



CHOOSING A CREDENTIAL

Two-factor authentication is a process by which two independent authentication methods (such as a security code produced by a physical token in addition to a User Name and Password) are utilized to increase confidence that an individual attempting to access a secure system is authorized to do so.

The NMLS Federal Registry requires two-factor authentication to satisfy federal data security standards. These standards require NMLS users who have access to personally identifying information to provide an additional level of verification prior to gaining access to the information. NMLS will require any Federal Registry user who has access to more than one individual's personally identifying information (i.e., information that is not his or her own) to use two factors of authentication to access the Federal Registry. For institutions, this requirement covers only an institution's administrative users, such as Account Administrators. **Individual MLOs who only have access to their own information are not subject to this requirement**, and will need only their user name and password to log in to NMLS.

VIP Credential Options

Credential Type	What is it?	Timeframe to Receive Credential	Unit Cost	Annual Subscription Cost
Security Token 	Key fob with a screen displaying your credential	See Amazon or CDW .		\$55
Mobile phone credentials 	Use your mobile phone to access your credential	Immediate Download	\$0	\$55
Desktop Credential	Access accounts from a credential generated on your desktop	Immediate Download	\$0	\$55

When choosing the credential most appropriate for your institution users, keep in mind that each user can have only one credential registered to his or her account, and that specific credential must be used when logging in to the Federal Registry. Credentials cannot be shared by multiple users.

Fees

In addition to the fee for the credential (if applicable), users will need to pay a \$55 annual subscription fee for each NMLS user account that requires two-factor authentication. The subscription is good for one calendar year beginning the day the credential is registered in NMLS.

Obtaining a VIP Credential

Electronic VIP credentials may be acquired directly from the NMLS-approved two-factor authentication vendor, [Symantec](#). Physical security tokens may be acquired through third-party vendors like [Amazon](#) or [CDW](#).