

Join Credential Engine's Issuer Identity Registry

The [Issuer Identity Registry \(IIR\)](#) is a trusted, publicly accessible directory of verified credential-issuing organizations. It provides a consistent, verifiable way to identify credential issuers so that every credential can be traced to a trusted source, no matter where it travels.

And as digital credentials become the standard for communicating achievements, the ability to verify the organizations behind them is essential. Without a consistent, trusted way to confirm issuer identity, credentials cannot move reliably across systems, platforms, and ecosystems. As talent marketplaces, talent registries, and workforce systems increasingly rely on digital credentials to make hiring, advancement, and enrollment decisions, the need for verified issuer identity has never been more critical.

The IIR works alongside the Credential Registry to connect credential and organization data with verified issuer identities in a unified, transparent system. Supported by a public [Governance Framework](#) developed with global partners, it establishes a foundation for trust across credentialing ecosystems—providing clear, adaptable practices for how issuer identities are validated, maintained, and trusted over time.

Why Join the Issuer Identity Registry?

The IIR supports stakeholders across credential ecosystems. Participation delivers meaningful, practical benefits to credential-issuing organizations and the broader ecosystem:

- **Credential issuers** gain a structured, efficient way to establish legitimacy in CTDL and as structured, open, linked, interoperable and durable (SOLID) data
- **Employers and verifiers** can quickly confirm who issued a credential, reducing complexity in hiring, advancement, and enrollment decisions.
- **Learners** benefit from credentials backed by verified issuers, giving them portable, trustworthy proof of their achievements as they navigate evolving career pathways.
- **Platform providers, state agencies, and workforce systems** gain infrastructure that supports clear, accountable credential verification at scale.

The Registration Process

The IIR registration process is designed to be straightforward and is completed in three stages:

Stage 1: Application

The organization submits an application to Credential Engine, providing key information about its identity, operations, and the DID it intends to use for credential issuance.

Stage 2: Submit Registration Fee

Joining the Issuer Identity Registry is accessible and straightforward. **There is a one-time registration fee of \$140 per institution**, which covers the full verification and validation process prior to entry into the IIR. This is a single investment that establishes your organization's verified presence across the credential ecosystem. This fee supports the review of organizational identity and the validation of the institution's Decentralized Identifier (DID) before an institution is admitted to the registry and its registration action is published to the Credential Registry.

Following submission of an application, Credential Engine will send a payment link to complete the registration fee. Payment is accepted by credit card or ACH. Please note that the verification and validation process will not begin until payment is confirmed.

Stage 3: Verification Review

Credential Engine reviews the submitted information to confirm organizational identity and validate the provided DID. Organizations may be contacted for additional documentation during this stage.

Stage 4: IIR Admission and Registry Publication

Upon successful review, the organization is admitted to the IIR. A registration action is published to the Credential Registry, and the organization receives confirmation of its verified status.

What You Receive Upon Registration

Registration in the IIR is more than a listing; it's verifiable proof that your organization is who you say you are, structured in a way that systems, employers, and learners can trust.

Organizations that complete the IIR registration process receive three core deliverables:

1. Organizational Verification and DID Validation

Credential Engine conducts a structured review of the registering organization to confirm its identity, operational status, and credentialing activities. As part of this process, the organization's Decentralized Identifier (DID) is validated—establishing a cryptographically verifiable link between the organization's real-world identity and its digital presence in the credentialing ecosystem..

2. Entry in the Issuer Identity Registry

Upon successful verification, the organization receives a publicly accessible entry in the Issuer Identity Registry. This entry serves as an authoritative record of the organization's verified status. The IIR entry is accessible to platforms, employers, researchers, and other stakeholders who rely on Credential Registry data.

3. Registration Action Published to the Credential Registry

A formal registration action is published to the Credential Registry documenting the completion of the IIR verification process. This action serves as a transparent, time-stamped record that the organization has undergone verification and has been admitted to the IIR. It is structured using the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) and is openly accessible as part of the Credential Registry's linked open data infrastructure.

Getting Started

Organizations interested in joining the Issuer Identity Registry should review the [account creation guidance](#) to get started.

Contact the IIR service team at iirservice@credentialengine.org for questions, feedback, or support related to IIR participation, governance, or technical integration.