

Privacy Impact Assessment Grants and Agreements Management System (GAMS)

Technology, Planning, Architecture, & E-Government

- Version: 1.04
- Date: July 26, 2013
- Prepared for: USDA NRCS OCIO
CISO





Privacy Impact Assessment for the Grants and Agreements Management System (GAMS)

26 July 2013

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Abstract

The Grants and Agreements Management System (GAMS) is a system of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

GAMS system is specifically designed to aid National Headquarters (NHQ) and state / center offices in the development of grants and agreements. The system has been modified from a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) product to meet NRCS specifications including alignment with the NRCS environment.

A Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) was performed, indicating that a PIA must be completed. This PIA is being conducted to comply with the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA) and the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 44 U.S.C. § 101, H.R. 2458/S. 803) Federal Law.

Overview

The Grants and Agreements Management System (GAMS) is a system of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The purpose of GAMS is to provide a system sponsored by the Deputy Chief for Management that is specifically designed to aid National Headquarters (NHQ) and state / center offices in the development of grants and agreements.

The PII that is collected and maintained by GAMS includes contact information for public applicants who have submitted applications for grants and associated agreements. GAMS maintains copies of signed applications (scanned to disk) that may include typical contact information for applicants. In addition, GAMS also maintains limited contact information for NRCS employees and affiliates who are involved with these applications.

The PII information maintained by GAMS is used to manage grants and agreements through a variety of steps, inputs and workflows. GAMS follows a step by step workflow process to enter the data needed to support a request for a grant or an agreement, and then to obtain appropriate approvals to activate the grant / agreement. GAMS allows users within a given role to perform transactions to add, edit or delete applications, as well as to monitor and modify status on existing/active applications.

GAMS also maintains a minimal amount of PII about some of the applicants in the GAMS application database that is used to access transitory read-only PII information from the Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS).

The system has been modified from a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) product to meet NRCS specifications including alignment with the NRCS environment.

The GAMS application is seeking Authority to Operate in 2013.

Section 1.0 Characterization of the Information

The following questions are intended to define the scope of the information requested and/or collected as well as reasons for its collection as part of the program, system, rule, or technology being developed.

1.1 What information is collected, used, disseminated, or maintained in the system?

- The PII that is collected, used and maintained by GAMS includes contact information for public applicants who have submitted applications for grants and associated agreements. GAMS maintains copies of signed applications (scanned to disk) that may include typical contact information for applicants.
- GAMS also maintains limited contact information for NRCS employees and affiliates who are involved with these applications.
- No PII is solicited or collected from any landowner by this application
- GAMS does not disseminate PII information to any other system.

1.2 What are the sources of the information in the system?

- SCIMS is a source of the PII used in GAMS for some of the public applicants.
- PII data is also collected by NRCS personnel into “wizard” forms, either directly or transcribed from paper application forms.
- GAMS collects no information directly from the affected members of the public (i.e., landowners). GAMS does not process any financial transactions, and will never share any type of PII with FMFI.

1.3 Why is the information being collected, used, disseminated, or maintained?

- The information is collected, used and maintained in order to manage new and existing grant and agreement applications.
- GAMS does not directly “collect” any PII from any landowner.
- GAMS does not disseminate PII information to any other system.

1.4 How is the information collected?

- PII data is collected by NRCS personnel into “wizard” forms, either directly or transcribed from paper application forms.
- GAMS does not directly collect any PII from landowners (i.e., members of the Public), nor is PII collected from any other third party sources.

1.5 How will the information be checked for accuracy?



- Information in GAMS is reviewed for accuracy and is verified through manual review and comparison with existing agency data throughout the approval process. This is done by NRCS personnel who have the requisite knowledge and responsibility for the data.
- The accuracy of PII obtained from SCIMS is not within the scope of GAMS. GAMS does not have the ability to update any information in SCIMS.

1.6 What specific legal authorities, arrangements, and/or agreements defined the collection of information?

While GAMS does not directly “collect” any PII from any landowner, these pertain:

- Federal Register /Vol. 75, No. 27 /Wednesday, February 10, 2010/Rules and Regulations
- Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)

1.7 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the amount and type of data collected, discuss the privacy risks identified and how they were mitigated.

