



New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation NMDVR



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Mission

Encourage and assist the efforts of New Mexicans with disabilities to reach their goals for working and living in their communities

Eligibility

- ❖ You must have a physical or mental impairment (which for you, constitutes a substantial impediment to employment)
- ❖ You can benefit in terms of an employment outcome and
- ❖ You must also require VR services in order to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.

-Any person with a disability physically present in NM may apply for DVR services.

-2018 order of selection- categorize individuals on severity of disability; (1) most significantly disabled, (2) significantly disabled, (3) individual with a disability. By law NMDVR is only working with new clients who fall under category 1- most significantly disabled.



Services and Programs

- ❖ Job search and placement (how to write a resume, job interview skills, what not to say in an interview, and what self advocacy looks like.
- ❖ Pre-employment transition services, career exploration, and post education such as; what does college entail, what does a college syllabus look like?.
- ❖ Exposure of work experiences while still in HS: after school or summer jobs, gain soft skills of showing up on time and following directions. This takes place eight hours every two weeks at local high schools.

Issue with this: understaffed to meet this demand for example; Clovis has 12 schools and one counselor (WIOA has made these regulations hard for counselors to meet.)

History & Collaboration

- ❖ Vocational rehab started during WWI to help soldiers return to work after the war.
- ❖ 1960's and 1970's they expanded these services to more people with all types of disabilities.
- ❖ In 2014 the Measure of Work Force Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) changed many of the rules, regulations, and requirements, of both the VR counselors and individuals receiving VR services.
- ❖ WIOA allowed for VR counselors to no longer need a masters degree, requires counselors to maintain data in a new data base, work more hours in the school programs, and count success in all areas not just in job placements and case closures.
- ❖ DVR is not a laundry list of options, it is more about their need to achieve vocational goals, resources, and offers competitive wages.

Collaboration with Other Agencies

Department workforce solutions Public school districts * Developmentally disability support division* Non-profit (at risk youth to gain vocational skills for employment)* Goodwill* Employers (local mom and pop shops are more likely to work with NMDVR versus big companies)*Project Search: 6 or 7 sites here in NM, educating employers the benefit of hiring people with disabilities

State Title V Program (Children's Medical Services)

VR counselors may refer to CMS if individual cannot get other services

Program Evaluations

Annual report on extensive data system & employee evaluations.

The Rehabilitation Process

Disciplines Provided

- ❖ VR counselors determine eligibility and write a plan.
- ❖ VR techs- go into the community looking for possible employers and handle financial aspects
- ❖ Contract with a dental consultant for approval or denial of dental work which could be cosmetic if needed for vocational goal.
- ❖ Psychologists psychiatrists to help determine eligibility sometimes.

NMDVR's Rehabilitation Process

This process can last anywhere from a few months to several years.

- Orientation and application
- Intake appointment
- Eligibility Determination (typically 20 days)
- Assessment
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Employment Services Provided
- Employment Obtained
- Follow-Up
- Service Record Closed- Successfully Employed
 - 2010- 1500 successful closures
 - 2017 = 750 successful closures
 - 2018 = 900 projected successful closures

Cost of Services

NMDVR Funding

- ❖ Formula grant, Title I of WIOA- given a number of federal dollars based on population.
- ❖ 80% of federal dollars & 20% of state dollars
- ❖ \$10 million is the annual budget
- ❖ NM state legislatures have to approve \$550,000 every year
 - ❖ The number of New Mexicans with a disability referred to NMDVR and applying for services continues to increase but funding does not... this lack of funding has limited NMDVR's ability to serve the variety of populations.

Cost for Individuals

- ❖ Explore all benefits before using DVR funds; including Medicaid/Medicare, other health insurance, and out of pocket. For example, if client needs hearing aid to remain employed client will have to use their insurance or out of pocket to acquire that need before NMDVR funds are issued.
- ❖ SSI & SSDI they are exempt from having to contribute.

Contact

<http://www.dvr.state.nm.us/locations-contact-us.aspx>

For all site locations and contact information