

Access the following website to obtain an EIN via Online, Telephone Service, Fax or Mail:

<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>

The screenshot shows the IRS website page for applying for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) online. The page is titled "Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) Online" and includes a navigation menu on the left with categories like Corporations, Partnerships, International Businesses, and Small Businesses & Self-Employed. The main content area features three numbered steps: 1. Determine Your Eligibility..., 2. Understand the Online Application..., and 3. Submit Your Application... Each step includes a list of requirements and a button labeled "Apply Online Now". A red arrow points to this button. Below the steps, there are sections for "Return due dates provided on CP575 notices", "Important" information, "Purpose of an Employer Identification Number", "Employer Tax Responsibilities Explained", and "Exempt Organization Information".

Corporations
Partnerships
International Businesses
Small Businesses & Self-Employed

Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) Online Español

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern Time

- 1 Determine Your Eligibility...**
 - You may apply for an EIN online if your principal business is located in the United States or U.S. Territories.
 - The person applying online must have a valid Taxpayer Identification Number (SSN, ITIN, EIN).
 - You are limited to one EIN per [responsible party](#) per day.
- 2 Understand the Online Application...**
 - You must complete this application in one session, as you will not be able to save and return at a later time.
 - Your session will expire after 15 minutes of inactivity, and you will need to start over.
- 3 Submit Your Application...**
 - After all validations are done you will get your EIN immediately upon completion. You can then download, save, and print your EIN confirmation notice.

[Apply Online Now](#)

Return due dates provided on CP575 notices
Due to a change in return due dates for Partnerships and certain Corporations, your CP575 notice may be incorrect for tax periods ending after 12/31/2015. When filing any tax return, use the most current version of the form and instructions for your entity type to ensure timely filing.

Important
We cannot process your application online if the responsible party is an entity with an EIN previously obtained through the Internet. Please use one of our other methods to apply. See [How to Apply for an EIN](#). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Purpose of an Employer Identification Number
Employer Identification Numbers are issued for the purpose of tax administration and are not intended for participation in any other activities (e.g., tax lien auction or sales, lotteries, etc.)

Employer Tax Responsibilities Explained (Publications 15, 15-A and 15B)
[Publication 15](#) provides information on employer tax responsibilities related to taxable wages, employment tax withholding and which tax returns must be filed. More complex issues are discussed in [Publication 15-A](#) and tax treatment of many employee benefits can be found in Publication 15. We recommend employers download these publications from IRS.gov. Copies can be requested online (search "Forms and Publications") or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM.

Exempt Organization Information
If you believe your organization qualifies for tax exempt status (whether or not you have a requirement to apply for a formal ruling), be sure your organization is formed legally before you apply for an EIN. Nearly all organizations exempt under IRC 501(a) are subject to automatic revocation of their tax-exempt status if they fail to file a required annual information return or notice for three consecutive years. When you apply for an EIN, we presume you're legally formed and the clock starts running on this three-year period.

Example: Your organization applies for an EIN in November 2014 and chooses a December accounting period. Your first tax period would end on December 31, 2014, and your first return or notice (if your organization does not meet one of the few exceptions to the annual reporting requirement) would be due May 15, 2015. You would be subject to automatic revocation of your exemption if you fail to file for the three periods that end December 31, 2016 (return/notice due May 15, 2017) or for any consecutive three-year period thereafter.

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 11-Oct-2016

Click here
to apply
for an
EIN
online.



EIN Assistant

Important Information Before You Begin

Use this assistant to apply for and obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN).

[Do I need an EIN?](#)

[Do I need a new EIN?](#)

For help or additional information on any topic, click the underlined key words, or view Help Topics on the right side of the screen. Make sure that pop-ups are allowed from this site.

About the EIN Assistant

- You must complete this application in one session, as you will **not** be able to save and return at a later time.
- For security purposes, your session will expire after 15 minutes of [inactivity](#), and you will need to start over.
- You will receive your EIN immediately upon verification. [When will I be able to use my EIN?](#)
- If you wish to receive your confirmation letter online, we strongly recommended that you install [Adobe Reader](#) before beginning the application if it is not already installed.

Restrictions

- Effective May 21, 2012, to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all taxpayers, the Internal Revenue Service will limit Employer Identification Number (EIN) issuance to one per [responsible party](#) per day. This limitation is applicable to all requests for EINs whether online or by phone, fax or mail. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.
- If a [third party designee](#) (TPD) is completing the online application on behalf of the taxpayer, the taxpayer must [authorize the third party](#) to apply for and receive the EIN on his or her behalf.
- The business location must be within the United States or [U.S. territories](#).
- Foreign filers without an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) cannot use this assistant to obtain an EIN.
- If you were incorporated outside of the United States or the U.S. territories, you cannot apply for an EIN online. Please call us at 267-941-1099 (this is not a toll free number).

