

# Employment – Developing a Microenterprise

New Mexico

## What is a microenterprise?

A microenterprise is a small business that employs a small number of people. Sometimes the person who starts and owns the business is the only employee. Someone who owns their own business is self-employed.

## What are the benefits of starting a microenterprise?

Starting one's own business empowers individuals to create their own employment opportunities, contribute to their communities, and become their own boss. This employment option is open to anyone who is interested in starting their own business.

## What do microenterprises provide?

Many small and home-based businesses and self-employment efforts are microenterprises. They provide a variety of products and services such as repairs, cleaning, specialty foods, jewelry, arts and crafts, gifts, clothing, computer technology, childcare, and other services. These businesses are located in cities, villages, pueblos, and other communities. The interests, strengths and conditions of the job-seeker are identified and used in the development of the microenterprise.

## Who can help with starting a microenterprise?

Several public and private organizations support microenterprise, and there is a network of service providers that offer training, technical assistance and lending to those who are interested in setting up a microenterprise.

- **NMDVR** (New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) provides support to help people with disabilities achieve a suitable employment outcome.
- **PFE** (Partners for Employment) builds capacity within the state of New Mexico to increase employment outcomes for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. PFE offers training and resources on employment best practices and the school-to-work transition.
- **WESST** provides the business training and support individuals need to succeed. They offer workshops, webinars, personal consulting on a variety of topics, and small business loans to help start or expand a New Mexico business.
- **NMSLP** (New Mexico Seed Loans Program) serves persons with disabilities who are looking for equipment loans to help with a home-based business or self-employment. NMSLP provides loan guarantees and interest rate subsidies to help people with disabilities work independently.
- **NMSBDC** (New Mexico Small Business Development Center) provides small business assistance with business planning, marketing, applying for business financing, small business startup, entrepreneur training, and other specialized areas to help grow and strengthen businesses in New Mexico.



### NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR)

1-800-224-7005

[www.dvr.state.nm.us/](http://www.dvr.state.nm.us/)

### Partners for Employment (PFE)

[www.cdd.unm.edu/pfe](http://www.cdd.unm.edu/pfe)

### WESST

1-800--469-3778

[www.wesst.org](http://www.wesst.org)

### New Mexico Seed Loans Program (NMSLP)

1-855-891-8295

<http://www.tap.gcd.state.nm.us/financial-assistance/new-mexico-seed-loan-program/>

### NM Small Business Development Center (NMSBDC)

1-800-281-7232

[www.nmsbdc.org/access-to-capital.aspx](http://www.nmsbdc.org/access-to-capital.aspx)

### Questions?

Call the CDD Information Network

**1-800-552-8195**

or visit our website at <https://goto.unm.edu/x8gmt>

Informational Tip Sheets:

<https://goto.unm.edu/amx6>

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