

## **"Veterans Feeding Veterans" Distributed 1.4 Million Meals Since Partnership Began**



Governor Kathy Hochul today celebrated the continued success of an initiative to distribute meals to New York's veterans, service members and their families through a partnership between the New York State Department of Veterans' Services and HelloFresh, the world's leading meal kit delivery company. Initiated to combat food insecurity that was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, the partnership builds on the successful Nourish New York initiative, a multi-agency effort to reduce food insecurity and support food producers across the state. More than 1.4 million healthy meals have been distributed since the program began, including thousands of meal kits for the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Our veterans, service members and their families have sacrificed for our nation and the State of New York will forever be thankful for their service," Governor Hochul said. "This partnership works to reduce food insecurity for those who have served us, while supporting the food producer industry across the state."

New York City Department of Veterans' Services Commissioner James W. Hendon said, "Our agency is proud to support this exceptional public-private partnership, which fosters camaraderie among our dedicated volunteers and puts smiles on the faces of all our Military and Veteran families. Through the weekly distribution of HelloFresh healthy food kits, as well as, the generous Thanksgiving bounty of turkey and seasonal fresh fruits and

vegetables, we work to ensure no Military Service Member or Veteran experiences food insecurity on one of America's most cherished holidays." ([READ MORE...](#))

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## **Relaunch of Mission VetCheck! Request a Check-in or Volunteer Today!**



It's back! Our program to make sure our community has the most up-to-date information and care is back. And we're looking for volunteers from the Veteran community to help support its return!

Click the **VOLUNTEER** button below to learn how you can connect New York City Veterans to resources in partnership with the New York City Department of Veterans' Services with [New York Cares](#).

Additionally if you are a veteran enrolled in a college, vocational, or professional training program you may be eligible to participate in Mission: VetCheck as a [DVS VA Work Study](#). If you are interested in applying to be a [Mission: VetCheck Intern](#) and meet eligibility requirements, please submit the following to [VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov):

Or if you would like to receive a check-in call or would like to request a check-in call for someone you know, fill out the [form on our website](#) or click the **REQUEST A CHECK-IN** button below.

Mission: VetCheck is a partnership between New York Cares and DVS that leverages volunteers to make supportive check-in calls to veterans across the city. This vital outreach effort creates a crucial point of connection between Veterans and our community through phone calls that provide resources and information about public services, including free meals, housing resources, employment information, and mental health services. Most importantly, this initiative creates a way for New Yorkers to express their gratitude to our Veterans for their service to our country.

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*Mission: VetCheck should not be used to receive support in the event of a personal emergency or mental health crisis. If you are having thoughts of suicide or hurting others, or experiencing an emotional crisis, please call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room for immediate assistance. You may also call the Veterans' Crisis Line at 988, then press 1, or NYC 988 by calling or texting 988.*

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[Request a Check-in with Mission: VetCheck](#)

[Volunteer with Mission: VetCheck](#)

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**First virtual National Military Veterans Artist Network  
Symposium**

# The **Virtual** Military Veterans Artist Network Symposium

Thursday, January 25  
1:00—4:00 pm EST

Register at [zoomto.me/uZmzo](https://zoomto.me/uZmzo)



THE ART  
STUDENTS  
LEAGUE  
OF NEW YORK

The first virtual National Military Veterans Artist Network Symposium is happening next month! This forum is hosted by Americans for the Arts and the Art Students League of New York with multiple distinguished guest speakers. Whether you're a—professional who has been in the industry for years, artist beginning your career, individual who has artistic interests or looking to heal through artistic expression—this symposium can provide you with the tools you need to further your artistic journey.

This summit offers: an introduction to the legacy of Veterans in America's modern and contemporary art history, an introduction to government and private sector

entities looking to support you, networking with fellow artists and professionals in your desired field, discussing "decrutment" and the transition to civilian life, as well as tips and tricks to make a career in the arts sustainable.

