relinquishing) institution. For steps on performing a search as a PD/PI, refer to the topic titled *PD/PI Search/View Relinquishing*
1. Enter the appropriate search criteria in the **Search for Grants** section on the **Status – Change of Institution** screen. At minimum the required fields must be populated: **Institution Code** and **Serial Num**.

2. Select the **Search** button.

**Screen**  
*Search for Grants Section on Status Results – Change of Institution*

The system displays the **Status Results – Change of Institution** screen.

2. Click the **Manage Relinquishing Statement** link.

**Screen**  
*Manage Relinquishing Statement*

The system displays the **Manage Relinquishing Statement** screen. If the RS has been routed to the PD/PI by the SO or the RS has been submitted to the Agency, then the **View** and **View Routing History** links appear.
If the RS has been submitted to the Agency and returned from NIH for corrections or the RS’s status is *SO Work in Progress*, then the **Edit** and **View Routing History** links appear.

For editing the RS, refer to the section titled **Manage Relinquishing Statement**.

3. To view the RS, click the **View** link.

If the RS has not been submitted to NIH, then the system displays the non-editable **Relinquishing Statement** screen. You can select the **Cancel** button on the **Relinquishing Statement** screen to return to the **Manage Relinquishing Statement** screen.
If the RS has been submitted to NIH, then the system displays the RS in PDF format in a separate window.
4. **Optional:** To view the RS routing history, click the **View Routing History** link.
The system displays the View Routing History screen. You might see the following statuses depending on where the RS is in the process: SO Work in Progress, PD/PI Work in Progress, Submitted to Agency, Returned, Accepted for Consideration, Submitted to Agency and Linked, or Accepted for Consideration and Linked.

5. Click the Back button to return to the Manage Relinquishing Statement screen.

19.5.3.2 Search for Relinquishing Statements Submitted by Former Institution

SOs have the ability to search for Relinquishing Statements submitted by the former institution. This search is performed using the Search for Relinquishing Statements section on the Status – Change of Institution screen.

To search for RS submitted by the former institution:

1. Enter the appropriate grant information in the Search for Relinquishing Statements search fields and select the Search button.

If no search parameters are entered, the search returns all the RS(s) linked to the current institution by Institutional Profile File (IPF).

If the current institution has not been registered with Commons before the RS is submitted, the search does not return any results until the RS is updated with the IPF and/or the DUNS number.

If the system determines that no Relinquishing Statements have been linked to the receiving institution, then the following warning message appears:
No relinquishing statements have been associated with your institution. Please contact eRA Service Desk.

The system displays the Status Results – Search for Relinquishing Statements screen.

2. Click the View Relinquishing Statement link.

The system displays the View Relinquishing Statement screen. Relinquishing Statements with a status of Accepted for Consideration or Submitted to Agency are displayed.

3. Click the View link for the appropriate RS.

The system displays the RS in PDF format in a separate window. If the PDF file does not exist, the system displays the following message: Document Not Found.

4. Click the Cancel button to return to the Status Result – Search for Relinquishing Statements screen.

19.5.4 PD/PI Search/View Relinquishing Statement

Once a Relinquishing Statement has been submitted to the Agency, it is viewable within the Commons Status Information screen.

Perform the following steps to view the submitted form.

1. On the **Status Result – List of Applications/Grants** screen, click the appropriate grant number link in the **Application ID** column.

The system displays the **Status Information** screen.

2. From the **Status Information** screen, click the **Relinquishing Statement** link in the upper right hand corner.
The system displays the Relinquishing Statements screen.

3. Click the Relinquishing Statement link to view the Relinquishing Statement PDF.

19.6 eMail Notifications

19.6.1 eMail to the New Institution Contact eMail Provided on the RS Electronic Form

Subject: eRA Commons: Relinquishing Statement for Grant <Grant Number> Submitted

To: New institution contact email provided on the RS electronic form

eMail Content: <Do not reply warning>

A relinquishing statement for NIH Grant Number <Grant Number> has been submitted electronically through eRA Commons identifying this email address as a contact for the new institution.
You may view this relinquishing statement by going to the Change of Institution Search in Status and executing a query for the relinquishing statement.

