## Preparing, Submitting & Tracking Applications Using





## ASSIST is NIH's online system for the preparation, submission & tracking of grant applications through Grants.gov to NIH



 NIH requires electronic submission for all single and multi-project applications

- Electronic submission options to Cornell

   ASSIST
  - Grants.gov

Electronic submission is required. Using ASSIST is optional.

## **Submission Options**





- Secure, online data entry
- Collaboration of multiple users
- Pre-submission validation of NIH and key Grants.gov business rules
- Pre-population of data from eRA Commons profiles
- Pre-submission print/preview of application in NIH format
- Submission status tracking for both Grants.gov and eRA Commons within a single system



Before jumping into ASSIST, let's take some time to get acclimated... All electronic applications include:

- A single Overall component
- Some number of additional components
- Automatically prepared data summaries



#### **Overview of Process**



## **Find Opportunity**

Enter

Data

**Build** 

Team

Plan

Find

Initiate

Track

Submit

Finalize

#### **FOAs Link You to ASSIST**

#### NIH Guide for Grants & Contracts

#### Grants.gov 'Apply'

#### **\*\*ASSIST** - electronic application submission required\*\*

This FOA uses NIH's new Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST) for th preparation and submission of multi-project applications through Grants.gov to NIH. Applications to this FOA r submitted electronically; paper applications will not be accepted. ASSIST replaces the Grants.gov downloadat currently used with most NIH opportunities and provides many features to enable electronic multi-project appl submission and improve data quality, including: pre-population of organization and PD/PI data, pre-submissi of many agency business rules and the generation of data summaries in the application image used for reviel

#### **Required Application Instructions**

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in the <u>SF424 (R&R) Application Guide</u>, except where instructed otherwise (in this FOA or in a Notice from the <u>NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts</u>) and where instructions in the Guide are directly related to the Grants.gov downloadable forms currently used with most NIH opportunities. C to all requirements (both in the Application Guide and the FOA) is required and strictly enforced. Applications in the follow all application instructions in the Application Guide as well as any program-specific instructions noted i When the program-specific instructions deviate from those in the Application Guide, follow the program-specific instructions are program-specific instructions.







1. Download Application Instructions

2. Link to Agency Multi-Project System

User Name Password
Password

#### Submit multi-project grant applications electronically to NIH and other Public Health Service Agencies...

The Application Submission System ; Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSST) is used to prepare and submit multi-project grant applications electronically to NH and other Public Health Service agencies. Prior to using ASSIT, applicants should identify a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to which they'd like to apoly. FOAS are posted in the NH Guide for Grants : Need Help?

 Resources

 APPLICATION GUIDE

ASSIST USER GUIDE

## Make a Submission Plan

Enter

Data

Build

Team

Initiate

Find

Plan

11

Track

Submit

Finalize

- Ensure all registrations are in place
  - All standard registrations requirements apply (DUNS, SAM, Grants.gov, eRA Commons)
    - NIH User Registration:
      - <u>https://ras.research.cornell.edu/NIH/Registration/nih-reg.html</u>
- Decide how to distribute the work
  - Gather the Commons IDs for everyone who will be working on your application in ASSIST
- Carefully read the FOA
  - Note the allowable types of required/optional components and any special instructions
  - Define the layout of your application (e.g., define components and who will lead each)



Think about the components you plan to include

- PD/PI(s) for entire application
- Organization lead for each component
- Project lead for each component
- Project Title for application/components
- Start/End dates for application/components



## Initiate Your Application

Enter

Data

Finalize

Submit

SQUARE ONE

Initiate

Find

Plan

Build

Геат

Track

Create an application shell by initiating the application and adding the components

- Components can be rearranged, added, deleted or abandoned at any time
  - Applicants can rearrange components of the same type (e.g., have the third project entered in ASSIST appear first in the assembled application image)
  - Applicants cannot control the order in which the component types appear (e.g., Cores will always be before Projects)





### Log In to ASSIST

### https://public.era.nih.gov/assist

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

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	Party Party	the second	20.00

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Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST)

## Use your eRA Commons credentials to access ASSIST





Submit multi-project grant applications electronically to NIH and other Public Health Service Agencies...

