

NMDVR “BELIEVED IN WHAT I WANTED TO DO,” SAYS NEW REALTOR

Becoming a realtor has become a reality for Aryah Israel, thanks to support from the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

After a car accident left her with shoulder, hip, back, and nerve injuries, Aryah could no longer continue in her job, which entailed heavy lifting. She needed to find another career. Her sister had heard about vocational rehabilitation and suggested she give NMDVR a try.

“I was looking for support for retraining for something I could do,” she says, which is how she came to reach out to the agency’s Rio Rancho office in 2023. “Real estate was a good fit for me. I had always wanted to do it, and brainstorming about what I could do outside the home (after the accident), a light bulb just went off.”

NMDVR provided Israel with financial support through courses and the certification exams, including tuition, materials, a laptop, and desk. “Most importantly, they gave me a sense of hope,” she says. “They believed in what I wanted to do and what I wanted to accomplish. They provided both the resources and moral support I needed.”

Working for Coldwell Banker Legacy, Israel recently made her first transaction, helping a first-time homebuyer with a purchase. “It was exciting being able to coach someone through making one of the biggest investments in their lives—finding their dream home,” she recalls. “I told them we were getting our feet wet together. It was encouraging in someone else completely trusting you through the process. When we closed, it was a little emotional.”



And now, with her knowledge of the real estate field, Aryah has also become a first-time homebuyer herself and she is looking to invest in more properties.

“The staff at DVR is amazing,” she says. “Very patient and very thorough with the information and knowledge they have, and they exhaust all avenues in assisting clients to get to their end goal.”

Israel recommends the agency to anyone with a disability who needs employment help. “DVR is able to provide the services of retraining individuals and giving them everything they need along the way to be successful. I’m really appreciative.”

For information about how NMDVR can help you achieve your employment goals, contact your nearest office. There are two dozen locations across the state: dvr.state.nm.us/locations/.

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 dvr.state.nm.us 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 2025, the total awarded was \$26,800,619. 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.

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