NIH prior approval is required for the transfer of the legal and administrative responsibility for a grant-supported project or activity from one legal entity to another before the expiration of the approved project period (competitive segment). The proposed new grantee must submit a change of institution application. See the NIH Grants Policy Statement for policies regarding change of institution requests.

If your institution is not registered in the NIH eRA Commons, you will need to register in the eRA Commons and contact the eRA Help Desk for assistance in linking the relinquishing statement to your new institution account.

If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Help Desk via the web at http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/, by phone 1-866-504-9552 (tty: 301-451-5939) or commons@od.nih.gov <mailto:commons@od.nih.gov> or the Grants Management Officer or the Grants Management Specialist identified in the Notice of Award (NoA).

Please access the NIH Commons at [URL to Commons Home Page]

19.6.2 Confirmation eMail to PD/PI & SO from Former Institution Acknowledging NIH Receipt of RS

TO: PD/PI, SO (who actually submitted the RS)

**SUBJECT: eRA Commons: Relinquishing Statement for Grant <Grant Number> Submitted**

eMail Content: <Do not reply warning>

A relinquishing statement for Grant <Grant Number> was electronically submitted to NIH and may now be viewed in the eRA Commons on the Status Information screen.

If you logged in as PD/PI, go to Status - List of Applications/Grants and select the link associated with the Grant Number.

If you logged in as SO, you can access the Status Information page by going to Status, executing a query for the grant, and selecting the link associated with the Grant Number. Also, you can view the submitted relinquishing statement through the Manage Relinquishing Statement page.

NIH must review and acknowledge the receipt of the relinquishing statement before a change of institution can be processed.

If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Help Desk via the web at http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/, by phone 1-866-504-9552 (tty: 301-451-5939) or commons@od.nih.gov <mailto:commons@od.nih.gov> or the Grants Management Officer or the Grants Management Specialist identified in the Notice of Award (NoA).

Please access the NIH Commons at [URL to Commons Home Page]
19.6.3 The Relinquishing Statement Routed eMail Notification

Subject: eRA Commons: Request That You Review Relinquishing Statement for Grant <Grant Number>

To: PD/PI, SO - Individual selected by the current user as the next reviewer using the Route button

<User Last Name>, <User First Name> has completed processing the Relinquishing Statement for Grant <Grant Number>, and has forwarded it to you.

Please review the Relinquishing Statement in the NIH eRA Commons system and take the appropriate action for its eventual submission to the NIH. Please be aware that the correct new institution name and the contact email address provided on the relinquishing statement are necessary for the appropriate interactions between the awarding IC and grantee institutions involved in the process of the grant transfer.

Please use the link provided below to access the eRA Commons login screen.

The previous reviewer comments on why this action was taken are as follows: [Comments].

Footer:

If you have any questions about this email, please contact <Initiator First Name> <Initiator Last Name> at <mailto:initiator_email_addr>, who initiated this action.

If you have any questions about the change of institution request process at NIH, please contact the Grants Management Officer or the Grants Management Specialist identified in the Notice of Award (NoA).

If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Help Desk at our preferred method of contact http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/ or call 1-866-504-9552 (tty: 301-451-5939) or commons@od.nih.gov <mailto:commons@od.nih.gov>.

Please access the NIH Commons at [URL to Commons Home Page]

19.6.4 The Relinquishing Statement Returned eMail Notification

Subject: eRA Commons: Relinquishing Statement for Grant <Grant Number> has been Returned by NIH

To: SO (who submitted RS to the agency), Centralized institution mailbox.

Relinquishing Statement for grant <Grant Number> has been reviewed by NIH and routed back to you with the following comments: [Comments]

Footer:

If you have any questions about this email, please contact Grants Management Specialist <Initiator First Name> <Initiator Last Name> at <mailto:initiator_email_addr>, who initiated this action.
If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Help Desk at our preferred method of contact http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/ or call 1-866-504-9552 (tty: 301-451-5939) or commons@od.nih.gov <mailto:commons@od.nih.gov>.

Please access the NIH Commons at [URL to Commons Home Page]

<initiator_email_addr> is the Employment address.

19.6.5 The Relinquishing Statement Acknowledged by NIH eMail Notification

**Subject:** NIH Automated Email: Relinquishing Statement for Grant <Grant Number> Received

To: SO (who submitted RS to agency), Centralized institution mailbox, PD/PI

NIH has acknowledged the receipt of the Relinquishing Statement for grant <Grant Number>.

Footer:

If you have any questions about this email, please contact <Initiator First Name> <Initiator Last Name> at <mailto:initiator_email_addr>, who initiated this action.

If you have any questions about the change of institution request process at NIH, please contact the Grants Management Officer or the Grants Management Specialist identified in the Notice of Award (NoA).

If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Help Desk at our preferred method of contact http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/ or call 1-866-504-9552 (tty: 301-451-5939) or commons@od.nih.gov <mailto:commons@od.nih.gov>.

Please access the NIH Commons at [URL to Commons Home Page]

19.6.6 eMail Acknowledging RS Now Visible to New Institution After IPF is Entered by NIH Internal User

**TO:** PD/PI assigned to the grant, SO who submitted the RS from the former institution, new institution contact email provided on the RS electronic form

**SUBJECT:** eRA Commons: Relinquishing Statement for Grant <Grant Number> is visible to the New Institution

eMail Content: <Do not reply warning>

A relinquishing statement for Grant <Grant Number> was linked to the new institution by NIH and may now be viewed in the eRA Commons by going to the Change of Institution Search in Status and executing a query for the relinquishing statement.

Footer:
If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Help Desk via the web at http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/, by phone 1-866-504-9552 (tty: 301-451-5939) or commons@od.nih.gov <mailto:commons@od.nih.gov> or the Grants Management Officer or the Grants Management Specialist identified in the Notice of Award (NoA).

Please access the NIH Commons at [URL to Commons Home Page]

19.6.7 Change of Institution Time Based Reminders

19.6.7.1 Change of Institution Application Reminder Notice (30 Days after RS Submit Date)

Recipients: New institution contact email provided on the RS form

From: eRANotifications@mail.nih.gov

Subject: NIH Automated Email: Relinquishing Statement has been submitted XX days ago

eMail Content: <Do not reply warning>

The relinquishing statement for NIH Grant Number [GrantNumber] has been submitted electronically through eRA Commons <XX> days ago.

As the proposed new grantee, you must provide the GMO with a change of institution application prior to the anticipated start date at the new organization and preferably several months in advance. Failure to provide timely notification may result in disapproval of the request or significant delays in processing.

If you have already submitted a paper change of institution application, you may disregard this notice.

If you do not intend to submit a change of institution application, please contact the grants management officer or the grants management specialist at the awarding IC to inform them.

If you have any questions about the change of institution request process at NIH, please contact the grants management officer or the grants management specialist at the awarding IC.

If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Help Desk via the web at https://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/, by phone 1-866-504-9552 (tty: 301-451-5939) or commons@od.nih.gov <mailto:commons@od.nih.gov>.

Thank you.

19.6.7.2 RS Reminder Notice (30 Days after Change of Institution Application Submit Date)

Recipients: Any SO at the Former Institution (of the Parent Grant), Former Institution centralized mailbox, PD/PI on the application

From: eRANotifications@mail.nih.gov
Subject: NIH Automated Email: Change of Institution Electronic Request has been submitted XX days ago

eMail Content: <Do not reply warning>

The Change of Institution request for NIH Grant Number [Parent Grant Number] has been submitted electronically through Grants.gov <XX> days ago.

The request to change the grantee institution indicates that there may be a change in status of the PD/PI which requires prior approval from the NIH. Please contact the grants management officer or the grants management specialist at the awarding IC to discuss the status of the award.

If you have already submitted a relinquishing statement on paper, you may disregard this notice.

If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Help Desk via the web at http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/, by phone 1-866-504-9552 (tty: 301-451-5939) or commons@od.nih.gov <mailto:commons@od.nih.gov>.

Thank you.

19.7 Error Messages

If the system determines that an unexpected error occurred, then the following error message appears.

An unexpected error occurred. Please contact eRA Service Desk.

If the system determines that the required field information was not entered on the search screen, then the following error message is produced:

You must enter the following required fields to proceed<field>.

If the system determines that the grant being searched for is not found, then the following error message is produced:

No grants to relinquish have been found.

If the system determines that the new institution name has not been entered on the RS, then the following error message is produced:

New Institution Name is a required field.

If the system determines that the new institution’s Email Address has not been completed on the RS, then the following error message is produced:

Please enter data in the Email Address field (e.g. user_name@domain_name.com) (ID: 30102).

