

NIFA Grants Modernization Initiative – Transition to eRA Commons

As I believe many of you have seen, NIFA will be transitioning all grants to the eRA Commons grants management system as part of their [Grants Modernization Initiative](#). OSP is providing the below guidance for distribution to faculty about the transition.

Proposals

- ALL NIFA proposals will still be submitted to NIFA via Grants.gov. OSP will continue to utilize UT's Cayuse system to submit directly to the Grants.gov servers. There are no changes in submission procedures.
- After submission, the proposal will be electronically transferred to the eRA Commons portal.
- All PIs and Co-PIs must provide their eRA Commons ID on the R&R proposal forms. OSP will handle this data entry for UTIA faculty and staff.
- At this time, additional effects on proposal submission are not anticipated.

Awards

- No existing awards will be managed in eRA Commons.
- Starting in October 2025, new awards for selected programs will be managed in eRA Commons. The selected programs include:
 - [AG2PI – Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative](#)
 - [EGP – Equipment Grants Program](#)
 - [FASLP – Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program](#)
 - [FBMB – Farm Business and Benchmarking Program](#)
 - [FSOP – Food Safety Outreach Competitive Grants Program](#)
 - [OREI – Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative](#)
 - [RREA-NFF – Renewable Resources Extension Act - National Focus Funds](#)
 - [SLSNCGP – Smith-Lever Special Needs Competitive Grant Program](#)
 - [SPECA – Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program](#)
- Changes of PI, budget revisions, and no cost-extensions are expected to be managed in eRA Commons.
- Additionally, NIFA plans to integrate REEport functionality into the new eRA Commons system, meaning grant reports will also be submitted via eRA Commons.

UTIA Implementation

- Effective immediately, OSP will begin proactively creating eRA Commons Accounts for Principal Investigators (PIs) who have submitted a PIQ for ***any*** NIFA program or that receive any new award. **Faculty do not need to create their own eRA Commons IDs.**
- After OSP creates individual profiles, PIs will receive an automated email from eRA Commons with a prompt to log-in and complete their profile. All profile sections must be fully completed for the account to become active.

- Faculty will potentially see four affiliations in their accounts – one for each unit: AgResearch, UT Extension, CVM, and UTK (UTK only for NIH proposals and awards).
- OSP is actively monitoring all information released by NIFA and attending scheduled webinars and information sessions. Unless directed by OSP, faculty do not need to attend these sessions. OSP will notify faculty when NIFA schedules sessions specifically related to PI roles, responsibilities, or functionalities.