



electronic Competitive Grant Application Process

**Expanded
eCGAP Focus Group
October 19, 2004**

Agenda



- Introductions
- Overview of the focus group
- Background on eCGAP and eRA exchange
- Update on eCGAP and eRA exchange activities
- Presentation of current issues
- Open discussion
- Next steps

Overview of Focus Group



Focus Group



- Technique to communicate effectively with stakeholders in the design & development of a system.
- Sessions will focus on requirements gathering & validation

Focus Groups help Project Team to:



- Finalize requirements & gain consensus
- Understand the workflow, data model, functions, dependencies, & business rules
- Define scope of versions to be delivered
- Define user roles for data & function security

Focus Groups help Project Team to:

- Identify issues (e.g., policy, changes in business practices)
- Verify the draft design and obtain consensus
- Outline the rollout plan
- Participate in production pilot



Focus Group Rules



- Be sensitive to time, follow agenda, & stay focused
- Participants should respect the rights of others & avoid speaking out of turn
- All participants are equal
- Participants must commit to follow on meetings
- Avoid excessive discussions on highly technical issues unless necessary

Expanded eCGAP Focus Group



- Representation from all business areas of the NIH extramural community
- Create purpose statement for focus group
- Each representative will write a role statement
- Manju Subramanya, writer, will coordinate meetings and take minutes
- Jen Flach, eCGAP Task Order Manager, will facilitate meetings

Logisitics



- Meet for 2 hours once a month, and every 2 weeks in the beginning
- Vote on issues
- Follow agenda closely
- Review minutes before posting to eRA website
- Break into subgroups as needed to address specific issues

Background

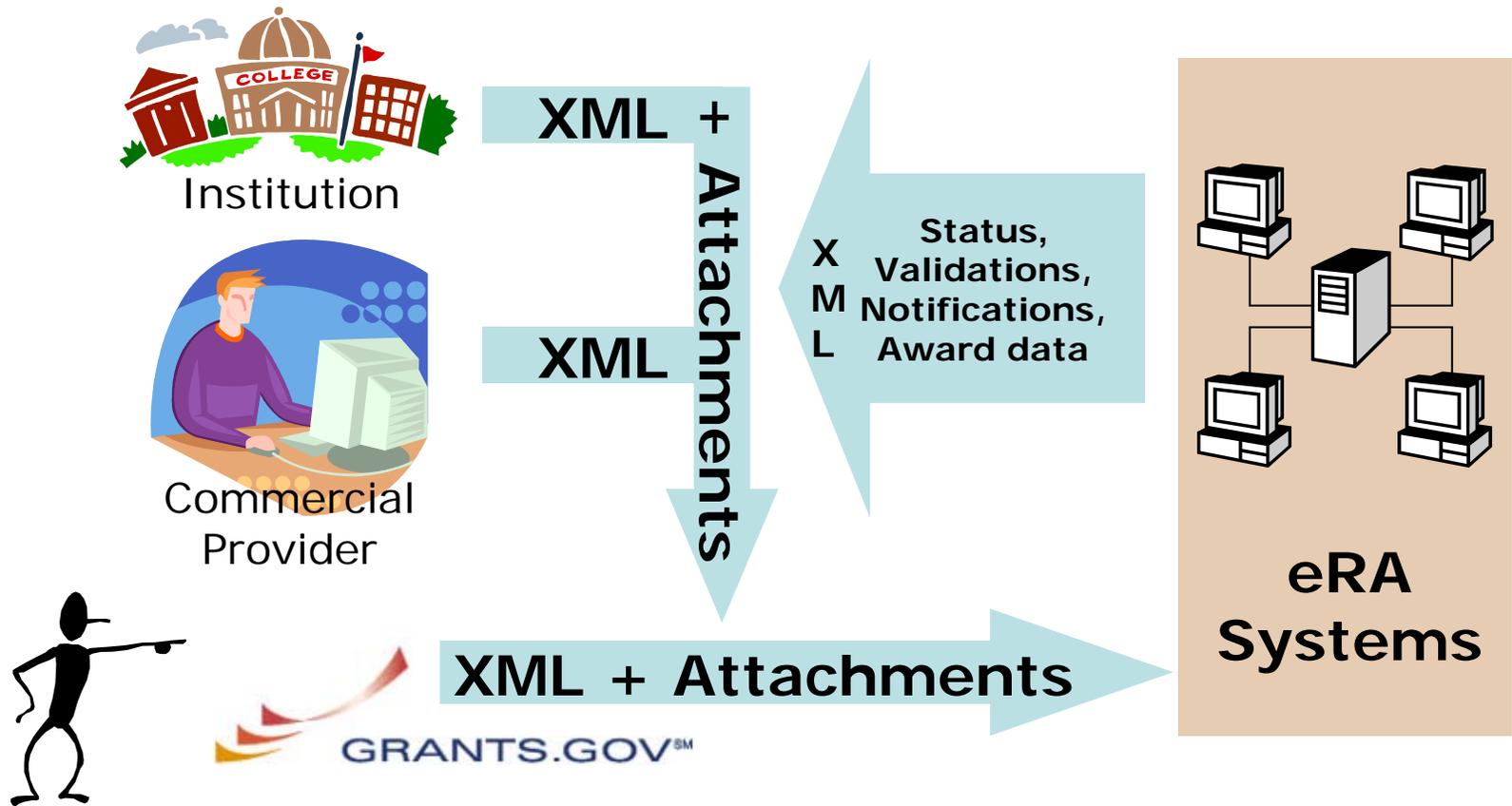


eCGAP Overview



- System-to-System exchange between NIH and Service Providers (SPs)
- Applicants prepare submission via SP system
 - Currently 6 SBIRs
 - In the future, will include:
 - More commercial companies
 - Research institutions themselves
 - Grants.gov Federal-wide storefront
- SP converts application to XML + attachments and transmits to eRA Exchange
- Application passes through business validations
- Data moved into eCGAP RR and other eRA Systems

CGAP & Grants.gov: Future Vision – Single Face



eCGAP Task Orders



- Business Components
 - Awarded to SAIC
 - Design and development of enhancements
 - Period of performance until Spring 2005
- Evaluation Task Order
 - Awarded to ACT
 - Adopting ebXML standard for trading partner registry and messaging
 - Critical as service providers and transactions increase
 - Buy vs. build evaluation to be completed Nov 2004
 - New task order to construct eXchange based evaluation

4 Steps to Production



- Pilot 1: Live test, 1 - 8 applications
- Pilot 2: Limited, < 30 applications
- Pilot 3: Unlimited numbers (assuming no major changes or problems from Pilot 2)
- Production

Repeat for Next Set of Features

Update



Pilot update



- 45 applications to date in 3 completed pilots
- Oct-Nov 2004 Pilot is ongoing
 - Unlimited modular simple grant applications
 - 25 apps verified for Oct 1 receipt date
 - Estimate about 50 for Nov 1 receipt date
 - Full-budget apps in Pilot 2
 - Limited to 5 per service provider
 - Improvements made based on Pilot 1
 - 1 app verified for Oct 1 receipt date
 - Can handle 1 appendix attachment
 - “Dress Rehearsal”-- Refine processes in preparation for production

Future eCGAP Pilot Plans



■ RFA Pilot

- Current code base has ability to accept simple applications in response to RFA's
- Identifying candidate RFAs
- Looking to reduce processing CSR and move application directly to IRG for review
- Peer review redesign focus groups underway

■ Feb/March 2005 Pilot

- First pilot for supplements
- Full-budget applications in Pilot 3
- Ability to handle some corrections (addendums) after receipt

eCGAP Plans for Production



- January 2005 declare production for:
 - Simple (R01, R03, R21)
 - Types:
 - New (Type 1)
 - Competing Continuations (Type 2)
 - Revisions
 - Modular budget

Outreach and Support for eCGAP Production



- eRA December 2004 symposium
 - Focus on electronic receipt
 - Educate internal NIH staff
 - Service Providers present their products and services
- Outreach to grantee community
 - Applicant Orientation Package
 - Service Provider questionnaire
- Refining support for Service Providers
 - eRA Help Desk taking a greater role
 - Re-organized eRA Partnership website

Outgoing Transactions



- Electronic Notice of Grant Award
 - First major outgoing transaction for the eRA eXchange
 - Requirements analysis underway
 - Development to begin by end of 2004
 - Pilot in early 2005
- Other simple transactions
 - Status of application through cycle

eRA/Grants.gov Integration Next Steps



- Implement business validations for grants.gov applications
- Create mechanism to report warnings and errors back to applicants via the Commons
- Grants.gov finalize NIH-Specific forms and schema in January 2005
- Generate grant image (424RR-based format)
- Finalize and post applicant package
- Test using “dead” data
 - CWG member volunteers

Development in 2005



- Support corrections to applications
- Expand types of grant mechanisms
- New transactions, including outgoing messages
- Integrating with Grants.gov
- Collaboration with NCRR for GCRC Progress Reporting

Current issues



Business Processes



- After receipt: no more paper copy
 - Impact on all processes -- including R&R, review, grants management, IC internal processes
 - Defining workflow with no paper as a trigger
 - Phasing out printing
- Corrections, addenda, and JIT information after initial receipt
 - Complex scenarios from receipt to award
 - Currently not codified, only guidelines
 - Re-generate the image after receipt
 - What is the image of record if NIH changes it?
 - Need to handle versions of applications

Business Processes (2)



- Transitioning from the 398 to the 424RR+NIH specific forms
- Updates to Commons Person Profile via Service Provider systems
- Co-PIs?

Potential Priorities for 2005 Development



- Expand types of grant mechanisms
 - SBIR/STTR
 - Training
 - Fellowships
 - AREA grants
 - Complex program grants and subprojects
 - Others
- New transactions
 - PPF update
 - FSR
 - eSNAP
 - eNAP

Outreach and Managing Expectations



- How to manage Grant types submissions to match our capabilities?
- Clarify and communicate the Service Provider responsibilities and their certification
- Outreach to applicant community
- Enhance communications within NIH community
- Integrate OPDIVs into eCGAP
- Make the experience positive for the entire community

Next steps



- Next meeting date
- Purpose statement for Focus Group
- Role statement from each business area
- Set agenda items for next meeting
- Review of action items