

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, Governor

ARSENIO ROMERO, Ph.D., Secretary of Education

CASEY STONE-ROMERO, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Levine jeff.levine@dvr.nm.gov 505-954-8530

NMDVR OFFERS "MONEY SMART" TRAINING FOR SMALL BUSINESS

ONEY SMART New Mexico

SANTA FE (May 8, 2024) – The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR) is offering an online Money Smart for Small Business course beginning Wednesday, May 29, 2024. The 14 free sessions will be held Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time.

The NMDVR benefits advisement team is presenting the course, which was developed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Benefits advisors work with participants regarding their finances, including benefits they may receive from the Social Security Administration. Participants who are self-employed often are not familiar with the ins-and-outs of self-employment—such as needing to pay quarterly taxes.

The curriculum is perfect for both aspiring entrepreneurs and existing small business owners who want to start their own business and fulfill their self-employment goals. Lessons are geared towards individuals from all walks of life, with a wide range of business and employment experiences. Age and educational experience also varies significantly.

"This program is another way to assist New Mexicans with disabilities who are working towards supporting themselves through self-employment," says NMDVR Ticket to Work Program Manager Jessica Banda. "By providing basic financial literacy, this course helps them obtain the skills they need to be successful."

Money Smart for Small Business modules include risk management, financial management, record keeping, insurance, tax planning, and more. The course is open to any participant in an NMDVR program. Those interested can register at <u>www.surveymonkey.com/r/MBD8ZQN</u>.

The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation helps individuals with disabilities find suitable employment. Vocational rehabilitation is a voluntary program supporting people who want to work. With a long history of success and proven methodology for making the best fits, NMDVR is committed to helping participants thrive in their communities. For more information, visit <u>www.dvr.state.nm.us</u> or call 505-954-8500.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program receives 78.7% of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For federal fiscal year 2024, the total awarded is \$24,698,300. The remaining 21.3% is funded by state appropriations and transfers from the Commission for the Blind and Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

###