



The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

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NEWS RELEASE

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VBOC Commemorates National Veterans Small Business Week

ALBUQUERQUE--To commemorate National Veterans Small Business Week this week (November 1-5), the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) joins the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the SBA's New Mexico District Office to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of our nation's veteran small business owners.

Now in its eighth year, the goal of National Veterans Small Business Week is to raise awareness of veteran small business ownership, and encourage communities to support veteran-owned and military-owned businesses.

“National Veterans Small Business Week is a time to honor the service and celebrate the impact of our nation’s nearly 1.8 million veteran entrepreneurs who are a driving force in our economy, generating approximately \$1 trillion annually and employing nearly 4 million people,” said SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman.

Throughout the week, the SBA will focus on highlighting various aspects of the veteran small business ownership journey. Hosted by the Office of Veterans Business Development, the weeklong event covers several topics such as transition assistance, entrepreneurial training, government contracting, disaster assistance, and access to capital resources.

SBA district offices, resource partners, and local organizations across the country will host National Veterans Small Business Week activities in hybrid in-person and virtual formats based on the needs of their community. For more information about National Veterans Small Business Week and to find events in your area, visit sba.gov/nvsbw. Sign up for an event and join the online conversation using the hashtag #VetBiz.

Help From the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center

Here in New Mexico, entrepreneurial-minded veterans, transitioning active service members, and spouses here in New Mexico can get guidance from the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), which is the veterans business assistance division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS). The VBOC can help with starting, growing, or buying a business—offering transition assistance programs, business loan assistance, business counseling, mentoring, and resource referrals

“During National Veterans Small Business Week, I encourage veterans who own their own business—or who’ve always wanted to own their own business, to contact us,” said VBOC Director Rich Coffel. “Especially now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected businesses. But there is a lot of business assistance available—and growth opportunities moving forward.”

VBOC Director Rich Coffel is based in the DVS Albuquerque Northeast Heights office, at 5201 Eagle Rock Avenue NE. To make a private, one-on-one appointment, please contact Rich at richardL.coffel@state.nm.us or (505) 220-9932.

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The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) provides support and services to New Mexico’s 151,000 veterans and their families. DVS treats every veteran, regardless of their rank achieved during military service, with the respect and gratitude befitting someone who has served our country. We strive every day to live up to our agency’s official motto: *Serving Those Who Served*

Respectfully,

Ray Seva

Public Information Officer

New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

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