#### **CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF:**

PPP Loan Recipients Now Eligible for the Employee Retention Credit







**WEBINAR** 

April 21, 2021

#### **CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF:**



#### Andrea P. Sardone Today's Moderator



#### **Employee Retention Tax Credit**



#### Edward T. Yoder, CPA Partner



#### John Given, CPA Senior Tax Accountant

**Employee Retention Tax Credit** 



### Are you eligible?

## How do you claim this credit?

#### **Employee Retention Tax Credit**

#### Agenda

- Eligibility
- Limitations
- Claiming the Credit
- IRS Notice 2021-20
  - Eligible Employers
  - Aggregation
  - Government Orders
  - Decline in Gross Receipts
- Questions





- Full-time Employees
- Interaction with PPP





# Based on what you know now, are you expecting to qualify for the Employee Retention Credit?

- a) Yes, I am confident that I will qualify.
- b) I think I qualify but would like more information.
- c) I am hoping I qualify.
- d) I have no idea.

#### ERC – What Is It?

- Employee Retention Tax Credit is a refundable tax credit against certain employment taxes
- CARES Act, credit was 50% of qualified wages up to \$10,000 per year for the period of March 12, 2020 through December 31, 2020
- Previously only available to employers that did not apply for a Payroll Protection Program loan
- Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, passed December 21, 2020 increased credit to 70% of qualified wages up to \$10,000 per quarter beginning January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021
- American Rescue Plan Act, passed March 11, 2021, extended to December 31, 2021



#### **Eligible Employers and Organizations**



#### Who can qualify for the ERC?

Carry on a trade or business with employees during 2020 or 2021, AND

> experience a full or partial government shutdown, OR

OR

- suffer a significant decline in gross receipts, OR
- qualify as a Recovery Startup Business

Be a tax-exempt organization with employees, and experience the government shutdown or decline in gross receipts

- Gross receipts includes all receipts, not only revenue received in a business-like setting
- Government entities do not qualify except public colleges, universities, and hospitals

#### **Recovery Startup Business**

New category in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Recovery Startup Business
  - An employer who began carrying on a trade or business after 2/15/2020,
  - Whose average annual gross receipts for prior three-year period does not exceed \$1,000,000, and
  - Who does not qualify for the Employee Retention Credit through a decrease in gross receipts or government shutdown order
- An RSB is automatically eligible for the Employee Retention Credit
  - Maximum credit: \$50,000 per quarter
  - Only for Q3 and Q4 of 2021







#### How many of you have (or will have by 12/31/21) a Recovery Startup Business?

- a) I have a Recovery Startup Business.
- b) I do not have a Recovery Startup Business.

#### **Aggregation Rules**



#### What if you have employees in more than one business?

- Treat all your businesses as if you are a single employer
  - Group together businesses with common ownership
  - Same method as testing for controlled groups for benefit plans

#### Why does it matter?

- Entities under common control are treated as one for:
  - Counting full-time employees
  - Calculating decline in gross receipts
  - Experiencing a full or partial government shutdown
  - Calculating the maximum credit per employee



#### **Governmental Shutdowns**

#### Have I experienced a shutdown?

- Must be an order from a government official, not voluntary guidance
  - Can be federal, state or local government
  - Must limit commerce, travel or group meetings due to COVID in a way that suspends the employer's operation of its trade or business
- "Partial suspension of business"
  - More than a "nominal portion" of the business (not less than 10%)
  - Look at different business operations within the same business
  - Partial suspension due to suppliers' suspensions





#### Governmental Shutdowns Have I experienced a shutdown?





- "Partial suspension of business" (continued)
  - NOT because customers stay home or have to socially distance
  - NOT because employees work from home
- Eligibility
  - You are eligible for qualified wages paid on dates during the shutdown
  - Not for the entire quarter in which a shutdown occurred
  - Different rule from decline in gross receipts test

#### **Decline in Gross Receipts**

#### What is included in gross receipts?

- Gross receipts for a for-profit entity under section 448c of the Code
  - Total Sales
  - Any income from investments, interest, dividends, rents, royalties, and annuities
  - Not reduced by cost of goods sold, but are reduced by basis in certain property or capital assets sold
- Tax Exempt Organizations under section 6033
  - Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts without reduction for expenses for raising or collecting such amounts







Quarter Ended:	Gross Income 2019	Gross Income 2020	<b>\$</b> Change	% Change
March 31	\$ 35,000	\$ 30,000	(5,000)	-14%
June 30	30,000	14,000	(16,000)	-53%
September 30	25,000	19,750	(3,000)	-21%
December 31	40,000	45,000	5,000	+13%
Totals	<u>\$ 130,000</u>	<u>\$ 108,750</u>	<u>\$ (19,000)</u>	<u>-16%</u>