Begin Application >>

If you are not comfortable sending information via the Internet, download the [Form SS-4](#) PDF file and the instructions for alternative ways of applying.



Click here to start EIN Application online.



EIN Assistant

Your Progress:

1. Identify

2. Authenticate

3. Addresses

4. Details

5. EIN Confirmation

What type of legal structure is applying for an EIN?

Before applying for an EIN you should have already determined what type of legal structure, business, or type of organization is being established.

Choose the type you are applying for. If you don't see your type, select "View Additional Types."

- [Sole Proprietor](#)**
Includes individuals who are in business for themselves and household employers.
- [Partnerships](#)**
Includes partnerships and joint ventures.
- [Corporations](#)**
Includes S corporations, personal service corporations, real estate investment trusts (REIT), regulated investment conduits (RIC), and settlement funds.
- [Limited Liability Company \(LLC\)](#)**
A limited liability company (LLC) is a structure allowed by state statute and is formed by filing articles of organization with the state.
- [Estate](#)**
An estate is a legal entity created as a result of a person's death.
- [Trusts](#)**
All types of trusts including conservatorships, custodianships, guardianships, irrevocable trusts, revocable trusts, and receiverships.
- [View Additional Types, Including Tax-Exempt and Governmental Organizations](#)**
If none of the above fit what you are establishing, there are several others to choose from.

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Help Topics

- [? What if I do not know what type of legal structure or organization to choose?](#)

[IRS Privacy Policy](#)

*Click here to
continue the
application process*

Individuals will need to select "Sole Proprietor".



EIN Assistant

Your Progress:

1. Identify

2. Authenticate

3. Addresses

4. Details

5. EIN Confirmation

You have chosen Sole Proprietor.

Sole proprietor includes individuals who are in business for themselves, or household employers. Read the descriptions below and choose the type for which you are applying.

Sole Proprietor

A sole proprietorship is a business that has only one owner and is not incorporated or registered with the state as a limited liability company (LLC). A sole proprietor can be a self-employed individual or an independent contractor. Sole proprietors (self-employed individuals) report all business income and expenses on their individual tax returns ([Form 1040](#), U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Schedule C, E, or F). A sole proprietor may or may not have employees.

Household Employer

You are a household employer if you have hired someone to do household work and [that worker is your employee](#). Household employees include: babysitters, nannies, au pairs, cleaning people, housekeepers, maids, drivers, health aides, private nurses, caretakers, yard workers, and similar domestic workers.

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Help Topics

[? What is Form 1040?](#)

*Individuals will need to select
"Sole Proprietor".*

*Click here to
continue the
application process*



EIN Assistant

Your Progress:

1. Identify

2. Authenticate

3. Addresses

4. Details

5. EIN Confirmation

Please confirm your selection.

Confirm your selection of **Sole Proprietor** as the type of structure applying for an EIN.

What it is...

- ◆ A sole proprietorship is a business owned by one individual.
- ◆ A sole proprietor can be a self-employed individual or an independent contractor.
- ◆ All business income and expenses are reported on the individual's federal income tax return.
- ◆ A sole proprietor may or may not have employees.

IMPORTANT: A sole proprietor may have only one EIN, regardless of the number of businesses you own or operate. If you already have an EIN, you must use that number for all of your sole proprietor businesses.

What it is not...

- ◆ The business cannot be [incorporated](#) or registered with the state as a [limited liability company \(LLC\)](#).

If you need to change your type of structure, we recommend that you do so **now**, otherwise you will have to start over and re-enter your information. Additional help may be found by reviewing [all types of organizations and structures](#) before making your selection.

<< Change Type

Continue >>



*Click here to
continue the
application process*



EIN Assistant

Your Progress:

1. Identify

2. Authenticate

3. Addresses

4. Details

5. EIN Confirmation

Why is the Sole Proprietor requesting an EIN?

Choose **one** reason that best describes why you are applying for an EIN.

- Started a new business**
Select this option if you are beginning a new business.
- Hired employee(s)**
Select this option if you already have a business and need to hire employees.
- Banking purposes**
Select this option if the reason for applying for the EIN is strictly to satisfy banking requirements or local law.
- Changed type of organization**
Select this option if you are changing the type of organization you currently operate, such as changing from a sole proprietor to a partnership, changing from a partnership to a corporation, etc.
- Purchased active business**
Select this option if you are purchasing a business that is already in operation.

Continue >>

Help Topics

- [? I do not see my reason for applying here. What should I choose?](#)
- [? What if more than one reason applies to me?](#)

*Click here to
continue the
application process*

“Why are you requesting an EIN?”