📅 Thursday, January 25th 2024

🕒 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST

🔑 Zoom Meeting

[Register for Symposium](#)

## Music for Meditation & Healing at Carnegie Hall



**PRESENTED BY**  
Yoga Music  
Yoga Sangeeta

**Atma Shanti Raga Sagara**

**Music for Meditation & Healing**

This Event Supports Heroes, Victims of 9/11, Wounded Warriors, and Heal the Healers.

**Unlocking the Healing Powers of Music**

FEATURING  
**DR. SRI GANAPATHY SACHCHIDANANDA SWAMIJI**

A Live Concert Focused on Healing the Mind, Body, and Soul

This live music program offers an uplifting experience for everyone with a special focus for healing the physical, emotional and psychological effects of 9/11.

December 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall  
881 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, NY 10019  
(Entrance located through the Box Office Lobby on 57<sup>th</sup> St. near 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)

\$25 for General Admission (Discount Code: PAX)  
Purchase tickets:  
carnegiehall.org | Carnegie Charge 212-247-7800 | Box Office at 57<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue



First come; first serve! 200 free tickets for New York City Veterans to attend a healing concert with a special focus for 9/11 Heroes and Families, Wounded Warriors and Helping Healers Heal (Part of Elmhurst Hospital, NYCHHC healing program).

The healing concert utilizes an ancient healing system using vibration, music and ragas (tunes) to modulate the body and mind. Dr. Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji is a yogi, mystic and master musician and has conducted research for more than 60 years on effects of music on different ailments. He has performed over 300 concerts in prestigious institutes such as Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Royal Albert Hall in London, Sydney Opera House in Australia and now Carnegie Hall.

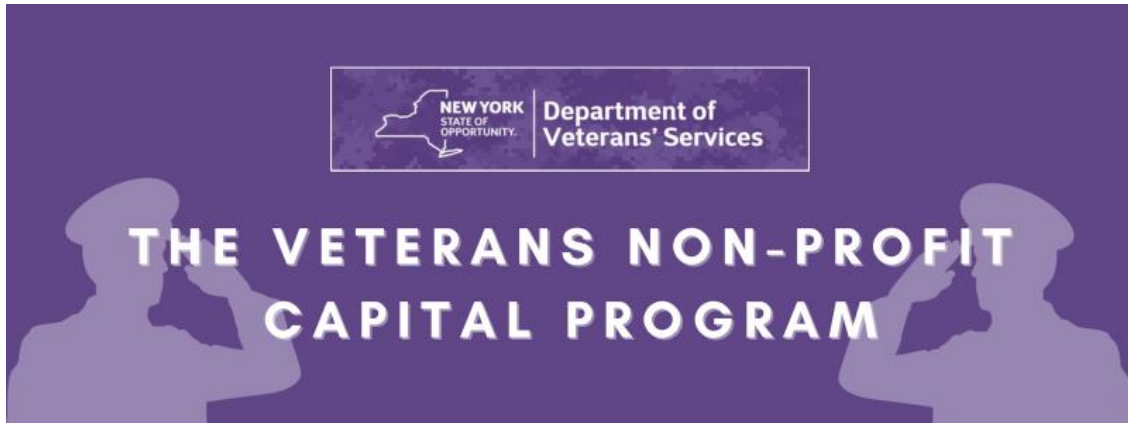
**Veterans can register for free tickets by filling out the registration form below.**

*Tickets can be picked up on the 2nd floor of Le Meridien Hotel Central Park (120 W 57th St, New York, NY 10019) anywhere from 5 -6:30 pm. Concert is next door at Carnegie Hall.*

[Concert Ticket Registration](#)

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**Second Round of Veterans Non-Profit Capital Program**



The Veterans Nonprofit Capital Grant Program overseen by the New York State Department of Veterans' Services and administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, is a vital initiative dedicated to enhancing and enabling critical upgrades to the facilities of veterans organizations across the state. Following a successful first round with over \$2.5 million distributed, an additional \$2.4 million will be available through a second round of applications.

