

March 9, 2011

This information is being shared to help make you aware of a problem with the Central Contract Registry (CCR) ( <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/> ).

If you are trying to submit a grant through Grants.gov in the near future, please read this email and pass it along to those who submit applications to Grants.gov for your institution.

Last week NIFA was informed of a problem with the Central Contract Registry (CCR). The Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database implemented a hardware and software upgrade on February 19, 2011. Since then, CCR has experienced severe slowness and performance issues.

An integral part of registering in CCR is getting the Commercial And Government Entity (CAGE) code. Demand for CAGE codes is outpacing the processing capacity.

The system performance combined with the CAGE code backlog has contributed to an overall backlog in CCR registrations and updates. At this point in time, there could be up to a several week delay compared to normal processing times. The CCR folk are working to reduce the backlog and prevent future occurrences of this using a combination of automation and personnel resources.

*What does this mean?*

In a nutshell it means that new applicants are having difficulty in completing the registration process that is required in order for them to submit applications through Grants.gov. This may also impact applicants who are updating their registration with CCR as well. Grants.gov is not experiencing any issues with submissions, this is a CCR issue only.

*What should you do?*

Be sure that you continue to work with CCR and be sure you open a ticket with Grants.gov so that your claim can be documented, should you experience a delay that causes any application to be late.

*When will this be resolved?*

At this point it is unclear when things will return to normal. You can monitor the CCR website: <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/>

Your best bet is to contact CCR immediately if you need to **register with CCR or update your CCR registration** in order to apply to a program in the next few weeks. Those of you who plan to meet the EIPM-CS deadline of March 29, 2011, should ensure that your CCR registration is OK now. We always recommend that you submit your application to Grants.gov several days before the deadline in order to be able to address any errors that are flagged by the system.