If the system determines that the Termination Date has not been completed on the RS, then the following error message is produced:

Termination Date is a required field. (ID: 200241)
If the system determines that the Termination Date is not within the current budget period on the RS, then the following error message is produced:

_The requested Termination Date must be within the current budget period._

If the system determines that the Direct Cost field has not been completed on the RS, then the following error message is produced:

_Direct Cost is a required field._

If the system determines that the Direct Costs of unexpended balance on the RS exceed the amount awarded for the current budget period, then the following error message is produced:

_The direct costs being relinquished must not exceed the direct costs for the current budget period for transfers of active awards._

If the system determines that the Indirect Costs of unexpended balance on the RS exceed the amount awarded for the current budget period, then the following error message is produced:

_The indirect costs being relinquished must not exceed the direct costs for the current budget period for transfers of active awards._

If the system determines that the total unexpended balance on the RS exceeds the amount awarded for the current budget period, then the following error message is produced:

_The total costs being relinquished must not exceed the costs for the current budget period for transfers of active awards._

If the system determines that the Direct Cost, or the Indirect Cost or the Total Cost exceeds 999,999,999, then the appropriate error messages are displayed:

- _Direct Cost amount cannot exceed 999,999,999._
- _Indirect Cost amount cannot exceed 999,999,999._
- _Total Cost amount cannot exceed 999,999,999._
20 Federal Financial Report (FFR) Module

A Federal Financial Report (FFR) is a statement of expenditures associated with a grant. Recipients of federal funds are required to report the status of funds for grants or assistance agreements to the sponsor of the grant using the Federal Financial Report expenditure data.

The FFR module lets grantees search for and initiate the FFR from within eRA Commons, which redirects them to the federal Payment Management System to complete the submission. Grantees can also check on the status of submitted FFRs, view the PDF of submitted FFRs, and view the history of activity for an FFR.

Beginning January 1, 2021, HHS grant recipients are required to submit the SF-425 long form in the Payment Management System (PMS) instead of the eRA Commons FFR Module.

Guide notices:


Register with PMS (https://pmsapp.psc.gov/pms/app/userrequest) and obtain PMS log in credentials prior to submitting an FFR. Familiarize yourself with PMS using the documentation provided by PMS (see https://pms.psc.gov/pms-user-guide/federal-financial-report.html). The PMS Help Desk can help with system problems; see https://pms.psc.gov/support/help-desk.html.

20.1 Report Submission Due Dates

The FFR is prepared and submitted by Grant and Contract Accounting (GCA) on behalf of the Principal Investigator (PI). The schedule for submitting required financial reports is generally specified in the award documents of a grant or contract. See NIH FFR Supplemental instructions, Different due dates exist for FFRs depending on whether the report is an annual report or the final report.

20.1.0.1 Annual Federal Financial Report

Except for awards under SNAP and awards that require more frequent reporting, the FFR is required on an annual basis. When required on an annual basis, the report must be submitted for each budget period no later than 90 days after the end of the calendar quarter in which the budget period ended. The reporting period for an annual FFR will be that of the budget period for the particular grant; however, the actual submission date is based on the calendar quarter.

This translates to the dates in the following table:
20.1.0.2 Final Federal Financial Report

For awards requiring a final FFR, the due date and status for a final FFR are based on the Project Period End Date (PPED) as follows:

- **Pending**: If the FFR is not submitted and it is within 120 days of the PPED
- **Due**: If the FFR is not submitted and it is between the PPED and 120 days past the PPED
- **Late**: If the FFR is not submitted and it is over 120 days past the PPED

20.2 FSR Role in Commons

A user who needs the authority to view, enter, and submit an FFR on behalf of a research institution must possess the FSR role in eRA Commons to access the FFR module. An institution’s Signing Official (SO) or Account Administrator can add this role to a user’s account.

A Signing Official (SO) or Business Official/Administrative Official (BO/AO) can have the FSR role.

An user who possesses only the FSR role can perform only those tasks associated with FFRs; however, an account can include multiple roles, including that of FSR.

20.3 Features of FFR

If you have the FSR role in Commons, you can use the FFR module to perform multiple tasks. Available options vary depending on the status of the FFR associated with the award.