- GAMS does not directly “collect” any PII from any landowner.
- The only PII data in the application that poses privacy risks is the minimal amount of PII that is used to identify stakeholders (e.g., public landowners) who are involved in new and existing grant and agreement applications. This is discussed in the PIA Overview and Section 1.1.
- Privacy risks are mitigated because access to the information will be limited to appropriate NRCS personnel and partners by the use of the USDA-OCIO-eAuthentication application, which provides user authentication for NRCS. Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) provides access enforcement.
- Please see Section 2.4 and Section 8.6 for a further discussion of security controls that are in place to mitigate privacy risks.

Section 2.0 Uses of the Information

The following questions are intended to delineate clearly the use of information and the accuracy of the data being used.

2.1 Describe all the uses of information.

- This information is used to identify public landowners for purposes of managing existing active grants and agreements, and to provide a uniform means for recording, editing and/or deleting applications.

2.2 What types of tools are used to analyze data and what type of data may be produced?

- N/A – GAMS does not use any type of tools to analyze PII. GAMS only produces summary reports for grants and agreements. No PII data is ‘produced’ and PII data is not manipulated or reformatted.

2.3 If the system uses commercial or publicly available data please explain why and how it is used.

- N/A – GAMS does not use commercial or publicly available data.

2.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Describe any types of controls that may be in place to ensure that information is handled in accordance with the above described uses.

- This application is in compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA) as reflected in CSAM, USDA Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Directives, and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidance, including applicable controls provided in these NIST Special Publication 800-53 control families:
 - Access Control (AC)
 - Security Awareness and Training (AT)
 - Identification and Authentication (IA)
 - Media Protection (MP)
 - Physical and Environmental Protection (PE)
 - Personnel Security (PS)
 - Risk Assessment (RA)
 - System and Communication Protection (SC)
 - System and Information Integrity (SI)
- If any residual risks are identified, they will be managed and reported via the FISMA mandated risk assessment processes.

Section 3.0 Retention

The following questions are intended to outline how long information will be retained after the initial collection.

3.1 How long is information retained?

- Application-specific information is retained while the application remains in production. Per NARA General Records Schedule 20, application-specific



information has been authorized by the NRCS Records Manager for erasure or deletion when the agency determines that this information is no longer needed for administrative, legal, audit, or other operational purposes.

3.2 Has the retention period been approved by the component records officer and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)?

- Yes.

3.3 Privacy Impact Analysis: Please discuss the risks associated with the length of time data is retained and how those risks are mitigated.

- The primary privacy risk is that a data breach could result in the release of information on members of the public. This is mitigated by limited access to the data, non-portability of the data and controlled storage of the data in controlled facilities.
- Retention of application-specific data is required to meet business and organizational requirements for this particular information system. The risks associated with retaining application-specific information are mitigated by the controls discussed above.

Section 4.0 Internal Sharing and Disclosure

The following questions are intended to define the scope of sharing within the United States Department of Agriculture.

4.1 With which internal organization(s) is the information shared, what information is shared and for what purpose?

- N/A – GAMS information is not shared with (or transmitted to) any other internal USDA organizations. While GAMS obtains transitory information related to some landowners from SCIMS, GAMS does not maintain this transitory information in the application database. Furthermore, GAMS does not share or transmit any information with SCIMS nor does it update any information in SCIMS.

4.2 How is the information transmitted or disclosed?

- N/A – GAMS information is not shared with any other internal USDA organizations.



4.3 Privacy Impact Analysis: Considering the extent of internal information sharing, discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing and how they were mitigated.

- GAMS does not “share” PII with any other internal USDA organization.
- Privacy risks are mitigated by virtue of NOT sharing information with other internal USDA organizations.
- Any residual risks are mitigated by the controls discussed in Section 2.4 above.

Section 5.0 External Sharing and Disclosure

The following questions are intended to define the content, scope, and authority for information sharing external to USDA which includes Federal, state and local government, and the private sector.

5.1 With which external organization(s) is the information shared, what information is shared, and for what purpose?

- N/A – PII information is not transmitted or disclosed externally.

5.2 Is the sharing of personally identifiable information outside the Department compatible with the original collection? If so, is it covered by an appropriate routine use in a SORN? If so, please describe. If not, please describe under what legal mechanism the program or system is allowed to share the personally identifiable information outside of USDA.

- N/A – PII information is not transmitted or disclosed externally.

5.3 How is the information shared outside the Department and what security measures safeguard its transmission?

- N/A – PII information is not transmitted or disclosed externally.

5.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the external sharing, explain the privacy risks identified and describe how they were mitigated.

- PII information is not transmitted or disclosed externally. Privacy risks are mitigated by virtue of NOT sharing PII with organizations external to USDA.
- Any residual risks are mitigated by the controls discussed in Section 2.4 above.