The Application Submission System ; Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST) is used to prepare and submit multi-project grant applications electronically to NIH and other Public Health Service agencies. Prior to using ASSIST, applicants should identify a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to which they'd like to apply. FOAs are posted in the <u>NIH Guide for Grants</u> ; <u>Contracts</u> and/or in <u>Grants.gov</u> each of which has robust search capabilities. The FOA text will indicate whether ASSIST can be used to apply



#### Resources

- APPLICATION GUIDE
- ASSIST USER GUIDE

### **Initiate Application**



FOA INFORMATION	* Rea	uired field(s)	
FOA Number:	PA-40-201		
Opportunity Title:	NIH Multi-project Test FOA with optional Admin Core, Core and Project Components		
Offering Agency:	National Institutes of Health		EOA information
CFDA Number:	93.396		FUA information
CFDA Description:	Cancer Biology Research		pulled from
Competition ID:	FORMS-C		pulled from
Opportunity Open Date:	08/09/2013		Crenta day
Opportunity Close Date:	08/09/2016		Grants.gov
Agency Contact:	S2S Support E-mail: S2SSupport@OD.NIH.GOV		
Application Identifier:			
* Application Project Title (describe title in 200 characters)	Research Center to Cure the Diseases of the World	Ente	er Project Title
			Drop-down list of anizations affiliated
Lead Applicant Organization: *	Choose Organization 🔻	0.9	
Lead Applicant Organization Address:	Whatsamatta U	-	with your eRA
Lead Organization DUNS:			ommons account
Contact Project Director/Princi	pal Investigator		
Enter PD/PI Information below or	Pre-fill Application from Username		
First Name			
Middle Name			

## **Initiate: Pre-population**

* Application Project Title (describe title in 200 characters)	Research Center to Cure World	the Diseases of the		
				Data pre-populated
Lead Applicant Organization: *	Whatsamatta U	T		from organization
Lead Applicant Organization Address:	6705 Rockledge Drive Bethesda, MD 208171884	<		selection
Lead Organization DUNS:	6162081090000			
Contact Project Director/Princip Enter PD/PI Information belov or First Name Pre-fill username	Pre-fill Application from L	Jsername Contact Project Di	i eR	nformation or provide A Commons username to auto-populate
	CherbMoney	Enter PD/PI Informa	tion bel	ow or Pre-fill Application from Username
Submit	Cancel	Username First Name Middle Name Last Name		Cher D Money
				Initiate Application Cancel

### Using ASSIST



## **Using ASSIST**



The **Overall Component** is added to the component navigation

## Adding Additional Components for Multi-Project Applications



## Adding Additional Components for Multi-Project Applications



#### Application Information @

Tip: Some actions (e.g., Preview Application and Validate Application) are only available from this screen. The Application Information link in the breadcrumbs above can be used to return to this screen.

#### Application Information

Application Identifier:	2142
Application Project Title:	Research Center to Cure the Diseases of the
PD/PI Name:	MONEY, CHER D ROUND, BEN A
Organization:	Whatsamatta U
Project Period:	01/01/2015 - 12/31/2019
Status:	Work in Progress
Status Date:	2014-04-10 04:18:11.000 PM EDT

#### FOA Information

FOA Number:	PA-40-201	
Opportunity Title:	NIH Multi-project Test FOA with optional A Core, Core and Project Components	a
Agency:	National Institutes of Health	
CFDA Number:	93.396	
Competition ID:	FORMS-C	
Opportunity Open Date:	08/09/2013	
Opportunity Close Date:	08/09/2016	
Agency Contact:	S2S Support E-mail: S2SSupport@OD.NIH.GOV	

## Continue adding components to build out the application shell

# Define Your Team and Provide Application Access

Enter

Data

Finalize

Build

Team

Initiate

Find

Plan

Track

Submit

ASSIST automatically provides application access to some individuals based on:

- eRA Commons roles
  - All SOs and AOs at the applicant institution have irrevocable edit access for the entire application
  - All SOs and AOs at an organization leading a component have irrevocable edit access for their component
- Role on the application
  - The application initiator has edit access for the entire application
  - All PD/PIs listed on the Overall application have edit access for the entire application
  - The component Project Leads have edit access for their components

 Application access can be given to additional users with Commons IDs

Within or outside applicant organization

- Application access can be controlled across these variables:
  - Entire application vs. specific components
  - View vs. Edit
  - Budget vs. Non-budget data



## SOs at the applicant institution can

- Manage application access for other users
- Manage application status all the way to Ready for Submission status
- Delegate Access Maintainer and Status Maintainer authority to other users within their institution
- Access the Submit action





### **Managing Access**

# The Manage Access action can be used to provide access to additional users or modify access for existing users.

			-						
Actions 🤨	User Ac	cess Summa	ary 🥝						
MANAGE ACCESS	View Access H	listory							
ADD NEW COMPONENT	Click on the U	lser name to add acce	ss to other	r components for the u	ser.		1 - 10 of 1	1 records, F	age 1 of 2
DISPLAY COMPONENT STATUS								<b>M 4</b> 1	2
CHANGE COMPONENT ORDER	User 🔶	Primary Organization	Project Role	Component ID: Title	Budget	Non-Budg	et All ≑	Access Maint \$	Status Maint 🔶
PREVIEW APPLICATION	ABELTULEAD	Whatsamatta U	Project Lead	828-Core: Communications Core	None	None	Edit	Ν	Ν
VALIDATE APPLICATION	BENAROUND	Whatsamatta U	PD/PI	Entire Application	None	None	Edit	N	N
VIEW STATUS HISTORY	BENAROUND	whatsamatta U	Project Lead	485-Core: Research Core	None	None	Edit	Ν	N
	CHERDMONE Y	Whatsamatta U	PD/PI	Entire Application	None	None	Edit	Ν	Y
OPDATE SUBMISSION STATUS	<u>CHERDMONE</u> <u>Y</u>	Whatsamatta U	Project Lead	847-Project: Fabulous Research Project Focus 1	None	None	Edit	Ν	Ν
	IMADOER	Vhatsamatta U		Entire Application	None	None	View	Ν	Ν
Modify access	IMADUER	Whatsamatta U	Project Lead	027-Project: Fabulous Research Project Focus 3	None	None	Edit	Ν	Ν
viouity access	JEDIKNIGHT	Whatsamatta U		Entire Application	View	Edit	None	Ν	N
for existing	JEDIKNIGHT	Whatsamatta U	Project Lead	031-Admin-Core: Administrative Core	Non	<b>.</b> .			
user	<u>QUINTSENTI</u> <u>AL</u>	Whatsamatta U	Project Lead	687-Project: Fabulous Research Project Focus 2	Nor	Give	acc	ess	to
			(	Add User	۶ ک	additi	iona	luse	ers



## Enter Application Data

Enter

Data

Finalize

Submit

Build

Team

Find

Plan

Initiate

Track

## **Searching for In-progress Applications**



## **Using ASSIST**



#### **Adding Optional Forms**



- Overall
  - Describe the entire application
  - Always completed with applicant organization information
- All Other Components
  - Reflect the activity in the specific component
  - Completed from the perspective of organization leading the component



## Overall

- All form fields used

- All Other Components
  - Subset of fields used
    - Field 5: Organization Information
    - Field 7 (Optional): Type of Applicant
    - Field 11: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project
    - Field 12: Proposed Project Start/End Dates



## **Data Entry: Other Project Information**

- Overall
  - Human Subjects & Vertebrate Animals: Answer all questions
  - Project Narrative: Required
- All Other Components
  - Human Subjects: Answer only the 'Are Human Subjects Involved?' and Is the Project Exempt from Federal regulations?' questions
  - Vertebrate Animals: Answer only the 'Are Vertebrate Animals Used?' question
  - **Project Narrative:** FOA may specify attachment is optional



### **Data Entry: Other Project Information**



ASSIST prevents data entry of additional Human Subject and Vertebrate Animal info on components other than Overall.

