

**From:** [Rhodes, April](#)  
**To:** [Rhodes, April](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Nancy Anderson asked group Grants & SF424: SF424 10.9.1 clarification and validations from eRA for SciENCv attachments  
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**From:** HRS Customer Success <[clicksupport@hcg.com](mailto:clicksupport@hcg.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:45 PM  
**To:** Capps, Amanda <[aos@uab.edu](mailto:aos@uab.edu)>  
**Subject:** Nancy Anderson asked group Grants & SF424: SF424 10.9.1 clarification and validations from eRA for SciENCv attachments

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[Grants & SF424](#) (Private) — [Nancy Anderson](#) (Employee) asked a question.

### **SF424 10.9.1 clarification and validations from eRA for SciENCv attachments**

Hello and Happy New Year Grants Community!

I've got a very large backlog of questions and concerns around SF424 10.9.1 and the validations coming from eRA for the SciENCv attachments. Instead of responding to you all individually, because a lot of the questions and concerns are the same in the messages that I've been receiving, I'm going to do my best to cast a wide net here and provide the best answers and clarity that I can.

Let's start with clarifying what the SF424 10.9.1 release addressed. In SF424 10.9.1 we did the following to provide better handling of PDF attachments with signatures:

1. Relaxed the validation for PDFs with signature fields from an error to a warning and changed the text to inform the user that they have uploaded a document with a signature fields.
2. Updated the text wherever we are flattening the PDF attachments to

- inform users that PDFs with signature fields will not be flattened.
3. Updated the code that flattens PDF attachments to exclude PDFs with signature fields from the flattening process.

This is to address the immediate need to get around the blockers on our side with a PDF with signature fields is attached in SF424.

The testing for the SF424 10.9.1 release should include the following:

1. Confirm that when a PDF with a signature field is attached in SF424, you see a warning instead of an error.
2. Confirm that when a PDF with a signature field is attached, anywhere that allows a user to make a selection to flatten PDF attachments for SF424 has updated text to inform the user that the PDF with signature fields will not be flattened.
3. Confirm that when a PDF with a signature field is attached, it is being included in the XML that gets submitted to [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov).

Now let's talk about what SF424 10.9.1 does not address. The SF424 10.9.1 release does not include anything that addresses the eRA validations that are being thrown for biosketches and current and pending support. The eRA validations are outside of the Huron SF424 software and must be addressed by eRA. I've tested in the ASSIST UAT environment, which is completely outside of any Huron software, to confirm that I saw the same behavior there and I did. I've submitted a support case with the eRA service desk to ask why documents that are generated from SciENCv, that should clear the validations, are not clearing the validations. I've also asked about the inconsistency of the validations between the PI and other senior/key personnel. I will let you all know what eRA's response is when I get a response from them.

Regarding test biosketch and current and pending support attachments, I'm not aware of a test environment for SciENCv that we have access to to generate the appropriate documents to use to meet the NIH requirements. Rebecca Simms is a test user under the Huron organization profile in the eRA Commons UAT system. To meet the requirements for the new NIH policy, the senior/key personnel must provide a biosketch generated in

SciENcv using the NIH Common Forms Biosketch template and to do that, the user must also have an ORCID. The SciENcv Common Forms attachments include backend data to allow the eRA system to validate that the document was generated from SciENcv and that the document includes a certification signature from the senior/key person that the document is generated for. If you are trying to use the Rebecca Simms document for a different test user or the eRA system can't validate that the document was signed by the senior/key person that the document is being associated with, this could cause the validation to trigger because this validation is looking for specific information in the backend of the document. To ensure that the validations were not being triggered because of invalid or unmatching data between the senior/key person and who the document was signed by, I created a SciENcv account for Rebecca Simms (Huron's test user). I also created an ORCID for Rebecca Simms to be able to generate the appropriate documents. Once I had an ORCID linked with eRA and SciENcv, I created the NIH Common Forms Biosketch and the NIH Common Forms Other Support attachment. You cannot download these attachments from SciENcv without "signing/certifying" the documents so I did this part too. Once I downloaded the documents, I opened them up to confirm that they did have the expected signatures and then I uploaded them in my test SF424 application. These documents did not clear the errors in my test environment or the ASSIST UAT environment, but I do know that these are the documents that are expected.

Now, I mistakenly let the Rebecca Simms documents get out to you all in hopes that they would help you with your testing efforts, but I don't think that they will because of how the eRA system is trying to validate the documents to ensure that they are generated from SciENcv and are signed by the person that they are being attached for. I also am not advising you to go create a bunch of test accounts in ORCID and SciENcv because those are production systems and I'm going to guess that creating a bunch of test accounts might be frowned upon. I'm just sharing what I did to get the documents that I did for Rebecca Simms to try to validate SF424 applications in Huron test environments. I have no advice that I can give on how to go about obtaining the appropriate attachments for testing other than if you have real people that you can use in the eRA Commons UAT environment and real attachments for those people, you should use those instead.

I hope this answers the questions that you may have around all of this. If you still have more questions, please post them here as someone else in the community might also have the same questions and it is much easier to respond to all of you as a group rather than individually with the same

answers.

Lastly, to those of you who spent time over the past couple holiday weeks working through the upgrade and testing, thank you so much for your time and effort!

I hope you all are off to a good start for this year and that this year brings you better things than last year!

Regards,

Nancy

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