

Integrated Award Environment Stakeholder Forum

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Integrated Award Environment
Industry Day 17 | Stakeholder Forum

Question #1

What happened to CFDA and how did the transition go to beta.SAM.gov?



All Domains ▾

I'm looking for..

Search

Welcome

This will be the official U.S. government website for people who make, receive, and manage federal awards.



What Can I Do Here?

Federal Assistance



Assistance Listings (CFDA)

This website has officially replaced CFDA.gov.

- [Learn More](#)
- [Search Assistance Listings](#)

Federal users should create a user account, migrate their roles from CFDA, and officially manage their listings here.

Entity and public users may search for assistance listings, create a user account, and save searches.



Question #2

What is the timeline for the transition for the rest of the systems?



Next Transitions



- Primary functionality for wage determinations is being tested on alpha.SAM.gov
- Transition is scheduled for FY19
- Minor enhancements based on alpha tester feedback
- Bug fixes



- You can search and view opportunities on beta.SAM.gov today
- Opportunities primary functionality to begin testing on alpha.sam.gov May/June
- FBO.gov will be transitioning to beta.SAM.gov in FY19
- You will be able to migrate your existing role



- You can search and view public entity registration and exclusion data on beta.SAM.gov today
- In FY19 we will begin migrating SAM data entry features to beta.SAM.gov
- Once SAM.gov has migrated, beta.SAM.gov will become SAM.gov



- You can search and view contract data on beta.SAM.gov today
- In FY19 we will begin migrating FPDS to beta.SAM.gov
- A new reports module and Award API are being built
- Standard Reports Alpha testing starts this quarter for SME's



Question #3

Can you explain the recent SAM.gov notarized letter process and give any updates?



Background (1 of 2)

- GSA's System for Award Management (SAM) continues to support an active investigation by the GSA Office of Inspector General (OIG) into alleged, third-party fraudulent activity in SAM.
 - Only a limited number of entities registered in SAM were suspected of being impacted by this alleged fraudulent activity. In March 2018, GSA took steps to address this issue and notified affected entities.
- GSA took a number of proactive steps to address this issue, including system modifications, to prevent improper activity going forward.
 - In addition, GSA expired, then deactivated any entity registrations that appeared to have been affected. These entities were advised to validate their registration information in SAM, particularly their financial information and points of contact, before reactivating the entity registrations.



Background (2 of 2)

- The measures GSA already put in place to help prevent improper activity in SAM include masking specific data elements in the entity registration even for authorized entity users; requiring “parent” approval of new registrations for their “child” entities; and requiring the formal appointment of the Entity Administrator by original, signed notarized letter.
- Additional enhanced controls will be deployed at the end of June. These controls include implementing multi-factor authentication using Login.gov and notifying Entity Administrators when there is a change in the entity’s bank account information. As a result of these and other measures, GSA is modifying the current notarized letter review process in two phases.



Notarized Letter Review Process Changes (1 of 2)

How is the notarized letter review process changing on June 11, 2018?

- Effective June 11, 2018, entities who create or update their registration in SAM.gov to apply **only** for federal assistance opportunities such as grants, loans, and other financial assistance programs **no longer** need to have an approved Entity Administrator notarized letter on file before their registration is activated.
 - *Hint: This applies to you if your SAM.gov Purpose of Registration is Federal Assistance only. Check SAM.gov to find your Purpose of Registration.*
- Federal Assistance entities still must mail the original, signed copy of the notarized letter to the Federal Service Desk. Failure to do so within 30 days of activation may result in the registration no longer being active.



Notarized Letter Review Process Changes (2 of 2)

How is the notarized letter review process changing on June 29, 2018?

- Effective June 29, 2018, SAM.gov entities will **no longer** be required to have an approved Entity Administrator notarized letter on file before their registration is activated.
 - *Hint: This applies to you if your SAM.gov Purpose of Registration is either Federal Assistance or All Awards. Check SAM.gov to find your Purpose of Registration.*
- All entities still must mail the original, signed copy of the notarized letter to the Federal Service Desk. Failure to do so within 30 days of activation may result in the registration no longer being active.



Other Notarized Letter Process Questions

Where can I find the notarized letter templates?

- Read the [instructions for domestic entities](#) or [instructions for international entities](#) posted at the Federal Service Desk.