- Search for grant awards within your organization having associated FFRs
- Initiate a FFR by clicking Manage FFR button, which redirects you to PMS to fill out and submit the FFR
- View an FFR as a PDF
- View the submission history of an FFR

NIH requires all financial expenditure data to be submitted via PMS. This includes all initial FFRs being prepared for submission and any revised FFRs being submitted or re-submitted to an HHS agency.

20.4 Accessing FFR

The FFR module is part of eRA Commons. If you hold the FSR Commons role, you have access to FFR.

2. Log into Commons.
3. Select the FFR module from Commons navigation.
21 Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) Module

The Electronic Research Administration (eRA) Commons is a Web-based system for applicants and institutions to participate in the electronic grant administration process. Commons provides a modular framework and infrastructure that allows National Institutes of Health (NIH) extramural grantee organizations, Operating Divisions (OPDIVs), grantees, and the public to conduct grant-related business with NIH.

The Financial Conflict of Interest User Guide will instruct a user on how to allow specific users to manage the Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) reporting process for their particular Institution. The Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) reporting process allows institutions to report the existence of any identified financial conflicts of interest to the Agency as required by the Federal regulation, specifically Title 42 Code of Federal Regulation Part 50 Subpart F for grants and cooperative agreements. The institution’s Signing Official (SO) completes this reporting process unless an FCOI role is delegated to another user (the SO can also assign the FCOI_ASST and FCOI_View roles to other users). To do this, the SO must log into the eRA Commons and navigate to the FCOI sub-system.

The FCOI module is an online interface within Commons that allows grantees and Federal staff to share information. The module is mandatory for all institutions. An institution’s Signing Official completes this reporting process unless another Commons user is delegated with the proper authority to access the module.

The FCOI module in Commons allows institutional users to:

- Initiate and prepare FCOI reports
- Electronically submit reports and supporting documents as well as annual FCOI reports
- Receive notification via email upon the submission and receipt of an FCOI
- Search and view FCOI reports previously submitted through the Commons
- Revise an Initial 2011 FCOI Report to update FCOI data following completion of the Retrospective Review or to submit a Mitigation Report when bias is found following the completion of a Retrospective Review.
- Access history of actions
- Assign FCOI access to other Commons users

Additional information on the reporting requirements can be found within the Frequently Asked Questions on the Office of Extramural Research’s Financial Conflict of Interest website at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/index.htm.

22 Non-Research Amendments, Supplements, and Continuations (for Non-Research Agencies)

The *Non-Research* module lets you manage the process to submit post-award amendment applications for funding, as well as supplements and continuations. After logging into eRA Commons, you can access the *Non-Research* main screen in two ways:

1. Navigate to Non Research via the Apps menu - OR -

2. Select one of the options in the SAMHSA pane on the eRA Commons landing screen.

Navigating to Non-Research via the Apps menu brings you to the Manage Post Award Amendments search screen under *Non-Research*. Choosing an option in the SAMHSA pane brings you to the screen in Non-Research that matches the dropdown option you chose.

For help on each screen, see:

*Initiate Amendment by PI*

*Initiate Amendment by SO*

*Manage Non Research Continuations*

*Manage Non Research Supplements*
View Amendments

Request for Additional Materials - RAM

22.1 Initiate Amendment by PI

When a user with a PI role navigates to Non-Research and then to the Manage Post Award Amendments screen, the system present them with a blank search screen. Clicking search shows the list of grants eligible for amendments. This list will only display those grants on which the user is a PI.

A checkbox is available to show expired grants as well and these may also be amended.

The screen will show buttons in the Action column for initiating a new amendment application or to view a previous amendment application if that grant has had one previously.

The View button option will display any amendment applications associated with that grant. Please see the View section for more detail.

Clicking the Initiate button will open a menu showing the following types of amendment options:

- Budget Revision
- Carryover Request
- Change in Scope
- Key Personnel
- Merger, Transfer, etc
- No-Cost Extension
- Organization Change
Clicking one of the menu options will open up the ASSIST module and open the forms required for the type of amendment selected. (click for an example)

The application will include the main SF424 form as well as other forms that required based on the type of amendment selected. Each tab navigates to that form.

Other features on the Information page will show the type of amendment, the PI and Institution information, the related FOA, as well as other information.
It is important to check the SAM registration to be sure that the expiration date is *after* the submission date.

