

Notice

New Federal Rule Means Some Job Seekers Must Prove Citizenship or Their Legal Ability to Work in the U.S.

A new federal directive now requires that anyone who seeks workforce services from IowaWORKS must first prove their eligibility for services. This means that some job seekers who want individualized assistance must prove either their American citizenship or that they have the correct immigration status to enter employment.

U.S. citizens who have received unemployment benefits in the last 12 months will not be impacted by this new requirement.

What is Changing?

Effective **September 10, 2025:**

American citizens who have not received unemployment benefits (and had citizenship verified) in the past 12 months will need to provide proof of their U.S. citizenship.

Non-citizens must provide documents that prove their legal authority to work in order to receive individualized services. IowaWORKS will continue to check work authorization at least once every three months.

How Do I Prepare?

If this rule applies to you:

- Visit workforce.iowa.gov/work-authorization to learn what documents you will need to provide and how to upload them.
- Once you have the necessary documents, upload them to www.IowaWORKS.gov by following the directions in your portal.
- If you need in-person assistance, IowaWORKS staff can photograph your paperwork and upload it for you. (We are required to maintain electronic records, but no paper copies will be kept by staff).

