

# VOW (Veterans Opportunity to Work) to Hire Heroes Act Expands WOTC Credits

## NEW Tax Credit for Hiring Veterans

On November 21, 2011, President Obama signed into law the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. This Act expands the veterans who qualify under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. It also extends tax credits of up to \$9,600 to businesses that hire vets.

## What is a Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)?

The WOTC encourages businesses to hire people from certain groups. Businesses that hire veterans who qualify under the VOW to Hire Heroes Act can receive a federal tax credit up to:

- \$9,600 for hiring veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been unemployed for more than six months
- \$5,600 for hiring veterans who have been unemployed for more than six months
- \$2,400 for hiring veterans who have been unemployed from one to six months

## How to Apply for Credits

To use the expanded WOTC credits offered under the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, a job seeker and business both must fill out a Pre-Screening Notice (IRS Form 8850) on or before the hire date. You can find the forms under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit link on our website.

**The Department of Labor must receive the completed and signed Pre-Screening Notice within 28 days of the first date of work.**

To speed the process, employers should submit an *Individual Characteristic Form* (ETA 9061) or a *Conditional Certification Form* (ETA 9062) at the same time they submit the *Pre-Screening Notice*.

Mail the forms to:

New York State Department of Labor  
Work Opportunity Tax Credit  
State Office Campus, Building 12, Room 200  
Albany, New York 12240

## Education Assistance

The VOW to Hire Heroes Act also requires service members to take part in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). TAP offers job-search aid and other services to separating service members as they transition back into civilian life.

The Act also expands education and training opportunities for older veterans. It gives:

- Unemployed veterans of past eras and wars up to one year of additional Montgomery GI benefits for non-degree education or training programs at community colleges or technical schools
- Disabled veterans up to one year of additional Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits
- Service members the option to start the federal employment process early so they can move into jobs at Veterans Administration, Homeland Security, or other federal agencies

The New York State Department of Labor has dedicated staff to help veterans find jobs at New York State Career Centers across the state. To find an office nearest you, or to learn more about this and other veteran programs, call 1-888-4-NYSDOL or visit our website at [www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov).