

Iowa Workforce Development announces modernized unemployment system

Old System to Shut Down After Today; New One Debuted on June 3

Submitted by Iowa Workforce Development
DES MOINES— Iowa’s decades-old system for processing unemployment insurance claims and helping Iowans find jobs temporarily went dark the end of May. It was replaced by a new, combined and modernized system that will make it easier for Iowans to file for benefits and navigate the process of reentering the workforce.
Iowans currently must use multiple websites and accounts to complete the unemployment process and find new work. Beginning June 3, 2025, they instead will complete all unemployment steps on iowa-works.gov, for the first time creating one centralized location for the entire process (including filing a claim, participating in reemployment activities, and finding new employment).
For the past few weeks, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) has been providing resources, system details, and instructions to claimants and employers on the June launch, including on its public channels and through direct notices to help avoid delays

in payment. More details about this once-in-a-generation change can be found at: workforce.iowa.gov/ui-modernization.
The new system in IowaWORKS simplifies steps and improves the user experience while also improving the efficiency for IWD staff by automating many processes that currently are performed manually. The hours that Iowans are able to file claims have also been expanded. Replacing IWD’s existing claims system, which has been used for decades, represents a comprehensive upgrade that will benefit both individuals and employers on a daily basis.
“For several years, IWD has been working hard to improve the unemployment process for Iowans and make navigating it as easy as possible so they can focus on what matters most – finding a promising career that matches their skills and goals,” Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development, said. “Modernizing our unemployment system is the culmination of a lot of thoughtful work, and we’re excited to combine

our systems in one central location on iowa-works.gov. Once live, this system will greatly enhance the experience for both individuals and employers and will help place them both in positions that will ultimately benefit our entire workforce.”
Throughout May, IWD prepared employers and claimants for a scheduled downtime taking place just prior to launching the new system. This one-time period from May 28 through June 2 is a security measure that allows the agency to transfer all data and complete the system transition. IWD has been advising claimants to file their weekly unemployment claim before 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27 so that they will not see an interruption in benefits for the week of May 25. When the new system goes live on June 3, any claimants that did not file prior to the downtime will be able to immediately file retroactive claims on the new, simplified system.
Full Schedule: Unemployment Modernization
• Tuesday, May 27: The last day that any initial or

weekly claim can be filed in IWD’s current unemployment system.
□ All claimants already on unemployment have been contacted throughout this month and were encouraged to file their weekly claims between Sunday, May 25, and Tuesday, May 27, before the scheduled downtime begins.
• Wednesday, May 28–Monday, June 2: Scheduled downtime of IWD’s systems (including both its claims system and existing functions on iowa-works.gov).
• No new or weekly claims will be able to be filed during this period, and no new accounts will be added in iowa-works.gov.
• However, Iowans will still be able to receive career-related services at IowaWORKS centers across the state.
• Tuesday, June 3: The new unemployment system goes live on iowa-works.gov. As soon as the new system is live, claimants will be able to file initial or weekly applications and claim any benefits missed during the downtime.
Like many other projects

in states across the country, modernizing unemployment is a complicated process involving thousands of steps, years of development, and rigorous testing. With such a significant change, IWD expects that there will be a transition period as Iowans become used to the new process. However, the agency is confident that the system will greatly improve the user experience, simplify tasks, and strengthen the security of Iowans’ information.
Iowa-works.gov currently serves both as the home of Iowa’s largest jobs bank and as a site for career-related services – including services for those who are not currently unemployed. Now that the site’s capabilities are expanded, users of iowa-works.gov also will see enhanced security across all workforce services. All Iowans currently receiving unemployment benefits already use ID.me. At some point after launch, the site will begin requiring all users—including those who are just searching for jobs—to verify their identity through ID.me to ensure that personal infor-

mation is protected. (IWD will announce more details in the future.)
IWD has created a number of resources for both claimants and employers and has trained staff members across the agency to prepare for the launch of the new system.
• Information, Resources, and Login Instructions for Claimants (Link)
• Iowans will now be able to file a claim, register to work and manage all documents and activities from one central location on iowa-works.gov.
• Information, Resources, and Login Instructions for Employers (Link)
• Iowa’s businesses will still be required to use MyIowaUI (just as they do today) to register their unemployment tax accounts and make payments. However, iowa-works.gov will now be used to manage notices of claims, appeals, and other functions based on claims filed in the IowaWORKS system.

For more, visit workforce.iowa.gov/ui-modernization.

Iowa driver’s licenses now available in Google Wallet

From the Iowa Department of Transportation
AMES—The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is pleased to announce the Agency’s latest mobile ID milestone: you can now add your Iowa driver’s license or state ID to Google Wallet. You’ll be able to seamlessly and securely present it at 200+ TSA security checkpoints and at participating businesses.
“We’re thrilled to offer Iowans another option for using mobile ID,” Kathleen Meradith-Eyers, Motor Vehicle Division Director for the Iowa DOT, said.
“Adding your Iowa driver’s license to Google Wallet is a smart, secure way to carry your ID—and a big win for convenience. Mobile ID puts you in control of your information while making everyday moments, like airport travel and age ver-