### Data Entry: Sr/Key Person Profile

- Overall
  - Use the Project Director/Principal Investigator section to designate the Contact PD/PI
  - Include any Multi-PD/PIs
    - Use PD/PI Project Role
  - Do not include other Sr/Key personnel
- All Other Components
  - Use the Project Director/Principal Investigator section to designate the Project Lead
    - Must not use PD/PI Project Role
      - ASSIST defaults Project Role to Other, Project Lead
    - Follow FOA instructions
  - Include all Sr/Key personnel associated with the component

Applications must include a single biosketch for each Sr/Key person regardless of the number of components they are listed on. Biosketch can be included with any entry – just pick one.

- ASSIST screen tips
  - Found at the top of many data entry screens
- Application Guide
- Annotated form sets
  - <u>http://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/commu</u> <u>nication.htm#forms</u>
- Ten Checks to Help Avoid Common Errors
  - <u>http://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/avoiding</u>
     <u>errors.htm#10checks</u>



# Finalize Application & Prepare for Submission

Enter

Data

Build

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Plan

Find

Initiate

Track

Submit

**Finalize** 

## **Preview Application**

# Before you submit, **Preview the Application** and verify that everything is just the way you want it to go to review.



### **Ready for Submission**

# Once all internal reviews are complete, update the application status to **Ready for Submission**.

### Application Information @

#### Tip:

Actions

ADD NEW COMPONENT

DISPLAY COMPONENT STATUS

 Some actions (e.g., Preview Application) are only available from this screen. The Return to Application action return to this screen.

CHANGE COMPONENT ORDER	×	
PREVIEW APPLICATION	Update Submission Status	
VALIDATE APPLICATION	Select the new status Select Status 💌	
VIEW STATUS HISTORY	Enter a comment on the sttl Ready for Submission or continue without adding a comment.	to Cure the Diseases of the World
UPDATE SUBMISSION STATUS	Abandoned	
COPY APPLICATION		31/2020
		Submit Application
		45.000 PM EDT
Component Type	Add comment Cancel	
+ Overall	© 2015 NIH. All Rights Reserved. Screen Rendered: 04/02/2015 03:37:57 EDT   Screen Id: ASSIST0034@2033 Version: 2.13.00	
	EOA Number: PA.40.201	

## Submit Your Application

Enter

Data

Finalize

Build

Team

Find

Plan

Initiate

Track

Submit

Error-free submission must be made by 5:00 p.m. local time (of submitting organization) on due date

- It takes time to prepare your application for submission
- Submit early (days, not minutes) to have time to address any unforeseen issues and to view your assembled application



#### **Submit Your Application**

Must be a Signing Official (SO) in eRA **Commons and an Authorized Organizational** Representative (AOR) in Grants.gov to submit

Home > Search for Applications > Application Search Results > Application Information

#### Application Information @

#### Tip:

Actions

MANAGE ACCESS

DISPLAY COMPONENT STATUS

CHANGE COMPONENT ORDER

PREVIEW APPLICATION

VALIDATE APPLICATION

VIEW STATUS HISTORY

UPDATE SUBMISSION STATUS

COPY APPLICATION

DELETE APPLICATION

· Some actions (e.g., Preview Application) are only available from, return to this screen.

#### Application Information

Application Identifier:	
Application Project Title:	Research Ce Sub
PD/PI Name:	MONEY, CHE ROUND, BEN A
Organization:	Whatsamatta U
Project Period:	01/01/2016 - 12/31/2020
Status:	Ready for Submission Submit
Status Date:	2015-04-02 03:40:16.000 PM EDT

Application Status must be set to Ready for **Submission** 

Submit Application

Username: PENNYWISE

45

### **Submit Your Application**

## Applications are submitted from ASSIST to Grants.gov.



# Track Your Application

Enter

Data

Build

Team

Find

Plan

Initiate

Track

Submit

Finalize

ASSIST sends out quite a few email notifications throughout the preparation and submission process to help track the application

 Application access changes, component/application updates, component/application status changes, submission status updates and more

**Check out this resource:** 

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/electronicreceipt/files/ASSIST\_eNotifications.pdf

ASSIST provides the ability to track both Grants.gov and NIH status

 Links to the eRA Commons Detailed Status Information to view your assembled application





### **Tracking Submission Status - ASSIST**

# After submitting to Grants.gov, submission status can be tracked in ASSIST.

## Application Information

#### Tip:

• Some actions (e.g., Preview Application) are only available from this screen. The Return to Application action can be used to return to this screen.