### 22.2 *Initiate Amendment by SO*

SAMHSA users who are Business Officials will be given the Signing Official role in eRA Commons.

Business Officials with the SO (Signing Official) role in eRA Commons are able to search for all grants that are eligible to be amended within their institution.

Open **Search** by navigating to the Non Research module in eRA Commons, and then click **Manage Post Award Amendments**.

The resulting Search screen provides fields to search by several criteria. If the search criteria fields are left blank and then you click the **Search** button, a list of *all* eligible grants for the institution are displayed.

The SO can then use the **Filter** tool to find specific grants or grants with specific criteria (specific PD/PI, for example).

The resulting list contains an **Initiate** button and, if there are already amendments for that grant, a **View** button.

The **View** button displays any amendment applications associated with that grant. Please see the **View** section for more detail.

Once the grant to be amended is located, click the **Initiate** button in the **Action** column on the row for that grant to see a dropdown menu listing the following amendment options:
- Budget Revision
- Carryover Request
- Change in Scope
- Key Personnel
- Merger, Transfer, etc
- No-Cost Extension
- Organizational Change

Select the most appropriate type. You are then taken to the ASSIST tool to begin the post-amendment application with the amendment-specific forms.
The application includes the main SF424 form as well as other forms that are required based on the type of amendment selected. Each tab navigates to that form.

Other features on the Information page will show the type of amendment, the PI and Institution information, the related FOA, as well as other information.

It is important to check the SAM registration to be sure that the expiration date is after the submission date.
22.3 View Amendments

To view amendments, log into eRA Commons with the PI or SO role. Navigate to the Non-Research module in Commons, and then select Manage Post Award Amendments.

The Manage Post Award Amendments: Search screen opens.

PIs see a list of grants for that PI, which are eligible to be amended.

The list can be resorted by clicking the heading title for any column except for Action.

By default, expired grants are excluded but you can select the Include Related Grants checkbox to include those grants in the search results.

SOs initially see search fields above an empty hitlist.
The SO can then search via any combination of; Activity, IC, Serial #, or PD/PI Last Name. The **Include Expired Grants** checkbox allows the option to include expired grants in the search results.

If all fields are left blank, the search results include all eligible grants within the institution.

Use the Filter field for additional specification.
For both the PI and SO Search results;

Grants that have had amendments submitted have a View button as well as the Initiate button in the Action column of the table.

Clicking the View button opens the View screen and displays the amendments related to that specific grant as well as their statuses.

The Back to Search button at the top of the page returns the user to the previous page.

The Initiate button at the top of the page gives options to begin another amendment application.

The Action(s) button in the Action column provide a menu giving the options to either view a consolidated PDF of all related Requests for Additional Material (View Prior RAM) or to open up the RAM screen in order to upload materials (Edit RAM). The Edit RAM option does not show for awarded applications. See the section on RAM for more detail.

Please see these topics for more detail:

- PI Initiate
- SO Initiate
22.4 Request for Additional Materials - RAM

After submitting an amendment application, the Program Official (PO) or Grants Management Specialist (GMS) may ask for additional information to be submitted. This is done via a "Request for Additional Materials" (RAM).

**NOTE:** If you are accessing this screen from an OTA award via the Add Additional Materials or Edit Additional Materials actions in Status, see Additional Materials Requests for specific instructions for OTA awards.

From the View Amendments screen, any applications that require additional materials or actions will display an Action(s) button in the Action column.

Clicking on Action(s) opens a menu to select from Edit RAM or View Prior RAM.

View Prior RAM provides a PDF file of all RAM submissions that have been made for that Amendment application.

Selecting Edit RAM opens the RAM screen.
This screen contains:

- Application Information - A summary of the related application for which the RAM is being requested.
- An option to upload required documents requested. Up to 10 documents may be uploaded. Individual documents may not exceed 6MB in size.
- An area used for the justification which is a free-form text box and is a required field.
- **Cancel, Preview, Save, and Submit** buttons.
  - **Cancel** - Takes the user back to the Amendment View
  - **Preview** - Creates a PDF of all submitted RAMs
  - **Save** - Saved the current in-progress RAM
  - **Submit** - Sends the RAM to the agency. Once submitted, no more changes to this specific RAM can be made and the justification and uploaded files will be appended to the final summary PDF.