Photo from iowadot.gov

ification, fast, easy, and private,” she adds.
Any Iowa resident with a valid driver’s license or state-issued photo ID is eligible to add their driver’s license or ID to Google Wallet, on an Android 9 or later smartphone. The DOT reminds Iowans that mobile ID is voluntary, comes at no additional cost, and customers must

continue to always carry their physical driver’s license or ID with them.
Your Iowa driver’s license or ID in Google Wallet is encrypted and only accessible with your personal authentication. You are always in control of your information, as it is only shared when you have reviewed the request and have consented to

share it. If your phone is stolen or lost, your mobile ID can be deleted with a remote data erase.
Director Kathleen Meradith-Eyers adds, “At the DOT, we’re not just keeping up with technology—we’re using it to lead the way in delivering smarter, more seamless service. Our Mobile ID options reflect our ongoing commitment to give Iowans security and convenience.”
How to Add an Iowa Driver’s License or ID to Google Wallet
To get an Iowa license or ID on your Android device, start with the Google Wallet app and your physical license or ID.
• Open the Google Wallet app (you can download it from Google Play)
• Tap ‘Add to Wallet’ > ‘ID’ > ‘Driver’s license or state ID’ > ‘Iowa’
• Follow the on-screen

instructions to verify your ID with the Iowa DOT
How to Present an ID
You simply hold your device near the identity reader. Your device will then display what information is being requested by the business. You will review the requested information, and the details will be released only after you have authorized it. Once confirmed, the information passes over to the business to complete the transaction. As the information is shared digitally, you do not hand over your personal device to present a mobile ID.
Where to Present an ID
Use your Iowa driver’s license or ID in Google Wallet at 200+ TSA checkpoints, including the Des Moines and Eastern Iowa airports. Your REAL ID compliance status is included with your mobile ID information.
It can also be used at businesses throughout the state who have mobile ID verification systems that can read NFC and/or QR

code technology. Not all agencies and businesses are able to verify mobile ID yet, so you should keep your physical ID as a back-up. Businesses interested in accepting mobile ID can visit iowadot.gov/mvd/MID-businesses.
For More Information
Mobile ID products from the Iowa DOT are recognized by the State of Iowa as an official form of identity verification and can be used in situations where a physical ID would typically be presented to confirm age or identity. Verifying with mobile ID is voluntary and businesses may or may not be ready to accept it just yet, so you should always carry your physical ID with you.
We’re excited to bring this convenient and secure option to Iowa residents. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to enhance the Iowa Mobile ID experience. For additional information and FAQs, visit iowadot.gov/drivers-licenses-ids/mobile-id/google-wallet.

Local nonprofits hosting Mississippi River Adventure Day

Prairie du Chien – On Monday, August 4, more than 100 area kids and their adult chaperones will have the opportunity to explore the Mississippi River.
The Prairie du Chien Rotary Club and USFWS Upper Mississippi River National Refuge are host-

ing Mississippi River Adventure Day. The event is planned to take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 4, at Lawler Park in Prairie du Chien.
This exciting event allows children a unique chance to learn about river plants and animals, identi-

fy fish, mussels, and other aquatic life, learn about important historic events which took place along the river, and much more! The day of exploration will provide kids who live on both sides of Pool 10 in Northeastern Iowa and Southwestern Wisconsin with a

fun, hands-on education about the ecosystem of the great Mississippi River.
This is a free educational event with a lunch provided for all participants. Register now on the PdC Rotary Facebook page!

Free Quit Smoking Class offered at Crossing Rivers Health

Prairie du Chien, WI – Crossing Rivers Health is offering Quit & Stay Quit Monday, a free seven-week smoking cessation class, to encourage and assist area residents to quit smoking for good. Classes will take place on seven consecutive Monday evenings, beginning September 8, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at Crossing Rivers Health in Prairie du Chien.
“As a smoker, you may have tried to quit smoking before – maybe as a New Year’s resolution or for your birthday,” Josalyn Benda, Respiratory Therapist at Crossing Rivers Health, shared.
“You may have relapsed and pledged to quit again

next year. We want you to know that you’re not alone. It may take several attempts before you successfully quit,” she said.
“If you wait for an annual event like your birthday or New Year’s, it may take years before you quit for good,” she added.
Quit & Stay Quit Monday is a global movement encouraging smokers to quit smoking, re-quit smoking, or recommit to quitting smoking. If a relapse occurs, individuals are encouraged to set a goal to quit the next Monday.
“Smoking leads to one in five deaths due to health problems such as asthma, cancer, heart disease, and stroke,” added Benda.

“Quitting smoking can help reverse some of the damage smoking does to the body. As soon as someone stops smoking, the body begins to start the healing process,” she said.
A survey sponsored by the American Lung Association and Pfizer found that of adult smokers trying to quit, 80 percent of respondents felt that receiving support from others was “very important” while quitting smoking.
“This class will provide information on medications, preparation, learning to cope, stress management, weight management and exercise, the benefits of quitting and relapse prevention,” Jillian Fish, Respira-

tory Therapist at Crossing Rivers Health, explained.
“Best of all, this class will provide a support network for individuals looking to quit smoking. These class members and I will provide the support and encouragement, along with resources and tools, to help you quit and stay quit,” she said.
“You are not alone. Join us on this journey to a healthier you. Your future self will thank you,” she added.
Those wishing to register for the free Quit & Stay Quit Monday seven-week class at Crossing Rivers Health can visit crossingrivers.org/stayquit.



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