

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Grants.gov Performance

This message is of high priority for all NIOSH grant applicants:

Grants.gov Performance

Last month, Grants.gov received significant media attention regarding increasing fears that ongoing system problems would render the system unable to handle the influx of applications expected in response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Most of the media attention was the direct result of a memo from the Office of Management and Budget that noted a risk of Grants.gov system failure and permitted agencies to explore alternatives to Grants.gov as a means of decreasing the volume on the system for those agencies that have no real alternatives.

How these concerns are being addressed:

- HHS agencies will continue to receive applications through Grants.gov. HHS and NIH are not considering alternatives to Grants.gov at this time.
- NIH will continue to closely monitor Grants.gov's performance and are prepared to invoke or adjust their contingency plans as necessary.
- NIH is becoming more directly involved in helping Grants.gov's efforts for system improvement.

Grants.gov has made some recent performance adjustments and has plans to address other issues before our Challenge Grant deadline. They are acutely aware of our upcoming deadlines. Grants.gov and eRA Commons Registration—New Applicants Should Register Early!

There has been a recent surge in eRA Commons Registration requests due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. With many applicants rushing to complete and submit their applications, it is critical that applicants start the registration process early!

Applicants should know:

- Grants.gov registration can take 4 weeks, up to 8 weeks for new or international organizations.
- Commons registration process should be completed at least 2-4 weeks prior to the submittal deadline.

Applicants experiencing trouble submitting their e-applications can refer to this link for assistance: http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/app_help.htm

