

## **TIGER TIPS**

# **RESOURCES FOR AUBURN RESEARCHERS**

### **Grants. Gov Transition to Workspace: Options for NIH Submissions**

*(credit: NIH eSubmission Item of Interest, August 21, 2017)*

Over the years, the tools used for grant application submission have certainly progressed. There are currently three application submission options available to NIH applicants at Auburn University:

1. **ASSIST** - NIH's web-based service for the preparation, submission and tracking of grant applications.
2. **Grants.gov Workspace** - A shared, online environment managed by Grants.gov where multiple users can simultaneously work on different forms within an application package.
3. **Grants.gov Downloadable Forms** - Offline solution where applicants can download the entire application package as a single, stitched together PDF, complete the forms offline and submit.

As new technology emerges, older technology fades away. Grants.gov will retire its legacy downloadable PDF application packages at the end of this year. This requires folks who normally use the offline PDF packages to choose another submission method. To reiterate, on December 31, 2017 downloadable forms will drop off the submission option list, leaving the remaining two options (ASSIST and Workspace) which will continue without interruption.

Most aspects of the submission process will remain the same...

- NIH will continue to post all funding opportunity announcements on [Grants.gov](#) and the [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#);
- Grants.gov will continue to host NIH application forms and application packages (including [FORMS-E](#));
- Grants.gov will continue to receive, process and route grant applications to NIH; and
- You will continue to submit applications through Grants.gov and track them through to an assembled application image in eRA Commons.

Utilization of NIH ASSIST:

- leverages existing eRA Commons accounts to reduce account administration burden;

- *prepopulates application data from eRA Commons institutional and personal profiles to reduce data entry;*
- *validates your application against NIH business rules prior to submission to help avoid last minute surprises;*
- *generates a preview of your application in the NIH format used for funding consideration; and*
- *enables you to track your application through Grants.gov to eRA Commons with a single login to quickly verify your application was processed successfully.*

The NIH [eRA Service Desk](#) can securely see your application screens to aid in troubleshooting and can answer questions about ASSIST, eRA identified errors and warnings, and any issues with your assembled application image after submission.

As a note, by the time your application gets to NIH staff they are presented in a consistent format. Staff and reviewers have no idea what tools were used to develop the proposal. The choice is yours – ASSIST or Workspace. Come January 1, the only “wrong” choice is downloadable forms.