



# eCGAP and eRA eXchange CWG Update

**January 13, 2005**  
**Jen Flach**

# Topics



- Pilot update
- Open Access Status
- Grants.gov
- Current eCGAP and eXchange Activities
- Future development priorities

# Summary of eCGAP Pilots



- 4 eCGAP pilots completed since October 2003
- 6 service providers participated
- About 100 applications submitted electronically
- At least 45 processed all the way through review
- Over 30 research institutions have participated
- Only a few full-budget apps so far – still piloting

# eCGAP Preparation for Open Access



- CGAP 1.2.5 release included:
  - Bug fixes
  - Improvements to error handling and reporting
  - Schema now deployed with application
  - Validations on supplements
- Beefed up eCGAP support
- Improvements to Partnership websites
- Outreach activities:
  - Creating FAQs, scripts, slides for use by focus group members and others
  - Putting links on OER websites
  - Newsletter articles and press releases
  - Presentations at council meetings & other NIH committees

# eCGAP "Production"



- January 11, 2005 declared open access for:
  - Applications with receipt date of Feb 1 or later
  - Simple (R01, R03, R21)
  - Types:
    - New (Type 1)
    - Competing Continuations (Type 2)
  - Revisions
  - Modular budget without consortia
- NIH will *not* accept submissions:
  - R03 Fogarty awards
  - PI Change of Institution or a Change of PI

# Submission and Verification Timeline



- **February 1 receipt date:**
  - Ticket request by February 1
  - PI/SO verify by February 4
  - If PI/SO reject the e-application, paper applications must be received by NIH no later than February 9
- **March 1 receipt date:**
  - Ticket request by March 1
  - PI/SO verify by March 4
  - If PI/SO reject the e-application, paper applications must be received by NIH no later than March 9

# Submission and Verification Timeline (2)



- Deadlines are 5:00 pm in the applicant's time zone.
- If NIH is the cause of a technical problem preventing submissions, deadlines will be extended accordingly.
- Deadlines for electronic submission will be as firm as in the paper process and will be enforced.
- *The same deadlines apply for full budget for February/March pilot.*

# Thoughts on Moving Forward?



- Outreach ideas
- Communicating limitations of open access
- Submission and verification timelines
- Allowing paper back up
- Providing paper copies to reviewers
- Targeting an RFA for all electronic
- Other comments about open access or pilot process?



# Integration with Grants.gov



- Use Federal-wide 424 Research and Related + NIH-specific forms
  - May rename to HHS-specific forms
  - eCGAP grant image to be based on 424RR not 398
- Accommodate OPDIVs
- Handle simple modular and full-budget apps
  - Developed modular NIH-specific budget form
  - Plan to use 424RR budget form for full budgets

# Status of Grants.gov Integration



## ■ Forms and analysis

- NIH/HHS-specific forms and XML to be completed by early February
- Finalizing validations for modular budgets
- Starting analysis on full budgets
- Writing requirements for generating grant image
- Start object modeling for 424RR XML, then NIH-specific when ready

## ■ Development

- Mechanism to returning errors and warnings via Commons
- Phase 1 to be finished in April

## ■ Testing schedule

- Conducted initial eRA-Grants.gov system-to-system testing
- Applicants test using “dead” data in Spring 2005
- Plan to pilot live submissions in Fall – perhaps using a RFA

# Discussion on Grants.gov



- Bring it on

# Update on eCGAP Works in Progress



- Ability to accept supplements
  - eCGAP code changes are in TEST
  - Need to make changes to Receipt and Referral module
  - Pilot in June 2005
- Service Provider/Commons Demo Test environment
  - Separate from eRA integration test environment
  - Will integrate with Commons demo facility to facilitate “end-to-end” training on e-submissions
  - Planned to be deployed in February

# eCGAP transition to New 398



- Will take time to transition:
  - Service Providers will need to make changes
  - Some changes to database and downstream modules needed
- Single transition
  - eCGAP will “retire” old 398 when it begins to accept new 398 form
  - Costly to handle two versions of 398 via eCGAP at the same time
  - In April, just prior to May date for mandating use

# New Capabilities to be Developed



- Electronic Notice of Grant Award
  - First major outgoing transaction for the eRA eXchange
  - Requirements completed
  - Development to begin by end of 2004
  - Pilot in early 2005
- Post-verification corrections
  - Iteration 1 will include Full Replacements and Addenda prior to review
  - Later iterations include structured data and post-review
  - Depends on eRA E-request functionality
  - Hope to pilot in Spring/Summer

# ebXML Evaluation for the eXchange



- Evaluation task completed -- Recommendation:
  - ebMS message handler using Hermes (open source)
  - Registry using OMAR (open source)
- eRA is designing new architecture based on recommendations
- Transition plan under development:
  - Existing transactions/processes will remain for foreseeable future
  - Moving new eCGAP transactions will be ebXML compliant
  - New architecture will be parallel but share registration info
  - Need to handle multiple messaging formats (Grants.gov not ebXML compliant)
  - eXchange construction task order being developed



# Collaboration with NCRR for GCRC Progress Reporting



- Overview:
  - NCRR/NIH developing XML-based system for General Clinical Research Centers to submit annual progress reports
  - Will use the eRA eXchange as a pass through
  - In Phase I, NCRR providing software to GCRCs that converts progress reports to XML and attachments
  - In the future, SPs may want to develop and provide this service for GCRCs
- Status:
  - Design being finalized
  - Development begins next week
  - Validate ebXML messaging approach from Evaluation Task Order
  - Piloting planned in March
- Not truly an eNAP effort, but paves the way



# Comments



- Questions about Near-term development for eCGAP and the eXchange?

# eCGAP Future Development



- Expand types of grant mechanisms
  - SBIR/STTR
  - Training
  - Fellowships
  - AREA grants
  - Complex program grants and subprojects
- New capabilities
  - Handle consortia/subcontracts
  - Report target enrollment as structured data
  - PI change of institution
  - IC and Study Section requests
  - Control receipt dates
  - Expand appendix capabilities

# Future eXchange Transactions



- eNGA
- PPF update
- IPF update
- FSR
- Population tracking
- eSNAP
- eNAP
- Others?

# Discussion for about the Future



- What should be the top priorities for future development?
- What should be our long-term goals?
- Are any transactions better served by Commons?
- Are any grant types well suited for Grants.gov?
- What are we missing?
- What we shouldn't pursue?

# Speak now or.....



- More questions and comments?