In this second round of funding, which will open for applications on **November 29, 2023**, selected organizations will receive reimbursement for costs related to capital improvements, with awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$75,000. This invaluable support will enable these organizations to make critical upgrades, including new roofs, ADA-compliant enhancements, and renovations to common areas and kitchens.

A live presentation to provide interested organizations with information about how to prepare to apply for this funding opportunity was held on Friday, November 17 at 12:00 PM. A recording of the presentation has been made available on the NYS DVS website.

[NYS DVS Homepage](#)

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## VETERAN NEWS

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### Why the Major Drop in Veteran Homelessness offers hope for others



TIME | By [Tara Law](#)

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023

A homeless person sleeping on America's streets in 2010 was far more likely to be a veteran than today: while the rate of homelessness has remained [relatively stagnant](#) in the U.S., it's dropped by about 55% among veterans, from about [74,000 in 2010 to 33,129 in 2022](#). Even more veterans will have a home for the holidays this year: on November 29, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [announced](#) it had permanently housed nearly 39,000 veterans since the start of the year, surpassing its goal for the entire year.



In an era of soaring inflation, limited housing and high rents, it may seem inevitable that some Americans become homeless, especially given that many experts have [found](#) that high housing costs are closely [connected to rates of homelessness](#). However, those who have closely studied how to address [American homelessness](#) say that progress among veterans shows that efforts to help people can be remarkably effective if matched to the scale of the crisis. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

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## **More Veteran-related Headlines**

Press Herald: [Fred, the dog who helped a Maine combat veteran 'live again,' dies of cancer](#)

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QNS: [Council Member Holden hosting coat drive in Maspeth for homeless veterans](#)

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WTEN ABC10: [VETCON brings veteran entrepreneurs together](#)

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VA | News: [Faith-based event held to combat Veteran suicide](#)

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Military Times: [Lawmakers press VA for stronger rules against discrimination](#)

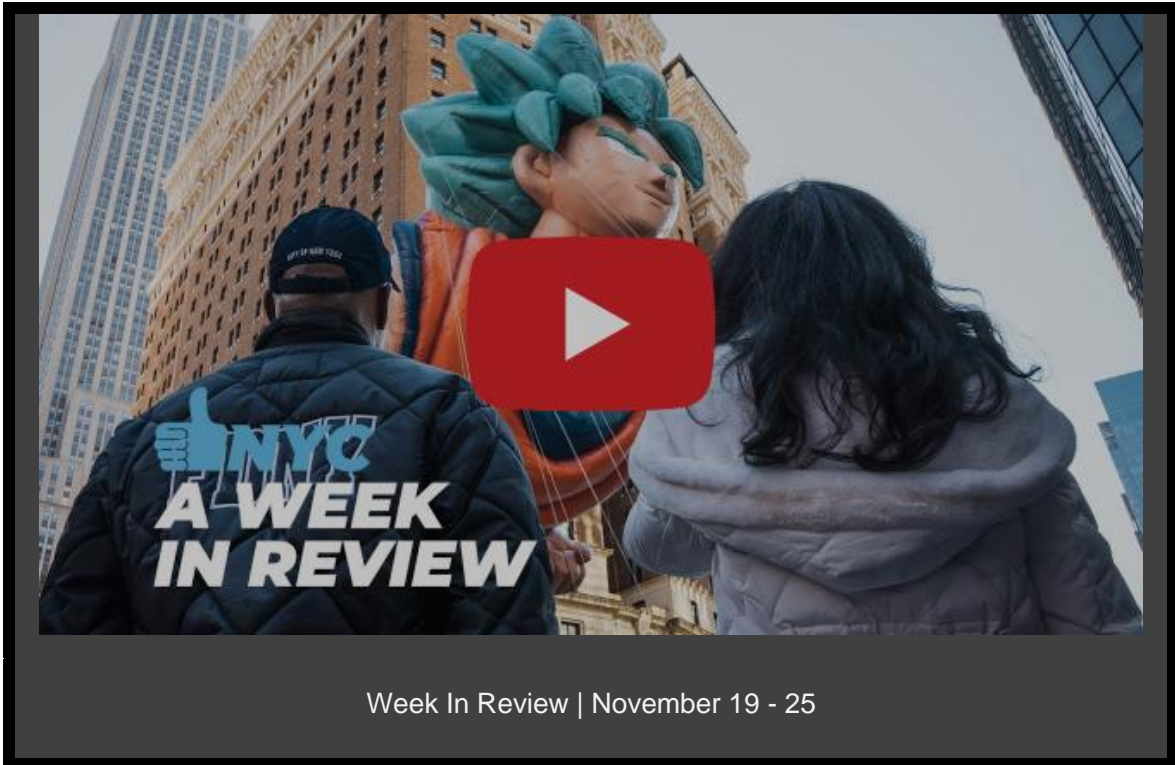
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## **A Message From Mayor Adams:**

