



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

August 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Nationwide Rollout of the Grants Evaluation and Management System

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) is pleased to announce the nationwide rollout of the Grants Evaluation and Management System (GEMS). ONAP previously announced the development of GEMS on [December 28, 2021](#). GEMS is an online grant administration system that will be the central data repository for most aspects of ONAP grants. ONAP's goal for GEMS is to improve the administration of Tribal housing programs and simplify grant-management processes for Tribal grantees.

ONAP successfully rolled out GEMS to grantees in the Alaska and Northern Plains regions. On **Monday, September 25, 2023**, GEMS will be available in all ONAP regions. Grantees will be able to access and fill out key documents in GEMS including: Indian Housing Plans (IHPs); Annual Performance Reports (APRs); and Grant Agreements for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) formula program; and Federal Financial Report (SF-425s) for all ONAP programs including IHBG, Indian Community Development Block Grant, and Tribal HUD-VA Supportive Housing, as well as the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program.

Effective **Thursday, September 14, 2023, 5:00 p.m. Eastern**, the Energy and Performance Information Center (EPIC) will no longer be available for ONAP programs. ONAP will migrate the most recently accepted IHP/APR from previous years and the most recently submitted IHP and APR from EPIC to GEMS. The transfer of any unsubmitted IHPs or APRs is not guaranteed. ONAP strongly encourages grantees to complete and submit any in-process IHPs or APRs in EPIC before the September 14th system shutdown or start your new IHP or APR after September 25th in GEMS. If needed, you may request an IHP waiver or APR extension from your ONAP Area Office for additional time to submit in GEMS. Following the migration, ONAP will discontinue reporting through EPIC. All IHPs, APRs, and SF-425s previously submitted in EPIC will be archived and accessible by ONAP staff, if needed.

To access GEMS, grantees will need to set up an account and enter information through the [Registration Portal](#). GEMS does not use HUD's secure systems feature. Instead, it utilizes a one-time signature attestation for the authorized officials to submit electronic signatures in GEMS.

Training webinars are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern on **Wednesday, September 13, 2023**, and **Thursday, September 21, 2023**. You may join the webinar 10 minutes prior to the start time. The webinars will be recorded. In addition, training materials and resources are available on the [GEMS information page](#).

Session 1: The webinar begins at 1:00 p.m. Eastern on September 13, 2023; you may join the conference 10 minutes prior – [view in your timezone](#).

To join the webinar, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/848812>

Join the Webex event and follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.

Session 2: The webinar begins at 1:00 p.m. Eastern on September 21, 2023; you may join the conference 10 minutes prior – [view in your timezone](#).

To join the webinar, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/848813>

Join the Webex event and follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.

If you need assistance with the webinars, please contact Webex Support: (888) 793-6118

It is important to note that GEMS will not change the current program and grant administration requirements, and feedback from the rollout to the Alaska and Northern Plains regions indicates that GEMS is easier to use than ONAP's current process. Eventually, most aspects of the grant-management process and grantee-submission requirements will be incorporated into GEMS. There will be ongoing information disseminated on the status and next steps when additional ONAP programs are added to GEMS.

ONAP staff will be available to provide technical support for accessing and submitting grant information in GEMS. Questions regarding the GEMS transition can be emailed to ONAP via ONAPGEMS@hud.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heidi J. Frechette", with the word "for" written in a smaller font directly below it.

Heidi J. Frechette
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Native American Programs