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## **Employers Continue to Benefit from Tax Credit Program**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor says \$5.7 million in tax credits were provided to employers in the state through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program in federal fiscal year 2009, ending Sept. 30.

A total of 2,364 people gained jobs through the WOTC program.

The program provides federal tax credits as incentives to hire employees from nine specially selected groups.

“People in these groups typically have some type of employment barrier that prevents them from getting jobs,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “The WOTC incentive encourages employers to hire those job seekers.”

Targeted groups include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families clients, qualified veterans, qualified ex-felons, designated community residents, vocational rehabilitation referrals, summer youth employees, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients, Supplemental Security Income recipients and long-term family assistance recipients.

In February 2009, federal tax credits for employers were extended to new hires who were unemployed veterans and to disconnected youth as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The state Department of Labor administers the WOTC program by collecting applications, verifying target group status and issuing employer certificates for IRS purposes. Congress has authorized the program to operate through Aug. 31, 2011. For more information on the WOTC program or other workforce services, contact any DOL local office or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)