

New Mexico
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) – Navigating the Process

What is the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR)?

NMDVR is a state and federally funded agency that helps prepare people with disabilities to get employment through individualized employment planning, services and support. They also work with companies that want to hire people with disabilities.

Who receives NMDVR services?

Persons 14 or older who have a medically documented disability, who want to work and who need assistance to get and keep a job may be eligible to receive NMDVR Services.

How can NMDVR help?

Every person, or “participant,” who uses this service is assigned a vocational rehabilitation counselor (VRC), and is interviewed to identify their strengths, talents, circumstances, and needs. They work with their VRC to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), or their “roadmap to success”, to determine what supports they need to start working or return to work.

NMDVR may:

- Provide Guidance and Counseling (G&C) in finding a career/job based on the participant’s goals, strengths, interests, skills and abilities.
- Send a participant for a work skills assessment to help determine if additional training, education or job site supports are needed.
- Provide job support services such as trial work experiences, on-the-job training, and/or job placement assistance and support; this may include referral to an NMDVR approved job developer.
- Provide “follow along” services for up to 90 days after someone has started a job to make sure it is a good fit and that they have the supports needed to keep the job.
- Help find and get assistive technologies to aid the participant to be successful. This may include referrals to organizations such as NM Technical Assistance Program (NMTAP).
- Connect a participant with a specialized benefits advisor who can provide information about Social Security and the Ticket to Work incentive program.

NMDVR also prepares students with disabilities for employment after high school, starting at age 14, through their school’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Remember:

- Determination of eligibility for NMDVR services may take up to 60 days. After becoming eligible, it may take up to 90 days to develop an IPE.
- Once a participant’s case is closed successfully by getting a job, they are eligible for Post-Employment Services (PES) for up to 10 years. This means they can go back to DVR and re-open their case at any point during this time.
- Partners for Employment (PFE) works to build capacity within New Mexico among professionals, families, self-advocates/jobseekers, employers and others. Visit their website for upcoming trainings and helpful documents.

Questions? Call the CDD Information Network at
1-800-552-8195 or 505-272-8549
www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet

For more information:

New Mexico DVR
1-800-224-7005
www.dvrgetsjobs.com

NMDVR Rehabilitation Guide
– local office contact information
www.dvr.state.nm.us/Documents/Pubs/RehabGuide.pdf

Eligibility Criteria
www.dvr.state.nm.us/Pages/Eligibility.aspx

Navajo Nation Office of Special Education & Rehabilitation Services
1-866-341-9918
www.osers.navajo-nsn.gov

NM Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)
505-841-4464
www.tap.gcd.state.nm.us

US Department of Labor
www.dol.gov/ofccp/regs/compliance/section503.htm
Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
www.doleta.gov/wioa

NM Workforce Connection
www.jobs.state.nm.us

Partners for Employment (PFE)
www.cdd.unm.edu/pfe

Ticket to Work Program
Helps people receiving Social Security disability benefits return to work
yourtickettowork.com/web/ttw/home

Project Think Work
Employment Toolkit, Data, Stories, etc.
www.thinkwork.org

Funded in part by the NM Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (NMDDPC)