#### 2021 Q1 - Four Really Important Numbers



Quarter Ended:	Gross Income, 2019	Gross Income, 2020	\$ Change	% Change
December 31	400,000	300,000	(100,000)	-25%

Quarter Ended:	Gross Income, 2019	Gross Income, 2021	\$ Change	% Change
March 31	400,000	450,000	50,000	+13%

# Qualified Wages Who Qualifies?





- All employees
  - Except controlling owners, their relatives, WOTC eligible employees
- Excludes wages for FFCRA credits
- Includes healthcare costs
- Excludes retirement matching
- Credits result in expenses being excluded from income tax return for the period claiming the credit

#### **Controlling Owners**

#### **Do Owners Qualify?**

- Wages paid to related individuals are not eligible for ERC
  - Child or a descendant of a child
  - Brother, sister, stepbrother or stepsister
  - Father, mother, stepfather or stepmother
  - Niece or nephew
  - Aunt or uncle
  - Son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, or sister-in-law
- Controlling owner
  - More than 50 percent of the stock of a corporation
  - More than 50 percent of the capital and profits interest of a partnership



#### Large Employer vs. Small Employer



#### How many full-time employees do you have?

- Large employers can only claim ERC for qualified wages and healthcare costs paid to/for employees are paid even though they are not working
  - They cannot claim ERC for any increase in wages paid to employees
- Small employers can claim ERC for all employees' qualified wages and healthcare costs
- Definition of large employer vs. small employer
  - 2020: Large employers have more than 100 full-time employees in 2019
  - 2021: Large employers have more than 500 full-time employees in 2019

#### Large Employer vs. Small Employer

#### How many full-time employees do you have?

- Full-time employee
  - Same definition as Affordable Care Act
  - Works 130 hours per month or 30 hours per week
  - Average monthly number during 2019



- Add up part-time employees as FTEs? No.
- Don't forget aggregation rules!



#### www.PBMares.com 21

#### **ERC and PPP**

#### So happy together

- Employers can now qualify for *both* ERC *and* PPP.
- If you had a PPP loan in 2020, you can retroactively claim ERC for qualified wages paid between March 13, 2020 and December 31, 2020.
- **The catch:** You cannot count the same wages as qualified wages for ERC and payroll costs for PPP.
  - Payroll costs reported on a PPP Forgiveness
    Application that are necessary for forgiveness are ineligible for ERC, even if you could have claimed more non-payroll costs.





#### **ERC and PPP**



#### **Allocating payroll expenses**

- Some payroll costs are ineligible for ERC but are still eligible for PPP
  - Wages paid to owners and relatives
  - Wages paid to those eligible for Work Opportunity Tax Credit (2020 only)
  - Wages claimed for WOTC, Research & Development Credit, Credit for Active Military Members, and Empowerment Zone Credit
  - Wages paid after a governmental shutdown ends
  - *Retirement matching*
  - State and local taxes
- Allocate as many non-ERC costs as you can to PPP and leave the rest for ERC

#### Claiming the Employee Retention Credit

#### How to get your money!

- This is a tax credit against payroll taxes.
  - Claim it on the Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return
  - You can reduce deposits of current payroll taxes that will be refunded
- For 2020 and Q1 2021, you now have to amend past Forms 941
  - Use Form 941-X
  - Use a different 941-X for each eligible quarter
  - Must be filed on paper by mail
- Aggregated groups
  - File 941-X's from the same entities that filed original 941's





#### Claiming the Employee Retention Credit



#### How to get your money!



- Form 7200 to request an advance on the expected credit
  - Able to fax to a dedicated processing center for faster turnaround time
  - Available only to small employers
  - Cannot exceed 70% of average quarterly wages paid in 2019



#### So now do you think you qualify for the ERC?

- a) I am convinced that I qualify.
- b) I am pretty sure.
- c) I thought I did, but unfortunately I don't think I qualify.
- d) I still don't know. Help!

#### Questions











EIDL Grants No Long Reduce PPP Forgiveness

The Feenemie Aid Act which

Submit Form

SEARCH BY TOPIC:



#### Visit: www.pbmares.com/ employee-retention-credit



s.com 28



### <u>www.pbmares.com</u> pbmares@pbmares.com

MARYLAND - Baltimore • Rockville NORTH CAROLINA - Morehead City • New Bern VIRGINIA - Fairfax • Fredericksburg • Harrisonburg • Newport News • Norfolk • Richmond Warrenton • Williamsburg