Section 6.0 Notice



The following questions are directed at notice to the individual of the scope of information collected, the right to consent to uses of said information, and the right to decline to provide information.

6.1 Was notice provided to the individual prior to collection of information?

- N/A – No notice is provided to any individual landowner, because no PII is solicited or collected from any landowner by this application.

6.2 Do individuals have the opportunity and/or right to decline to provide information?

- N/A – No PII is collected from any landowner by this application.

6.3 Do individuals have the right to consent to particular uses of the information? If so, how does the individual exercise the right?

- N/A – No PII is collected from any landowner by this application.

6.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Describe how notice is provided to individuals, and how the risks associated with individuals being unaware of the collection are mitigated.

- Because no PII is collected from any individual landowner by this application, “Notice” does not need to be provided to any landowners.
- There is no risk that any landowner would be unaware of “collection,” because no PII is collected from any landowner by this application.

Section 7.0 Access, Redress and Correction

The following questions are directed at an individual’s ability to ensure the accuracy of the information collected about them.

7.1 What are the procedures that allow individuals to gain access to their information?

- N/A – No procedures are required. The individual landowners associated with grants / agreements are not allowed to gain access to GAMS, so any PII information in GAMS is not directly available to the individual landowners themselves (i.e., members of the Public) via this application.
- Note that the applicable procedures to allow individuals to gain access to their SCIMS information are maintained outside of the accreditation boundary of



this application by SCIMS (owned by the Farm Service Agency), which is the source of some of the PII used by this application.

7.2 What are the procedures for correcting inaccurate or erroneous information?

- N/A – No procedures are required. The individual landowners associated with grants / agreements are not allowed to gain access to GAMS, so any PII information in GAMS is not directly available to the individual landowners themselves (i.e., members of the Public) to update or change (i.e., “correct”) any inaccurate or erroneous PII information.
- Note that the applicable procedures to allow individuals to gain access to correct their SCIMS information are maintained outside of the accreditation boundary of this application by SCIMS (owned by the Farm Service Agency), which is the source of some of the PII used by this application.

7.3 How are individuals notified of the procedures for correcting their information?

- N/A – no notification is provided related to procedures to allow individual landowners to correct their PII, because the individual landowners associated with grants or agreements are not allowed to gain access to GAMS.
- No PII is collected from any landowner by this application.
- Note that the applicable procedures to allow individuals to gain access to their SCIMS information are maintained outside of the accreditation boundary of this application by SCIMS (owned by the Farm Service Agency), which is the source of some of the PII used by this application.

7.4 If no formal redress is provided, what alternatives are available to the individual?

- N/A – See 7.3.

7.5 Privacy Impact Analysis: Please discuss the privacy risks associated with the redress available to individuals and how those risks are mitigated.

- There are no privacy risks specifically associated with the redress process for this application. There is no risk that an individual landowner would need to correct their PII in GAMS, because no PII is collected from any landowner by GAMS.

- Residual privacy risks associated with the redress process for individual landowners are mitigated since individuals can use the relevant procedures discussed above to update their original public records.

Section 8.0 Technical Access and Security

The following questions are intended to describe technical safeguards and security measures.

8.1 What procedures are in place to determine which users may access the system and are they documented?

- Access to the GAMS application is determined via a valid eAuthentication ID and password (level II) on a valid “need to know” basis, determined by requirements to perform applicable official duties. The application has documented Access Control Procedures, in compliance with FISMA and USDA directives. See Section 2.4.

8.2 Will Department contractors have access to the system?

- Yes. Department contractors, with a need to know, will have access to GAMS as part of their regular assigned duties. Contractors are required to undergo mandatory background investigations commensurate with the sensitivity of their responsibilities, in compliance with Federal requirements.

8.3 Describe what privacy training is provided to users either generally or specifically relevant to the program or system?

- NRCS requires that every employee and contractor receives information security awareness training before being granted network and account access, per General Manual, Title 270, Part 409 - Logical Access Control and Account Management.
- Annual Security Awareness and Specialized Training are also required, per FISMA and USDA policy, and this training is tracked by USDA.

8.4 Has Certification & Accreditation been completed for the system or systems supporting the program?

- GAMS is seeking an Authorization to Operate (ATO) via an A&A that is currently in progress, to be completed by 9/2013.