Things to note:

- There can only be one active (i.e. non-submitted) RAM at a time to which changes can be made by any authorized user. Once submitted, a new RAM is required for additional changes.
- There is no limit to the number of RAMs that the user can submit.
- Both PI and SO can edit the RAM as it allows for a partial save.
- The system provides an audit trail of who uploaded the documents.
- The user can see a consolidated list of all documents uploaded for RAM submission, with the latest on top. It is presented to the agency as one PDF with all documents combined.
Check all documents after uploading to ensure the right ones have been submitted.

When the RAM is submitted, an email notification is sent to the Government Project Officer (GPO), Grant Technical Assistant (GTA) and Grants Management Specialist (GMS). The system provides an audit trail of who uploaded the documents.
23 xTRACT

Extramural Trainee Reporting and Career Tracking (xTRACT) is a module within eRA Commons used by applicants, grantees, and assistants to create research training tables for inclusion in progress reports and institutional training grant applications.

Because xTRACT is integrated with Commons it is able to pre-populate some training data for training tables and reports by using xTrain appointment and related data. This includes trainee names, selected characteristics, institutions, grant numbers, and subsequent NIH and other HHS awards. xTRACT also allows the manual entry of data, for information not found in Commons or xTrain. This manually entered information is stored in xTRAIN and can be re-used when preparing subsequent training table submissions.

If you are a Signing Official (SO), Principal Investigator (PI), or assistant (ASST) in Commons, you have access to the xTRACT module.

xTRACT is a tool for creating training tables. Tables generated in xTRACT must be attached to and submitted with the appropriate progress report or application. There is no Submit feature in xTRACT.

For additional information on xTRACT, please refer to the resources below:

- xTRACT Online Help: [https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/xtract](https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/xtract)
24 Submitting Reference Letters

If you are asked to submit a reference letter for someone (meaning you are a ‘referee’), you can do so using eRA Commons. Reference letters can be submitted any time after the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is posted and no later than the submission deadline. Reference letters cannot be accepted through any means other than eRA Commons.

You do not need to log in to eRA Commons to submit a reference letter for an applicant. Although you - as the referee - do not need a Commons role to submit a reference letter, the candidate on whose behalf you are writing must have a valid Commons account and hold the principal investigator (PI) role. If your candidate has no Commons account or does not have the PI role, you receive an error when attempting to submit a letter.

The candidate’s signing official (SO), accounts administrator (AA), or administrative official (AO) at the institution must assign the PI role to the candidate's Commons account.

24.1 What You Need Before Starting

Before you submit a reference letter, you need the following:

- Applicant’s Commons User ID
- Applicant's last name as it appears on the Commons account
- Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) number
- Deadline for submitting (between the FOA open date and application submission deadline). The applicant should provide you with the date by which the letter needs to be submitted.

- If replacing a previously-submitted letter, you need the confirmation number from the first submission; see Replacing an Already-Submitted Reference Letter.

24.2 Requirements for Letters

- No longer than two pages

- Not password-protected

- In flattened PDF format. The PDF should not be a fillable form PDF (it should be flattened; see https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#16 for instructions)

For Fellowship applications and Career Development programs a Letter of Reference form is no longer required. A letter written on university letterhead or similar is acceptable.

24.3 Submitting the Letter

To submit a reference letter, follow the steps below:

1. Use your internet browser to access the Commons login page at https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/public/login.do
2. Click the **Submit Reference Letter** link.

The **Submit Reference Letter** screen displays.
3. Fill out the fields on this page. Required fields are displayed with a red asterisk (*). *Referee* refers to the person providing a reference letter by filling out this form.

**NOTE:** If submitting a reference letter for the first time, ignore the **Reference Letter Confirmation #** field. If replacing a previously-submitted letter, enter the confirmation letter for the letter you previously submitted here. See *Replacing an Already-Submitted Reference Letter* for more details.

4. Click the **Continue** button.

The next screen lets you upload your letter or form. The letter must be in flattened PDF format and should not exceed two pages.
5. Click the **Choose File** button, select a PDF file, and then click the **Submit** button. After you choose a file, you can click the **View** button to see its contents.

After submitting, a confirmation message appears, and you also receive an email with the confirmation number.