“Started a new business” should be selected as that is the closest to the reason for obtaining an EIN.



EIN Assistant

Your Progress:

1. Identify ✓

2. Authenticate

3. Addresses

4. Details

5. EIN Confirmation

Please tell us about the Sole Proprietor.

* Required fields

Must match IRS records or this application cannot be processed.

The only punctuation and special characters allowed are hyphen (-) and ampersand (&).

First name *

Middle name/initial

Last name *

Suffix (Jr, Sr, etc.)

[SSN/ITIN](#) * - -

Choose One: *

- I am the sole proprietor.
- I am a third party applying for an EIN on behalf of this sole proprietor.

 *If you are applying for an EIN for yourself, select this option.*

Before continuing, please review the information above for typographical errors.

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Continue >>

 *Click here to
continue the
application process*



EIN Assistant

Your Progress: 1. Identify ✓ 2. Authenticate ✓ 3. Addresses 4. Details 5. EIN Confirmation

Where is the Sole Proprietor physically located?

* Required fields

The only special characters allowed for street and city are - and /.

Note: Must be a U.S. address. Do not enter a P.O. box. [For military addresses click here.](#)

Street *

City *

State/U.S. territory *

ZIP code *

Phone number * - -

Do you have an address **different** from the above where you want your mail to be sent? * Yes No

Before continuing, please review the information above for typographical errors.



*Click here to
continue the
application process*

EIN Assistant

Your Progress:

1. Identify ✓

2. Authenticate ✓

3. Addresses ✓

4. Details

5. EIN Confirmation

Tell us about the Sole Proprietor.

*** Required fields**

The only punctuation and special characters allowed are hyphen (-) and ampersand (&).
The trade name may not contain an ending such as 'LLC', 'LC', 'PLLC', 'PA', 'Corp', or 'Inc'.

Name of Sole Proprietor **John Doe**

Trade name/Doing business as
(if different from name)

County where Sole Proprietor is located *

State/Territory where Sole Proprietor is located *

Sole Proprietor start date *

Before continuing, please review the information above for typographical errors.

Continue >>



*Click here to
continue the
application process*



EIN Assistant

Your Progress:

1. Identify ✓

2. Authenticate ✓

3. Addresses ✓

4. Details

5. EIN Confirmation

Tell us more about the Sole Proprietor.

* Required fields

Does your business own a [highway motor vehicle](#) with a [taxable gross weight](#) of 55,000 pounds or more? *

Yes No

Does your business involve [gambling/wagering](#)? *

Yes No

Does your business need to file [Form 720](#) (Quarterly Federal [Excise Tax Return](#))? *

Yes No

Does your business sell or manufacture alcohol, tobacco, or firearms? *

Yes No

Do you have, or do you expect to have, any [employees who will receive Forms W-2](#) in the next 12 months? * (Forms W-2 require additional filings with the IRS.)

Yes No

Before continuing, please review the information above.

Continue >>

Help Topics

[? What is Form 720?](#)

Click here to continue the application process



EIN Assistant

Your Progress: 1. Identify ✓ 2. Authenticate ✓ 3. Addresses ✓ 4. Details 5. EIN Confirmation

What does your business or organization do?

Choose **one** category that best describes your business. Click the underlined links for additional examples for each category.

- [Accommodations](#)
Casino hotel, hotel, or motel.
- [Construction](#)
Building houses/residential structures, building industrial/commercial structures, specialty trade contractors, remodelers, heavy construction contractors, land subdivision contractors, or site preparation contractors.
- [Finance](#)
Banks, sales financing, credit card issuing, mortgage company/broker, securities broker, investment advice, or trust administration.
- [Food Service](#)
Retail fast food, restaurant, bar, coffee shop, catering, or mobile food service.
- [Health Care](#)
Doctor, mental health specialist, hospital, or outpatient care center.
- [Insurance](#)
Insurance company or broker.
- [Manufacturing](#)
Mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials/substances/components into new products, including the assembly of components.
- [Real Estate](#)
Renting or leasing real estate, managing real estate, real estate agent/broker, selling, buying, or renting real estate for others.
- [Rental & Leasing](#)
Rent/lease automobiles, consumer goods, commercial goods, or industrial goods.
- [Retail](#)
Retail store, internet sales (exclusively), direct sales (catalogue, mail-order, door to door), auction house, or selling goods on auction sites.
- [Social Assistance](#)
Youth services, residential care facility, services for the disabled, or community food/housing/relief services.
- [Transportation](#)
Air transportation, rail transportation, water transportation, trucking, passenger transportation, support activity for transportation, or delivery/courier service.
- [Warehousing](#)
Operating warehousing or storage facilities for general merchandise, refrigerated goods, or other warehouse products; establishments that provide facilities to store goods but do not sell the goods they handle
- [Wholesale](#)
Wholesale agent/broker, importer, exporter, manufacturers' representative, merchant, distributor, or jobber.