Does the notarized letter requirement apply to U.S. Federal Government entities registering in SAM?

- No.



Common Issues with Notarized Letters

GSA recommends the following to entities submitting notarized letters:

1. Use one of the templates provided in the FAQs. Review the applicable instructions for domestic entities or international entities to ensure you select the appropriate template.
2. Complete all sections of the template to avoid these main causes of rejection:
 - **Failure to include a statement clarifying your account administration preference.** On the template you are directed to select one of two choices for who can administer your account. You can select either self administration confirmation or third party agent designation. Your letter must indicate one or the other.
 - **Information not matching.** Double check that the appointed Entity Administrator's email address and phone number, as well as the entity physical address, match the information contained in the SAM registration. Take the extra time to ensure all information is accurate and complete or you will be required to submit another hard copy notarized letter.
 - **Missing digits in the DUNS Number.** Include all nine digits of your DUNS Number. Do not ignore leading and ending zeros. Double check the DUNS Number for accuracy against your SAM registration.



Question #4

What is GSA doing to ensure increased security in SAM.gov?



Implementing Multi-Factor Authentication (1 of 3)

What is the new login process for SAM.gov?

- Effective June 29, 2018, when you go to SAM.gov and log in, you will be asked to create a Login.gov user account. Your current SAM.gov username and password will **no longer work**.

What is the most important thing I need to do before June 29th?

- Make sure you know the email address associated with your current SAM.gov user account.

Why do I need my current SAM.gov user account email address?

- Using the same email address allows SAM.gov to automatically migrate your roles. If a different email address is provided, your roles will need to be reassigned. This could cause delays updating your existing registrations.



Implementing Multi-Factor Authentication (2 of 3)

How do I find the email address for my SAM.gov user account?

- If you don't know which email is associated with your SAM.gov user account, take action now. Go to www.SAM.gov → My SAM → My Account Settings → Edit User Information. As of June 29, 2018, your current username and password won't work, so take steps now to confirm your email!

What do I need to create my Login.gov user account?

- You will need to:
 1. know the email address associated with your SAM.gov username and password
 2. have access to that email to receive a confirmation email from Login.gov, and
 3. have a working phone (cell phone or landline) to receive a security code from Login.gov.



Implementing Multi-Factor Authentication (3 of 3)

Why is SAM.gov making these user account changes on June 29, 2018?

- To further increase security and deter fraud, SAM.gov is partnering with Login.gov to implement multi-factor authentication for registered SAM.gov users.

Will this change impact public users who do not log in to SAM.gov?

- No. There is no change for users who search and view public data on SAM.gov without logging in to the system.

Will I be able to get help for this new login process?

- Yes. SAM will post additional instructions, the Federal Service Desk will be available to support, and you can go to Login.gov to [learn more about creating an account](#).



Question #5

What's happening with FBO?

- Transitioning in FY19
- New FBO API testing to occur in June
- Communications on FBO site and Interact to alert you of the changes
- Encourage participation in the Technical Interface Community for technical issues to stay up to date with changes



Question #6

When looking at search results in the beta site, there is a small checkbox at the top left that says "Active" under the header "Status."

What does "Active" mean? Who makes that determination? Does it come from the agencies?



Question #7

Is there the ability to create a logical URL to a specific Assistance Listing page? On CFDA.gov, you could have such a link.



Question #8

Are URLs in beta.sam.gov durable? Can I bookmark or email a link to a specific program or to a set of search results to someone else?



Question #9

Does the keyword search box allow for the use of Boolean connectors? I have tried searching on multiple terms or phrases, connected by "AND" or "OR" but it doesn't seem to work properly.



Question #10

It would be nice to have the ability to download search results in a user friendly format. Currently, the only option seems to be to print to PDF, which doesn't turn out very well.



Question #11

The options under Federal Organizations (left side filter) are strange.

If I type "Education" in the search box, I get multiple Dept. of Education related options, some of which look very similar.

- Education, Department of;
- Education, Department of Department;
- Education, Department of Sub-tier: ED



Additional Questions

IAE received specific technical questions regarding FBO and FPDS interfaces, both legacy and beta.SAM.gov-related.

These questions are being addressed with the submitter directly and responses will be shared during the IAE Technical Interface Community meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2018.



Contact Information

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To Get Involved:

<https://interact.gsa.gov/group/integrated-award-environment-iae-industry-community>