Application has been sent to Grants.gov, email notifications will be sent when application is processed by Grants.gov. Also you may use the Check Submission Status feature in ASSIST to get the up-to-date status of the submitted application.

#### **Application Information**

Application Identifier:	2142	
Application Project Title:	Research Center to Cure t	he Diseases of the World
PD/PI Name:	MONEY, CHER D ROUND, BEN A	Click View Submission
Organization:	Whatsamatta U	Status Details
Project Period:	01/01/2016 - 12/31/2020	otatas Dotaris
Status:	Submitted View Submiss	ion Status Details
Status Date:	2015-04-02 03:49:33.000 F	PM EDT

### **Tracking Submission Status - ASSIST**

#### Top of screen

#### Application Information 🥝

#### Tip:

You must click

**Check for** 

**Status** 

**Updates** to

force ASSIST

to poll

Grants.gov

and NIH for

status

When an error-free application is received at NIH the processing status should display as follows: • ASSIST = Submitted

Grants.gov = Agency Tracking Number Assigned

Agency = Processed

ollowing the hyperlinked Agency Tracking # in the Agency section of the screen brings users with appropriate uthority directly to the eRA Commons Detailed Status screen from which they can view the assembled e-Application mage and associated documents for the submission.

	Application Identifier:	2142			
	FOA Number:	PA-40-201			
	Project Title:	Research Center to Cure the Diseases of the World			
	PD/PI Name:	MONEY, CHER D			
	ganization:	Whatsamatta U			
	nts.gov Tracking #:	GRANT00607098			
1	Status Check:	Thu Apr 02 15:56:29 EDT 2015			
9	Check for Status Updates				
_	Updates to status detected. Refer below for details on update.				

#### ASSIST

Submission Date:

Submitting AOR:

ASSIST Submission Status:

Submission Status Date:

#### Thu Apr 02 15:49:33 EDT 2015

ASSIST will indicate if a status

change was detected

### **Tracking Submission Status - ASSIST**

#### Check for Status Updates

Updates to status detected. Refer below for details on update.

#### ASSIST

rants.gov						
Submission Status Date:	Thu Apr 02 15:49:33 EDT 2015					
ASSIST Submission Status:	Submitted					
Submitting AOR:	Workshop Participant					
Submission Date:	Thu Apr 02 15:49:11 EDT 2015					

#### G

Grant.gov Tracking #: GRANT00607098 Grants.gov Received Date: Thu Apr 02 15:49:29 EDT 2015 Grants.gov Processing Status: Agency Tracking Number Assigned Grants.gov Status Date: Thu Apr 02 15:55:44 EDT 2015

ASSIST, Grants.gov and Agency submission status are available

Grants.gov status of **Agency Tracking** Number Assigned and Agency status of Processed is good news!

Agency

#### View Agency Submission Errors and Warnings Agency Tracking #:

Agency Status:

Agency Status Date:



Close

Agency Tracking # link brings you to the detailed status screen in eRA Commons

### **Viewing Your Application in Commons**



Applicants have two (2) business days to view the assembled application image in Commons before it automatically moves forward to NIH staff for further processing

If you can't **VIEW** it, we can't **REVIEW** it!