Other **Select "Other" for the type of business**

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**Click here to
continue the
application process**



EIN Assistant

Your Progress: 1. Identify ✓ 2. Authenticate ✓ 3. Addresses ✓ 4. Details 5. EIN Confirmation

You have chosen Other.

Please choose **one** of the following that best describes your primary business activity:

- Consulting
- Manufacturing
- Organization (such as religious, environmental, social or civic, athletic, etc.)
- Rental
- Repair
- Sell goods
- Service
- Other – please specify your primary business activity:

Select "Other" and enter "Fulfilling Federal Requirements"

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Continue >>

Click here to continue the application process



EIN Assistant

Your Progress:

1. Identity ✓

2. Authenticate ✓

3. Addresses ✓

4. Details ✓

5. EIN Confirmation

How would you like to receive your EIN Confirmation Letter?

You have **two** options for receiving your confirmation letter. Please choose one below:

- Receive letter online.** This option requires [Adobe Reader](#).
You will be able to view, print, and save this letter immediately. It will not be mailed to you.
- Receive letter by mail.** The IRS will send the letter to the mailing address you provided - allow up to 4 weeks for delivery.



Continue >>

Select this option to receive your letter online providing your EIN.

Click here to continue the application process and receive your letter providing your EIN.

Helpful information regarding your EIN

<http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&-Self-Employed/Employer-ID-Numbers-EINs>

Filing Payments Refunds Credits & Deductions News & Events Forms & Pubs Help & Resources for Tax Pros

Corporations
Partnerships
International Businesses
Small Businesses & Self Employed

Small Business/Self-Employed

- Industries/Professions
- International Taxpayers
- Self-Employed
- Small Business/Self-Employed Home

Small Business/Self-Employed Topics

- A-Z Index for Business
- Forms & Pubs
- Starting a Business
- Deducting Expenses
- Businesses with Employees
- Filing/Paying Taxes
- Post-Filing Issues
- Closing Your Business

Employer ID Numbers

[Español](#) | [中文](#) | [한국어](#) | [TiếngViệt](#) | [Русский](#)

An Employer Identification Number (EIN) is also known as a Federal Tax Identification Number, and is used to identify a business entity. Generally, businesses need an EIN. You may apply for an EIN in various ways, and now you may [apply online](#). **This is a free service offered by the Internal Revenue Service and you can get your EIN immediately.** You must check with [your state](#) to make sure you need a state number or charter.

- [Do You Need an EIN?](#)
- [Do You Need a New EIN?](#)
- [How to Apply for an EIN](#)
- [How Long Will it Take to Get a Number?](#)
- [Lost or Misplaced Your EIN?](#)
- [How EINs are Assigned and Valid EIN Prefixes](#)
- [Canceling an EIN – Closing Your Account](#)
- [Who is a Responsible Party?](#)

[Apply for an EIN Online](#)

Check out our Interview-style online EIN application. No need to file a Form SS-4! We ask you the questions and you give us the answers. The application includes embedded help topics and hyperlinked keywords and definitions so separate instructions aren't needed. After all validations are done you will get your EIN immediately upon completion. You can then download, save, and print your confirmation notice. It's fast, free, and user-friendly!

[Filing for Tax Exempt Status?](#)

It's best to be sure your organization is formed legally before you apply for an EIN. Nearly all organizations are subject to automatic revocation of their tax-exempt status if they fail to file a required return or notice for three consecutive years. When you apply for an EIN, we presume you're legally formed and the clock starts running on this three-year period.

[Change of Ownership or Structure](#)

Generally, businesses need a **new** EIN when their ownership or structure has changed. Refer to "[Do You Need a New EIN?](#)" to determine if this applies to your business.

[Verify Your EIN](#)

If you want to verify your EIN, see the [Lost or Misplaced Your EIN](#) page for instructions.

[Daily Limitation of an Employer Identification Number](#)

Effective May 21, 2012, to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all taxpayers, the Internal Revenue Service will limit Employer Identification Number (EIN) issuance to one per [responsible party](#) per day. This limitation is applicable to all requests for EINs whether online or by fax or mail. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

[Rate the Small Business and Self-Employed Website](#)

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 23-Mar-2015

Related Topics

- › [Taxpayer Identification Numbers \(TIN\)](#)
- › [Correcting Business Information Where a Nominee Was Used](#)
- › [Change in Application for Employer Identification Number](#)

Publication

- › [Understanding Your EIN](#)

Video

- › [EIN Video](#)



Need an EIN?

Get your employer ID number online

[Find out how...](#)