



## How to Apply for an EIN

***Applying for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) is a free service offered by the Internal Revenue Service. Beware of websites on the Internet that charge for this free service. All EIN applications (mail, fax, electronic) must disclose the name and Taxpayer Identification Number (SSN, ITIN, or EIN) of the true principal officer, general partner, grantor, owner or trustor. This individual or entity, which the IRS will call the “responsible party,” controls, manages, or directs the applicant entity and the disposition of its funds and assets. Unless the applicant is a government entity, the responsible party must be an individual (i.e., a natural person), not an entity.***

### Apply Online

The [Internet EIN](#) application is the preferred method for customers to apply for and obtain an EIN. Once the application is completed, the information is validated during the online session, and an EIN is issued immediately. The online application process is available for all entities whose principal business, office or agency, or legal residence (in the case of an individual), is located in the United States or U.S. Territories. Visit: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/how-to-apply-for-an-ein>

### Apply by Fax

Taxpayers can fax the completed [Form SS-4](#) application to the appropriate fax number (see [Where to File Your Taxes \(for Form SS-4\)](#)), after ensuring that the Form SS-4 contains all of the required information. If it is determined that the entity needs a new EIN, one will be assigned using the appropriate procedures for the entity type. If the taxpayer's fax number is provided, a fax will be sent back with the EIN within four (4) business days.

### Apply by Mail

The processing timeframe for an EIN application received by mail is four weeks. Ensure that the [Form SS-4](#) contains all of the required information. If it is determined that the entity needs a new EIN, one will be assigned using the appropriate procedures for the entity type and mailed to the taxpayer. Find out where to mail Form SS-4 on the [Where to File Your Taxes \(for Form SS-4\)](#) page.