**IMPORTANT:** Take note of the confirmation number; if you need to update the reference letter, you must have this confirmation number available.

The candidate also receives a confirmation email that the letter was submitted, but cannot see the reference letter you've submitted.

If you need to re-submit (replace) a reference letter, see *Replace an Already-Submitted Reference Letter*.

For more information, refer to our tutorial titled *Submit Reference Letters in Commons*. 

25 Understanding Grant Numbers

A grant number provides unique identification for the grant. The figure below shows an example of a complete NIH grant number.

Sample Grant Number: 1 R01 CA 123456-01A1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Type</th>
<th>Activity Code</th>
<th>Institute/Center (IC)</th>
<th>Serial Number</th>
<th>Support Year</th>
<th>Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>123456</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grant number is comprised of the following parts:

**Application Type**: Indicates the type of application (e.g., new, renewal, non-competing, etc.)

**Activity Code**: Represents the specific category of support (e.g., research projects, fellowships, etc.)

**Institute/Center Code**: The code for the NIH Institute/Center (IC) associated with the grant

**Serial Number**: The unique number - assigned by the NIH Center for Scientific Research (CSR)- identifying the specific application

**Support Year**: Indicates the current year of support (e.g., an 01 support year is a new grant)

**Suffix Code**: An optional code used for supplements, amendments, or fellowship institutional allowances

- ‘A’ and related number identifies the amendment number (example: A1 = resubmission);
- ‘S’ and related number identifies the revision record and follows the grant year or the amendment designation to which additional funds have been awarded.
- ‘X’ and related number identifies a fellowship’s institutional allowance record. Allowance designations also follow the grant year or other designation(example: AG 12345-01X1 and HD 12345-0251X2)
- ‘P’ and related number indicates a pre-application.

For more complete information on deciphering the grant number, see:


For additional information types of grant programs, access the Grants & Funding website at:

25 The ORCID ID

The Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) ID is used within NIH and Grants.gov to relate publications to grants. You can associate your ORCID ID from the Commons Personal Profile module.

If no ORCID ID is connected to your profile, a link will be provided to start the process.

Click the Create or Connect your ORCID ID link and the ORCID site opens, letting you log in and connect your ID to your Commons profile or to set up an ORCID ID which can then be connected to your Commons profile. If you hover over the question mark icons for a field, a window will open with an explanation for that field.

NOTE: If you get an error from eRA Commons when attempting to link your ORCID ID, contact the eRA Service Desk. One common reason why this might not work is that you have two eRA Commons accounts, and the other account is already linked to the ORCID ID. The ORCID ID can be linked to only one Commons account. Also, to remove an ORCID, you must also contact the eRA Service Desk.
Once your ORCID ID has been created, click the Create or Connect your ORCID ID link in your Commons Personal Profile and log into ORCID. You will then be prompted to authorize NIH to access your personal ORCID profile (public information only).
The ORCID ID is an important identifier to enable transparent and trustworthy connections between individuals engaged in research, scholarship, and innovation activities and is tied to an individual researcher's or contributor's name. More than six million ORCID IDs have been established worldwide to connect individuals to their professional information (such as publications, awards, affiliations, etc.) for references and citations. You are encouraged to complete your ORCID profile and connect the resulting ID to your Commons account.

For more information regarding ORCID IDs please visit https://orcid.org.

Once you have successfully linked your ORCID ID to your Commons account, it will be shown on your Personal Profile and be available in IMPACII.
25.1 **Additional Instructions for Fellowship:**

For NIH fellowship applications submitted to due dates on or after January 25, 2020, the personal profile associated with the eRA Commons username entered in the Credential field for the PD/PI (fellowship applicant) must include an ORCID ID (e.g., orcid.org/0000-0001-2345-6789) in order to pass NIH validation requirements. For more information on linking an ORCID ID to an eRA Commons personal profile see: Commons Personal Profile Summary

25.2 **Additional Instructions for Career Development:**

For NIH Individual career development award applications submitted to due dates on or after January 25, 2020, the personal profile associated with the eRA Commons username entered in the Credential field for the PD/PI (candidate) must include an ORCID ID (e.g., orcid.org/0000-0001-2345-6789) in order to pass NIH validation requirements. For more information on linking an ORCID ID to an eRA Commons personal profile see: Commons Personal Profile Summary