

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a tax incentive for employers to hire certain job seekers. The goal is to help these individuals become economically self-sufficient and to reward employers who give them a chance.

Worker eligibility

The following general categories of workers qualify for the tax credit. See the eligibility requirements at esd.wa.gov/about-employees/WOTC/eligibility for more information.

Employers or their representatives must submit applications through our online filing system within 28 days of the job start date.

- Public assistance recipients, if they meet the eligibility requirements for SNAP (food stamps), TANF or long-term TANF.
- Several categories of military veterans.
- Individuals with a history in the justice system, hired within a year after their date of conviction, work release, or release from prison or jail.
- Anyone who received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for any month in the 60 days before being hired.
- Long-term unemployed:
 - People who have been unemployed for six months and
 - Have received one week of unemployment insurance benefits (to include the waiting week) or at least 27 consecutive weeks of UI payments prior to hire date.
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): Individual who is receiving or has received services under a state vocational rehabilitation program with a written plan in the past two years.

Application forms

Find IRS forms 8850 and 9061 on Employment Security's website at esd.wa.gov/WOTC or on the U.S. Department of Labor's website. Search DOL WOTC.

What employers get

Employers can reduce their federal business taxes by utilizing the WOTC program. Maximum credits are between \$2,400 and \$9,600 depending on the category the application is certified for.

Employment Security Department's role

The Employment Security Department is responsible for processing WOTC applications. The department determines the eligibility on every application and completes all certifications within federal guidelines.

Online filing is easy

Employers must submit WOTC applications electronically through the department's online filing system, as explained on ESD's website at esd.wa.gov/about-employees/WOTC/instructions.

The online system allows users to:

- Upload documents that verify eligibility.
- Save their work and return later.
- Print many certifications at once.
- Upload many applications at once.

Learn more

Visit our website: esd.wa.gov/about-employees/WOTC

Contact: Alice Barney, program coordinator | alice.barney@esd.wa.gov | 800-669-9271