

Alaska Employer

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Employment Security Tax

Second Quarter 2002

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Save your Business Tax Dollars



Federal Employer Tax Credits Have Been Re-Authorized

Good News for Employers! Congress has extended the Federal Work Opportunity and Welfare to Work Tax Credit (WOTC/WtWTC) programs through December 31, 2003.

Tax credits of up to \$2,400 per eligible worker will continue to be available under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program, and as much as \$3,500 for the first year and up to \$5,000 for the second year per eligible worker under the Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit program. The WOTC and WtWTC programs provide employer tax credits as incentives to hire from target groups who traditionally have high unemployment rates. Both programs are important parts of the diverse strategies designed to help Alaska workers gain on-the-job experience and move toward economic self-sufficiency.

In Alaska, the program targets qualified individuals in the following groups:

- ◆ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients
- ◆ Food stamp recipients (age 18-24),
- ◆ Veterans who are a member of a family that receives food stamps
- ◆ Ex-felons who are a member of a low-income family
- ◆ Vocational rehabilitation referrals
- ◆ Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients

Detailed information about these important programs can be found at www.jobs.state.ak.us/wotc.htm or contact Jeanne Walker, WOTC Coordinator, in Juneau at (907) 465-5953. You may also send e-mail to Jeanne_Walker@labor.state.ak.us.

Avoid a Penalty Tax Rate for the Year 2003

The annual rating process will begin in October for calendar year 2003. As an employer, you want the lowest possible tax rate. So, protect your good rate early! If you have a balance due or have any missing reports on your account, please contact your Field Auditor at 1-888-448-2937. In some situations, your auditor can set up a **deferred payment contract** that will prevent a penalty rate for the year 2003.

Using the Internet to Register and File Quarterly Contribution Reports

Employment Security Tax is developing a public website that allows employers who do business in Alaska the ability to submit Registration Forms, file Quarterly Contribution Reports, and communicate with the agency over the Internet. One of Employment Security's strategic business goals is to provide better and faster customer service by providing a convenient, effective, and readily accessible method of conducting business with our agency. In addition to Registering and filing Quarterly Contributions Reports, the Internet menu will allow customers to select from a variety of employment related services.

We may contact you to request your participation in a pilot project before full implementation, which should be by the end of this year. Your participation would be most helpful in assuring that we provide you with the best possible customer service. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your Field Tax Office at 1-888-448-2937.

Forms, Forms and More Forms!



Are you tired of filling out unemployment Insurance forms and responding to telephone calls? We are aware that at times forms and phone calls from our agency can be burdensome, but the information you provide us is vital in determining if an individual is eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

When an individual files a new claim or reopens a claim after a period of work, we are required to notify their last employer and investigate separation and eligibility issues. By responding promptly and with complete information, you can help ensure that claimants receive accurate and timely unemployment insurance benefits and avoid additional inquiries from the agency. Inaccurate payment of benefits has a negative impact on the solvency of the Unemployment Trust Fund and can also have a negative impact on your tax rate.

How can we help? If you need clarification on our procedures or have a suggestion on how to make communications with our agency easier for your business, email Jennifer Lacey at Jennifer_Lacey@labor.state.ak.us or if you do not have access to a computer you may call her at 907-465-5951. We want to work with you to ensure future contacts are quick and efficient.



Are You Hiring Summer Help?

"If I hire someone temporarily, or seasonally, do I have to report them?" Yes, you do. Workers hired to provide services within the usual course of your business are employees. Some examples of paid employees that should be included on your quarterly tax report are:

Tour Guides
Hunting and Fishing Guides
Tour Bus Operators
Fair and Carnival Workers

Street Vendor Workers
Students Working in the Tourism Industry
Camp Counselors
Seasonal Pilots and Boat Operators