## **Viewing Your Application in Commons**

Bookmarks							OMB Number: 4040-0001 Expiration Date: 06/30/2016	
	APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF 424 (R&R)				3. DATE RECE	EIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier	
	1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION*			4.a. Federal Identifier				
	○ Pre-application ● Application ○ Changed/Corrected Application			b. Agency Routing Number				
Component Summary	2. DATE SUBMITTED	2. DATE SUBMITTED Application Identifier			c. Previous Grants.gov Tracking Number			
<ul> <li>Performance Sites Summary</li> <li>Human Subjects - Clinical Trial - HESC - Vertebrate Animals Summary</li> </ul>	5. APPLICANT INFO Legal Name*: Department: Division: Street1*:	RMATION Whatsamatta	U ge Drive			Org	ganizational DUNS*: 6162081090000	
Composite Application Budget Summary Component Budget	Street2: City*: County: State*:	et2: *: Bethesda inty: ie*: MD: Maryland						
Categories Budget Summary	Province: Country*: ZIP / Postal Code*:	USA: UNITED STATES Code*: 208171884						
Summary	Person to be contacted on matters involving this application           Prefix:         First Name*: Ivana         Middle Name:				Last Name*: Gran	tt Suffix:		
Overall	Position/Title: Street1*: Street2:	6705 Rockled	ge Drive					
Core	City*: County:	Bethesda						
t+ ↓ Core-001 (485)	State*:	MD: Marylan	đ					
	Province: Country*: ZIP / Postal Code*:	USA: UNITE 208171884	D STATES					
Project-001 (84/) Phone Number*: 301-555-1111 Fax Number:				Fax Number:		Email: asker	a@mail.nih.gov	
Project-002 (687)	6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN) or (TIN)* 44444444				44444444			
ect-003 (027)	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT*			O: Private Institution of Higher Education				

It is your responsibility to carefully review the entire application to ensure it has been processed correctly!

SO can Reject application in eRA Commons within viewing window and submit a Changed/Corrected application prior to the due date

Action cannot be done within ASSIST

_(_	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services								🔉 www.hhs.gov	
eR	A	Commons A program of the National Institutes of Health					Welcome: Penny Wise ID: PENNYWISE Institution: WHATSAMATTA U Roles: SO Logeut   Contact Us   Help			
Home	Admi	n Institution Pr	ofile Persona	al Profile Status	RPPR	xTrain	Admin Supp	eRA Partners		
Status Result - Recent/Pending eSubmissions Search 📀										
Tips and	Notes	:								
PD/PI column shows Contact PI for multi-PI grants.										
									☑ 1-1 of 1 1 ☑	
Applicat ID	ion 🔶	Grants.gov Tracking #	eSubmission Status	Proposal Title	PD/PI 🔶 Name 🕈	e Subm Status	ission 🔶	Show All Prior E	rrors Action	
<u>AN:36901</u>	139	GRANT00607098	Pending Verification	Research Center to Cure the Diseases of the World	MONEY, CHER D	2015-04 15:49:47	-02 <u>Sh</u>	ow Prior Errors and	Transmittal Sheet Warpings   Reject eApplication	

If no action is taken to reject the application during the two business day viewing window, the application automatically moves forward to NIH for further processing.





#### **Dealing with System Issues**



Follow NIH's standard 'system issue' procedure if you run into problems beyond your control that threaten your on-time submission: <u>http://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/support.htm#guidelines</u>

## ASSISTance

### **On-line ASSIST Help**



http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424 RR Guide General VerC

60

#### Links & Resources

- ASSIST: <u>public.era.nih.gov/assist</u>
- Online help: <a href="mailto:era.nih.gov/erahelp/ASSIST/">era.nih.gov/erahelp/ASSIST/</a>
- Applying Electronically Website: <u>http://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/index.htm</u>
- Annotated form set: grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/files/annotated\_multiproject.pdf
- eRAASSIST Training page: <u>http://era.nih.gov/era\_training/assist.cfm</u>





#### **Service Desk**

## eRA Service Desk

Web: http://era.nih.gov/help/ Toll-free: 1-866-504-9552 Phone: 301-402-7469 Hours: Mon-Fri, 7a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time (Except for Federal holidays)

Although we've worked closely with Grants.gov, ASSIST is a system developed and managed by NIH. The eRA Service Desk should be an applicant's first stop for support.



