

# **eRA Commons**

## **Implementation of a new Department of Commerce Grants Management System**

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# What the Heck are “GEMS” and “eRA”?

## GEMS:

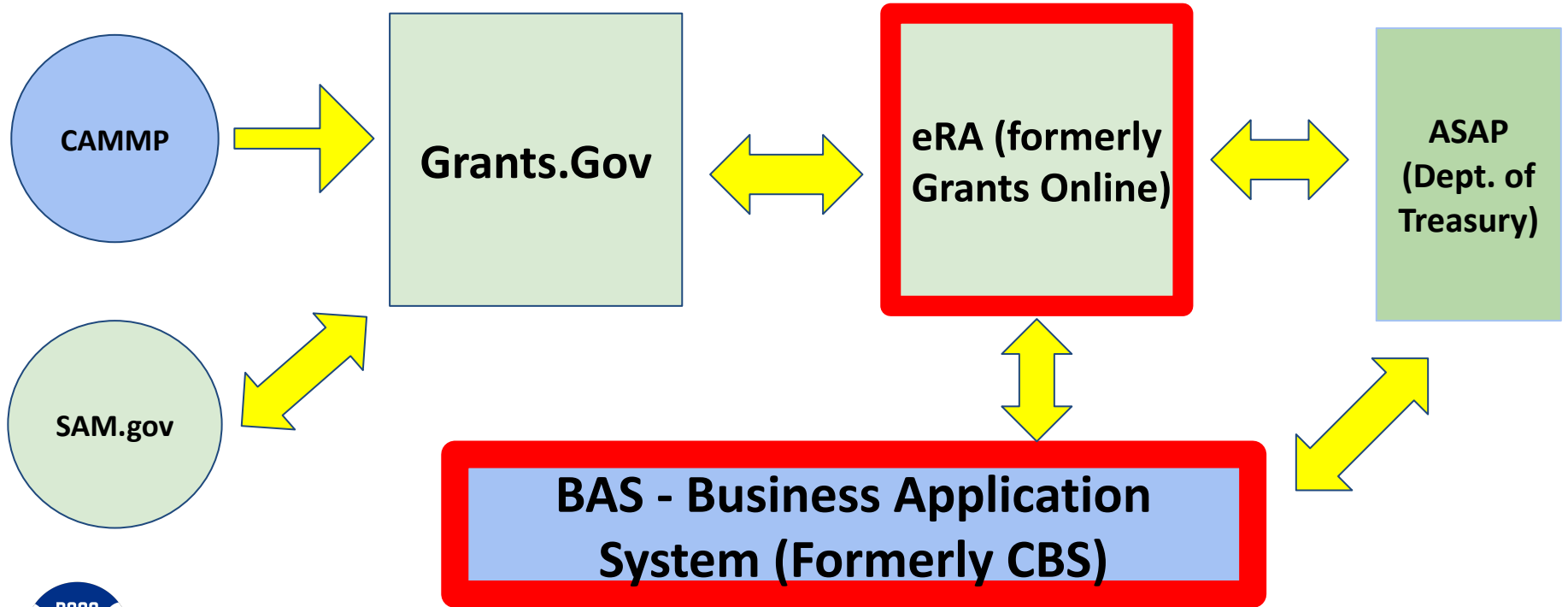
- GEMS = Grants Enterprise Management Solutions.
- GEMS is the “modernization and consolidation” **effort** being undertaken by the Department of Commerce to bring all the different Bureau grant programs under one “roof”.

## eRA:

- eRA = electronic Research Administration.
- eRA is our new grants management **platform** managed by NIH.
- **eRA Commons** is how YOU access the eRA platform.



# Connected Systems for Grants Management



# Overview of Biggest Challenges and Slowdowns

- Lack of access due to transition/shutdown October 2023
- Barriers to completing Post Award Actions
- Changes to account management (e.g., setting up PIs)
- Disruption in reporting structure
- Disconnections between eRA and BAS impeding progress
- Lack of clarity for NOAA workflow processes



# Points of Progress

- (Mostly) fixed connections between eRA and BAS - enabling new funding actions and financial reports
- Developing internal workflows for post award actions
  - Identified solution for No Cost Extensions (NCEs)
  - Identified solution to release Special Award Conditions (SACs)
  - Working on solution for reprogramming (extensions provided where needed)
- Developing processes for submitting and processing new awards and post award actions



# Next Steps

- First Round of Progress and Financial Reports are due April 30, 2024.
- Moving towards a FY24 full award cycle in eRA
  - Developing NOFOs in eRA - will look different
  - Translation from Grants.gov to eRA might be sticky
  - **Please check out eRA tips and tricks document!**
- Overall system change support remains limited - focus in short term is on other DOC agency transitions to eRA



# How Can We Best Help?

## What are the issues?

- Adding PIs/PDs
- Post Award Actions
- Reporting
- Other

## How can we help?

- One-on-one Consultations
- Peer to peer sharing
- Written products/guidance
- Other



# GEMS External User Site

## REMINDER

**System transition training resources and updates  
available on external GEMS site:**

**<https://www.commerce.gov/ocio/programs/gems/about-gems>**

