

What is eRA?

The paperless transfer of extramural research grant application and administrative data is the NIH's vision for the 21st century. The **electronic Research Administration (eRA)** is the NIH's infrastructure for conducting interactive electronic transactions for the receipt, review, monitoring, and administration of NIH grant awards to biomedical investigators worldwide.

eRA integrates the external system, [NIH eRA Commons](#), and the internal system, [IMPAC II](#). The NIH eRA Commons enables communication with NIH's partners in the research community; NIH staff uses IMPAC II.

The eRA system comprises modules (programs) for each business area as well as cross-functional processes.

eRA at NIH is dedicated to making the research enterprise more effective and efficient through business process reengineering and the use of current technology.

Why eRA?

In responding to a Congressional mandate requiring federal agencies to migrate from paper-based to electronic systems, the NIH has undertaken the eRA project to lower costs and administrative effort, expedite extramural grants processing, and provide better quality information to the NIH and the external grantee community. The eRA project is a collaborative endeavor of the full NIH community. Ultimately, all parties involved will conduct seamless, secure, interactive business.

Each year NIH invests billions of dollars -- about \$13.5 billion in fiscal year 2000 -- in grant awards to some 50,000 investigators worldwide. Applicants submit approximately 45,000 research and training applications each year; the arrival of this huge paper load sets in motion an intense, multi-step process. This massive enterprise generates hundreds of millions of pieces of paper each year.

The NIH--

- Receives more than 46,000 competing (1 & 2) grant applications and establish more than 3,160 meetings to review those applications.
- Supports more than 80 meetings of the National Advisory Councils to provide the second level of review.
- Awards more than 60,000 competing and non-competing grants.
- Provides public access for more than 35,000 queries a week on our research programs.
- Keeps patent and invention records for 11 agencies
- Reports on trends and analysis for all grants awarded since 1973.

Currently, the NIH uses both paper and electronic systems and data to support these activities.

eRA Objectives

The overall objectives of the eRA project are to convert the two million plus pieces of paper in the NIH application, initial peer review and secondary Council review, and award and post-award administrative process to an electronic medium for full electronic grants administration, and to integrate with the NIH Business System and other NIH systems.

eRA Goals

- Implement user-driven, highly reliable, secure systems that provide a complete set of user-friendly tools that help ensure high data quality and integrity of the grant process.
- Provide a state-of-the-art architecture that allows the systems to be responsive to changes in business process, policies, and technology.
- Reach out to the community to ensure they are informed, trained, listened to and responded to.
- Capitalize on extension systems to save costs for the Institutes and Centers (ICs) and build them within the enterprise system as appropriate.
- Provide a good return on investment.



Submitting Grants Electronically to the NIH

NIH has opened access for the electronic submission of selected grant applications beginning January 11, 2005. For the receipt date of February 1 or later, NIH will accept electronic grant applications for simple, competing grant applications (only the R01, R03 and R21 grant mechanisms) that have modular budgets (less than \$250,000) and no consortia/subcontracts.

For these application types, grantees can work with service providers to submit an unlimited number of electronic grant applications. For new applications, Principal Investigators are encouraged to discuss their application with NIH to determine if it fits into any of the three grant mechanisms mentioned above. A description of these three grant mechanisms can be found by clicking on the links below:

- R01 Research Program Grants <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/r01.htm>
- R03 NIH Small Grant Program <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r03.htm>
- R21NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r21.htm>

Applications can be for:

- New (Type 1 not revised)
- Competing continuations (Type 2)
- Revised applications (new and competing continuations)
- For submission and verification deadlines, click [here](#).

Other points to note:

- Budgets must be modular and cannot include consortia/sub-contracts. (Consortia are collaborative arrangements between the grantees and one or more institutions to carry out the research project. A subcontract is a contract between the grantee and a subcontractor to provide supplies or services for the grantee's contract).
- One appendix document can be sent with the electronic application.
- NIH will accept applications that are in response to Program Announcements (PAs) and Requests for Applications (RFAs) if they are for submission dates of February 1 and later.
- NIH will not accept submissions for R03 Fogarty awards.
- NIH will not accept electronic submissions for any other kinds of applications, including: Applications with Subprojects, Program Project and Center grants, Supplements, Research Career Awards, SBIRs, STTRs, Training grants, Fellowships, and AREA grants.
- NIH will also not accept electronic submissions that represent a Principal Investigator Change of Institution, or a Change of PI.
- NIH has created an [Applicant Information Package](#) to help the grantee community learn more about electronic submissions.

Company	Product	URL
Formatta Corp	Formatta Egrants Server	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company URL: http://www.formatta.com/ Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/Formatta_Questionnaire_08-02-04a.pdf
eRA Software Systems	GAMS (Grant Application and Management System) (product) managegrants.com (service)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product URL: http://www.gams.org/ Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/ERA_Software_Systems_Questionnaire_08-02-04a.pdf
Federal Government	Grants.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization URL: http://www.grants.gov/ Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/Grants-gov_questionnaire_08-02-04a.pdf
Cayuse, Inc.	GrantSlam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company URL: http://www.cayuse.com/ Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/Cayuse_Questionnaire_08-02-04a.pdf
Clinical Tools	HealthProposal.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product URL: http://www.healthproposal.net Company URL: http://www.clinicaltools.com Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/Clinical_Tools_Questionnaire_08-02-04a.pdf
InfoEd International	Proposal Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company URL: http://www.infoed.org/ Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/InfoEd_Questionnaire_08-02-04a.pdf
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Coeus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institution URL: http://web.mit.edu/osp/www/coeus/ Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/MIT_questionnaire_08-02-04a.pdf
Research & Management Systems (RAMS)	grantsERA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company URL: http://www.ramscompany.com/ Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/RAMS_Questionnaire_08-02-04a.pdf
UT Southwestern	ERGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company URL: http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/ Product/Service Information Questionnaire: http://era.nih.gov/Docs/UTSouthwestern_Questionnaire_08-25-04.pdf
For company information, see http://era.nih.gov/areas/com/SBIR_Awarded.pdf		