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# Utah Back to Work Program

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Department of Workforce Service (DWS) has developed an initiative to provide Utah employers with an opportunity to re-employ approximately 5,000 Utah workers who are currently receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits.

A wage subsidy of up to \$2,000 per eligible participant will be provided to the employer for each employee they hire and retain for three months. This program will provide DWS with a unique opportunity to leverage our resources, stimulate job growth, and help ensure the UI trust fund remains solvent.

Employers that hire from a targeted group of job seekers may also be eligible to receive the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) on their federal tax return. For more information on WOTC, go to <http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/business/wotc.html>

## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:**

Provide an incentive to Utah employers to hire targeted UI claimants while also providing job seekers with an opportunity to become re-employed.

## **BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS:**

- A \$500 payment during the first month of hire, per qualifying new hire.
- A \$1,500 payment at the completion of three months of employment, per qualifying new hire.
- Employers can choose how to utilize the subsidy.
- If a participating employer re-hires a previous eligible employee, there may be future UI Contribution Tax Rate benefits.
- Opportunity for business expansion.
- Opportunity to observe potential permanent employees.

## **EMPLOYERS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Active employers, registered with DWS UI Contributions Division.
- Employers who are current with UI taxes and required reports.
- Non-governmental, private-sector and higher education (institutions) employers.

- Employers who will pay a minimum of \$9.00 per hour starting wage.
- Employers who guarantee full-time (35+ hours per week) employment.
- **Note:** Temporary help companies, professional employer organizations and government employers are not eligible to participate in the subsidy program.
- Employers may not displace or partially displace existing workers.
- Employers must sign an Employer Agreement within 7 calendar days after the employee date of hire. Date of hire is the date services for remuneration were first performed by the employee
- Employers who have an outstanding balance owed must pay back that balance or it will be withheld from future subsidy payments which the employer was otherwise eligible to receive.

## **JOB SEEKER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Eligible UI Claimants who meet citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements.
- Previously employed workers may be re-hired provided they have not worked for 40 hours or more during the 60 day period prior to their date of hire.

## **NEXT STEPS TO PARTICIPATE:**

- Participating employers must sign an agreement with DWS before hiring.
- Participating employers must complete a DWS-approved invoice for payments.
- For additional information, please contact the nearest DWS Employment Center or call 1-888-920-9675. Employment Center locations are available at <http://jobs.utah.gov> or log on to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/resource/> and look under “Incentives”.



## **Department of Workforce Services**

140 East 300 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 1-888-920-WORK [jobs.utah.gov](http://jobs.utah.gov)

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1-888-346-3162.