Two Factor Authentication: Accessing eRA Modules via login.gov

eRA is using two-factor authentication via login.gov, meaning access to eRA Systems will require something you know (password) and something you have (a phone or other device). This new log-in method, will be optional at first but it may be required later, and is for users of eRA Commons, Commons Mobile, IAR and ASSIST.

The move is part of HHS’s Reinvent Grants Management Initiative to provide the applicant and grantee community the ability to access four different grants systems (eRA, Grants.gov, GrantSolutions and Payment Management System) using the same user name and password via login.gov.

In this video tutorial, we will demonstrate how to create a login.gov account, associate it to your existing eRA Commons account, and login to an eRA module using the new login.gov account. We will use eRA Commons as an example.

Note: These steps are assuming you do not already have a login.gov account. We will look at the scenario of what to do if you already have a login.gov account in a moment.

Create a login.gov Account: First navigate to the eRA Commons home page. And along the left side, find the Login with login.gov portion of the page and click on the login.gov logo. You will be presented with a confirmation and instructional dialog box. Read the information and click Continue to proceed. This will redirect you to the login.gov Sign In page.

Here you will find a link to create an account. Clicking the link will be bring you to step 1 of 4 steps to create an account.

STEP 1: Enter your email address. This address will be the primary email address used for your new login.gov account. When done, click the Submit button to initiate the next action.

An email from login.gov will be sent to that address and within the message will be a button to confirm the email address. Click the button to proceed.

STEP 2: Create a strong Password. On this screen, you will create a password that adheres to the login.gov password policy. When you’re done, click Continue to initiate Step 3.

STEP 3: Step 3 is selecting the first of 2 different authentication methods you are required to setup. You have 5 different options to select from, including receiving a security code via text message; or by calling your phone; or using a 3rd party authentication application, such as Authy, Duo, or Google Authenticator to name just a few.
For this example, we will have the code sent to a cell phone via text messaging. So, by selecting the Phone option and clicking Continue, you will be presented with a screen to enter a phone number and have the code sent to you by text or a voice call where the code will be spoken to you. Clicking Send code initiates the action.

Next, you will enter the security code you received, clicking the Submit button when done. If login.gov successfully verifies the code, you will see a confirmation screen. Click Continue to move on to Step 4.

**Step 4: Select a second authentication method.** This authentication method will be used if you are unable to use the first method. Select from the options provided. In this example we will select the “I don’t have any of the above” option. Then click Continue button.

You are presented with a confirmation screen. This is because the “I don’t have any of the above” option generates 10 random codes for you to store that can be easily lost or compromised. Click the Choose a different method link at the bottom if you wish to go back and select a different second authentication method. Click Continue if you want to proceed.

login.gov will generate 10 12-character codes for you to download, print or copy. Each code can only be used once, and when all 10 codes have been used, a new set of 10 will be generated for you. Click the Continue button.

You have now successfully created a login.gov account! The next step is to associate your login.gov account to your eRA Commons account. To do this, you will click the Continue button on the login.gov account creation confirmation screen shown here.

**Associate login.gov with eRA Commons:** Clicking Continue will bring you back to the eRA Commons system. Since this is your first time coming to the eRA system with a login.gov account, your login.gov account will not be associated with your existing eRA Commons user account. In order to create that association, you will need to enter your eRA Commons credentials, your user ID and password. After entering your credentials, click Continue. This will create an association between your login.gov account and your eRA Commons account. This is a one-time setup process, and will not need to be done again unless you decide to use a different login.gov account.

From this point forward, you can use the login.gov option on the eRA Commons home page. Authenticate with your login.gov credentials (email and password) and the additional authentication method you setup with your login.gov account. In this case, a code sent via text message. 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 enter the two factor authentication source each time you log in, and you will directly access the eRA Commons.

**Resources:** There are a variety of resources available to you should you need help with creating your login.gov account and associating it with your eRA Commons account:

- eRA Commons Online Help
- Two Factor Authentication: Accessing eRA Modules via login.gov webpage
- FAQs on Two Factor Authentication: Accessing eRA Modules Using Login.gov
- login.gov Help Page: [https://login.gov/help/](https://login.gov/help/)
If you are still having issues with login.gov to authenticate to eRA Commons, contact the login.gov contact page: https://login.gov/contact/

For issues related to your eRA account or to associating your login.gov account with your eRA account, contact eRA Service Desk: https://grants.nih.gov/support/index.html

You may also wish to review our two additional tutorials. What to do if you already have a login.gov account, and What to do if you want to switch to a different login.gov account. https://era.nih.gov/era-training/era-videos.html#2FA

This concludes this tutorial on how to access eRA modules via login.gov, for two factor authentication. Thank you for watching.