



Note: *The draft you are looking for begins on the next page.*

Caution: DRAFT—NOT FOR FILING

This is an early release draft of an IRS tax form, instructions, or publication, which the IRS is providing for your information. **Do not file draft forms.** We incorporate all significant changes to forms posted with this coversheet. However, unexpected issues occasionally arise, or legislation is passed—in this case, we will post a new draft of the form to alert users that changes were made to the previously posted draft. Thus, there are never any changes to the last posted draft of a form and the final revision of the form. Forms and instructions are subject to OMB approval before they can be officially released, so we post drafts of them until they are approved. Drafts of instructions and pubs usually have some additional changes before their final release. Early release drafts are at [IRS.gov/DraftForms](https://www.irs.gov/DraftForms) and remain there after the final release is posted at [IRS.gov/LatestForms](https://www.irs.gov/LatestForms). Also see [IRS.gov/Forms](https://www.irs.gov/Forms).

Most forms and publications have a page on IRS.gov: [IRS.gov/Form1040](https://www.irs.gov/Form1040) for Form 1040; [IRS.gov/Pub501](https://www.irs.gov/Pub501) for Pub. 501; [IRS.gov/W4](https://www.irs.gov/W4) for Form W-4; and [IRS.gov/ScheduleA](https://www.irs.gov/ScheduleA) for Schedule A (Form 1040), for example, and similarly for other forms, pubs, and schedules for Form 1040. When typing in a link, type it into the address bar of your browser, not a Search box on IRS.gov.

If you wish, you can submit comments to the IRS about draft or final forms, instructions, or pubs at [IRS.gov/FormsComments](https://www.irs.gov/FormsComments). Include “NTF” followed by the form or pub number (for example, “NTF1040”, “NTFW4”, “NTF501”, etc.) in the body of the message to route your message properly. We cannot respond to all comments due to the high volume we receive and may not be able to consider many suggestions until the subsequent revision of the product, but we will review each “NTF” message. If you have comments on reducing paperwork and respondent (filer) burden, with respect to draft or final forms, please respond to the relevant information collection through the Federal Register process; for more info, click [here](#).

Form **8881**
(Rev. December 2025)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Credits for Small Employer Pension Plan Startup Costs, Contributions, Auto-Enrollment, and Military Spouse Participation

OMB No. 1545-1810

Attachment
Sequence No. **130**

Attach to your tax return.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form8881 for instructions and the latest information.

Name(s) shown on return

Identifying number

Part I Small Employer Pension Plan Startup Costs Credit (and Contributions Credit)**Section 1—Small Employer Pension Plan Startup Costs Credit**

A	Enter the number of qualifying employees. See instructions		
1	Qualified startup costs incurred during the tax year	1	
2	Employers with 1–50 employees enter the amount from line 1. Employers with 51–100 employees enter 50% (0.50) of line 1	2	
3	Enter the number of employees eligible to participate in the pension plan. See instructions. x \$250	3	
4	Enter the greater of \$500 or the amount from line 3 (Do not enter more than \$5,000)	4	
5	Enter the smaller of line 2 or line 4	5	
	If you are NOT calculating the credit for employer contributions, go to line 7. All others, go to line 6a.		

Section 2—Small Employer Contributions Credit

6a	Enter the number of employees from the preceding tax year. See instructions	6a	
b	Enter employer contributions made to the plan, but don't include (i) elective deferrals, (ii) contributions made to employees whose wages paid to the employee were in excess of \$105,000, and (iii) any amount of contributions to an employee to whom you made contributions of more than \$1,000	6b	
c	For employees for whom you made matching and nonelective contributions of more than \$1,000 (and who are not disqualified because they meet 6b(ii) above), see the instructions for information on how to determine the amount to enter on line 6c. If you do not make these types of contributions, enter -0-	6c	
d	Add lines 6b and 6c	6d	
	If the number of employees entered on line 6a is 50 or less, enter the amount from line 6d on line 6f. If the number of employees entered on line 6a is 51–100, continue to line 6e(1).		
e (1)	Subtract 50 (50.0) from the number of employees entered on line 6a	6e(1)	
(2)	Multiply line 6e(1) by 2% (0.02)	6e(2)	
(3)	Multiply line 6e(2) by line 6d	6e(3)	
(4)	Subtract line 6e(3) from line 6d	6e(4)	
f	If you did NOT complete line 6e, enter the amount from line 6d. If you completed line 6e, enter the amount from line 6e(4)	6f	
g	Applicable percentages. See instructions	6g	
	• If this is treated as the first or second year of the plan, enter the amount from line 6f.		
	• If this is treated as the third year of the plan, multiply line 6f by 75% (0.75).		
	• If this is treated as the fourth year of the plan, multiply line 6f by 50% (0.50).		
	• If this is treated as the fifth year of the plan, multiply the amount on line 6f by 25% (0.25).		

Section 3—Total Credits from Part I

7	Credit for small employer pension plan startup costs and credit for contributions from partnerships and S corporations	7	
8	Add lines 5, 6g, and 7. Partnerships and S corporations, report this amount on Schedule K. All others, report this amount on Form 3800, Part III, line 1j	8	

Part II Small Employer Auto-Enrollment Credit

9	Enter \$500 if an auto-enrollment option is provided for retirement savings. See instructions	9	
10	Small employer auto-enrollment credit from partnerships and S corporations	10	
11	Add lines 9 and 10. Partnerships and S corporations, report this amount on Schedule K. All others, report this amount on Form 3800, Part III, line 1dd	11	

Part III Small Employer Military Spouse Participation Credit

Caution: You can't claim the credit if you had more than 100 employees in the preceding tax year.			
12	Enter the number of military spouse employees participating in an eligible plan. See instructions. x \$200	12	
13	Amount of contributions paid by employer for each eligible military spouse employee. Do not enter more than \$300 per employee. See instructions	13	
14	Credit for small employer military spouse retirement plan from partnerships and S corporations	14	
15	Add lines 12, 13, and 14. Partnerships and S corporations, report this amount on Schedule K. All others, report this amount on Form 3800, Part III, line 1ee	15	

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.

Cat. No. 33435N

Form **8881** (Rev. 12-2025) Created 4/25/25

DRAFT — DO NOT FILE

DRAFT — DO NOT FILE