

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) For Grant Electronic Management System (GEMS)

General Questions:

Q: How do I add my Agency and/or Department to the GEMS?

A: Agency and Department can only be added by OTS personnel, contact OTS at 916-509-3030.

Q: How do I add new users or contacts to GEMS?

A: Users/contacts can only be added by OTS personnel, contact OTS at 916-509-3030.

Q: How do I change my password?

A: On the log-in screen, enter your username and click "Forgot Password."

Q: How do I save my information as I navigate the application (without exiting)?

A: Click on the "Check for Errors" button and/or click the "Next" button and it will AutoSave.

Q: How do I find my DUNS number?

A: Contact your Finance Department. The DUNS number is used to track federal funding to public entities.

Q: Where can I find my DUNS Number Expiration Date?

A: www.SAM.gov

Application Information Section:

Q: Can I skip ahead to other sections of the application?

A: Yes, but only after selecting the "Application Type" in the "Application I

Q: Who should we designate as the Authorized Representative? Do they need to be one of the signers if we are awarded a grant?

A: The Authorized Representative should be someone with authority to apply for grant funding. This person does not necessarily need to be a signer of the final grant documents.

Application Summary Section and Proposed Solution Section:

Q: Why won't the system accept information typed or pasted into a text box?

A: You may have exceeded the 35,000 character limit of the text box. Photographs and graphics consume a large amount of the character limit.

Q: If I exceed the 35,000 character limit and I need to provide additional information, what do I do?

A: Type "See Attached" in the text box and use the "Upload Documents" section in the navigation column to upload a document with additional information. Be sure to reference the appropriate application section in the title of the document.

Q: Can I cut and paste from a Word document into the text boxes?

A: Yes.

Q: Can I edit the font and font size within the text boxes?

A: No. If you have two different fonts or sizes of text, it likely resulted from cutting and pasting into the system and then type additional information (should type be typed?). To correct this, you will need to copy all the text into a Word documents, make the edits and the paste it back into GEMS.

If you cut and paste from a Word doc into GEMS, it will carry the formatting from the document, but if you type additional information, it will use Arial 12.

Goals Section:

Q: What do I need to do in the Goals section?

A: For templated grants, you do not need to add anything. For General grants, insert the intended outcomes intended to be achieved by the grant activities, for example, "Reduce alcohol related fatalities."

Objectives Section:

Q: Why were the changes to Target Numbers not saved?

A: If you clicked the "Edit All" button you must click the "Save All" button. You may need to scroll back to the top of the page to see the "Save All" button. Do not click the "Save and Exit" button.

Budget Section:

Q: Why were the changes to my budget line items not saved?

A: If you clicked the "Edit All" button you must click the "Save All" button. You may need to scroll back to the top of the page to see the "Save All" button. Do not click the "Save and Exit" button.

Q: How do I add benefits to a full-time or part-time Position?

A: Click "+New" to create a new line. Select "Personnel Costs" for Category. In the "Item Name" field, enter "Benefits - (position name)." Select the Pay Type and Position Type. Enter "1" for Units. Enter the total funded cost of the position in the "Unit Cost or Rate" field. Enter 100% in the "Percent Paid" field. Enter the total percentage of benefits in the "Benefit Rate" field. In the "Narrative" field, input, for example, "Benefits-(Position Name) @75%."

Q: How do I to add benefits to Overtime activities?

A: Click "+New" to create a new line. Select "Personnel Costs" for Category. In the "Enforcement Activity" field select "other." In "Unit Costs" field enter the total dollar amount of all overtime enforcement activities. Enter "1" for Units. In "Item Name" enter "Benefits-OT @ (%)." Enter the total percentage of benefits in the "Benefit Rate" field. In the "Narrative" field, input, for example, "Benefits-Overtime @ (%)."

Q: If I select a Standard Language Item from the dropdown box, do I need to include an "Item Name" and "Narrative"?

A: No, it will populate after you "Save".