# Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment, or H.I.R.E.

The information contained in this presentation is current as of the date it was presented. It should not be considered official guidance.



### **Two Employer Benefits**

Employers who hire certain previously unemployed workers are eligible for:

Payroll tax exemptionNew hire retention credit



#### **Poll Question One**

# Please write down your answer for each poll question.



#### **Poll Question One**

What tax returns do you think employers will use to claim their allowable HIRE benefits?

A. Personal Income Tax Return
B. Business Income Tax Return
C. Excise Tax Return
D. Employment Tax Return
E. All of the Above

### **Payroll Tax Exemption**

- Exemption from the employer's 6.2% share of social security tax
- Effective for wages paid from March 19, 2010, through December 31, 2010
- Employee social security and Medicare tax still apply to all wages
- Election out



### **Qualified Employer**

- Taxable businesses
- Tax-exempt organizations
- Taxable businesses and tax-exempt organizations in 5 U.S. Territories
- Public colleges and universities
- Indian tribal governments



#### **Non-Qualified Employers**

Federal, state & local governments, other than public colleges and universities
Household employers



#### **Qualified Employee**

- Begins employment after 02/03/10 and before 01/01/11
- Certifies that they were employed for less than 40 hours in prior 60-day period
- Is not replacing existing employee unless the employee separated voluntarily or was terminated for cause
- Is not related to employer



### Affidavit

- Form W-11 or substitute
- Signed under penalties of perjury
- Retained by employer, not filed with IRS
- May be signed electronically



#### **Poll Question Two**

Which of the following is true about the W-11 or equivalent affidavit?

A. It is optional for the exemption and credit
B. Employees certify they were unemployed before March 19, 2010
C. It has to be notarized
D. It is signed under penalties of perjury

## **Claiming the Exemption**

- Form 941 and annual Employment Tax Returns
- Beginning second quarter of 2010
- Credit for wages paid between March 19 and March 31, claimed on second quarter return



#### **More About the Exemption**

- "Electing out" on 941
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- COBRA credit and rehired employees.
- Code on W-2
- Interaction with "45B" credit



#### **Retention Credit**

- Claimed on employer's income tax return
- Lesser of \$1,000 or 6.2 percent of wages paid to qualified employee
- Must retain qualified employee for 52 consecutive weeks
- Wages cannot significantly decrease in the last 26 weeks of employment
- Credit may be carried forward



# Poll Question Results & Audience Questions





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#### **Questions?**

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