



GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Office of the Commissioner

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE EXPIRATION OF THE WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT (WOTC) AND WELFARE-TO-WORK TAX CREDIT (WTWTC) PROGRAMS

Cecil R. Benjamin, Commissioner of Labor, has announced that the legislative authority for the **Work Opportunity Tax credit (WOTC)** and **Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit (WtWTC)** programs expired on **December 31, 2003**. While Congress has introduced bills to reauthorize this program, it has recessed for the year before taking action on the legislation that would extend these credits.

Employers are, therefore, advised of the following:

- * **All** certification requests for employer hires made **prior** to **January 1, 2004** will be processed by this agency
- * **All** certification requests for employer hires made between **January 1** and **September 30, 2004**, will be accepted by this agency and retained. However, "**certifications**" will not be issued until the program is reauthorized.
- * While Congress has provided for retroactive eligibility certification in the past, certifications for an employer's new hires during this hiatus are **not** guaranteed.

Inquiries regarding this release may be directed to **Ms. Jacqueline Freeman**, *WOTC/WtWTC*

Coordinator at **776-3700 ext. 2055**.

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