8.5 What auditing measures and technical safeguards are in place to prevent misuse of data?

- NRCS complies with the “Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002” (FISMA). Assessment and Accreditation, as well as annual key control self-assessments, and continuous monitoring procedures are implemented for this application per the requirements given in National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-53. Additionally, NRCS complies with the specific security requirements for “auditing measures and technical safeguards” provided in OMB M-07-16. Finally, the system provides technical safeguards to prevent misuse of data including:
 - Confidentiality: Encryption is implemented to secure data at rest and in transit for this application (e.g., by FIPS 140-2 compliant HTTPS and end-user hard disk encryption).
 - Integrity: Masking of applicable information is performed for this application (e.g., passwords are masked by eAuth).
 - Access Control: The systems implements least privileges and need to know to control access to PII (e.g., by RBAC).
 - Authentication: Access to the system and session timeout is implemented for this application (e.g. by eAuth and via multi-factor authentication for remote access).
 - Audit: Logging is implemented for this application (e.g. by logging infrastructure).
 - Attack Mitigation: The system implements security mechanisms such as input validation.

Notice: For the privacy notice control, please see Section 6 which addresses notice. For the privacy redress control, please see Section 7 which addresses redress..

8.6 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the sensitivity and scope of the information collected, as well as any information sharing conducted on the system, what privacy risks were identified and how do the security controls mitigate them?

- GAMS does not directly “collect” any PII from any landowner, or “share” (internally or externally) any PII, but does utilize PII within the system which is obtained from other sources (see Section 1.0 above). Data extracts containing PII are not regularly obtained from the system, therefore, privacy risk from this area is limited and addressed through IT Data Extract process controls.
- Any privacy risks identified in this system are mitigated by the security and privacy safeguards provided in Section 8.5, and by the security controls discussed in Section 2.4 above. Remediation of privacy risks associated with internal/external sharing are addressed in PIA Sections 4 and 5 respectively.

Section 9.0 Technology



The following questions are directed at critically analyzing the selection process for any technologies utilized by the system, including system hardware and other technology.

9.1 What type of project is the program or system?

- GAMS is an NRCS COTS application that is seeking an Authorization to Operate (ATO), as discussed in Section 8.4.

9.2 Does the project employ technology which may raise privacy concerns? If so please discuss their implementation.

- No. The project utilizes Agency approved technologies, and these technology choices do not raise privacy concerns.

Section 10.0 Third Party Websites/Applications

The following questions are directed at critically analyzing the privacy impact of using third party websites and/or applications.

10.1 Has the System Owner (SO) and/or Information Systems Security Program Manager (ISSPM) reviewed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandums M-10-22 “Guidance for Online Use of Web Measurement and Customization Technology” and M-10-23 “Guidance for Agency Use of Third-Party Websites and Applications”?

- Yes.

10.2 What is the specific purpose of the agency’s use of 3rd party websites and/or applications?

- N/A - 3rd party websites / applications are not used.

10.3 What personally identifiable information (PII) will become available through the agency’s use of 3rd party websites and/or applications.

- N/A - 3rd party websites / applications are not used.

10.4 How will the PII that becomes available through the agency’s use of 3rd party websites and/or applications be used?



- N/A - 3rd party websites / applications are not used.

10.5 How will the PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications be maintained and secured?

- N/A - 3rd party websites / applications are not used.

10.6 Is the PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications purged periodically?

- N/A - 3rd party websites / applications are not used.

10.7 Who will have access to PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications?

- N/A - 3rd party websites / applications are not used.

10.8 With whom will the PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications be shared - either internally or externally?

- N/A - 3rd party websites / applications are not used.

10.9 Will the activities involving the PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications require either the creation or modification of a system of records notice (SORN)?

- N/A - 3rd party websites / applications are not used.

10.10 Does the system use web measurement and customization technology?

- No. The system does not use web measurement and customization technology.

10.11 Does the system allow users to either decline to opt-in or decide to opt-out of all uses of web measurement and customization technology?

- N/A. See 10.10.

10.12 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the amount and type of PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites



and/or applications, discuss the privacy risks identified and how they were mitigated.

- Privacy risks are nominal. GAMS does not provide access or link to 3rd Party Applications. In addition, the system does not use web measurement and customization technology.



Responsible Officials

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Jake Zebell
NRCS

Date

United States Department of Agriculture

This signature certifies that the above PIA responses are provided to the best of my knowledge and understanding.

Approval Signature



7/29/13

Mr. Lian Jin
Acting Chief Information Security Officer
United States Department of Agriculture

Date

This signature certifies that the PTA analysis and PIA determination due diligence has been conducted pursuant to Department guidance and NIST regulations.