*Each week DVS shares a brief update about how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.*

Make no mistake: New York City is in tough financial times. The combination of the end of federal COVID-19 stimulus money, the rising costs of the asylum seeker crisis, and labor contracts that went years without being negotiated have meant that we've had to stretch your tax dollars as far as they can go. Here at DVS, we're working with our partners at all

levels of government to protect taxpayer dollars while continuing to deliver the vital services New York City Veterans and others rely on.



*The Adams administration is dedicated to cutting through the noise and delivering information directly to you and all New Yorkers.*

*Sign up to "Hear From Eric" and get direct messages from City Hall, tailored to your interests and neighborhood, sent directly to your inbox – at [nyc.gov/hearfromeric!](https://nyc.gov/hearfromeric)*

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[Mayor Adams Launches new Effort to Make Thousands of NYC Intersections Safer, Part of Broad new Street Safety Initiative](#)

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[Mayor Adams Celebrates Win For Delivery Workers, Court Allows Nation's First Minimum Pay Rate For App-Based Restaurant Delivery Workers](#)

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[Mayor Adams Cracks Down on Landlords of Illegal Smoke Shops](#)



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We are looking to highlight Veterans in the arts community! Whether it's an upcoming free exhibition, performance, or piece/installation you've created, we want to showcase your work and help spread the word. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and promoted at our discretion. We want this to be a space for Veteran artists to express themselves in an authentic way.

Please email submissions to [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov) with a brief bio, an artist statement, art medium, and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

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**Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!**



## **Current DVS Job Openings**

Being part of our team is a great way to continue to serve.

[Visit NYC.gov/jobs and select “Veterans’ Services” from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to the job below.](#)

**Site Reliability Engineer** - The Site Reliability Engineer will play a key role for DVS Information Technology (IT) Team and report directly to the Chief Information Officer. This position will support and develop the agency’s core business applications while providing secured network connectivity, asset management, and technical support for a highly mobile team.

## **VA Work Study Positions at DVS**

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) supports VA Work-Study Positions! Here is a current list of available VA Work-Study openings:

- [Administrative Intern](#)
- [Benefit Intern](#)
- [Care Coordination Intern](#)
- [Data Analyst Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [IT Support Intern](#)
- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Outreach Coordinator Intern](#)
- [Veteran Business Promotion Intern](#)

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If you are interested in applying for a DVS-specific Work-Study position and meet eligibility requirements, please submit the following to [VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov):

- Resume

- Job Specific Cover Letter
- Supporting Documents found in the Job Description

[Check Here for VA Work-Study Postings](#)

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## **NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams**



### **Open Competitive Exams**

At this time, there are no City civil service job openings. Check back next week for the city's next round of offerings.

To view job listings, visit the exam board [here!](#)

To receive monthly updates on upcoming civil service exams click the button below to be

directed to the [Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter](#) page. On the registration form, select "City Jobs and Civil Service Announcements".

[Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter Here](#)

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## Programs and Initiatives

### Affordable Housing For Veterans



The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) maintains a list of federal, state, and city programs that offers a limited, but selective list of affordable housing options for veterans seeking financial relief for their housing arrangements. Visit our [Affordable Housing for Veterans](#) page to learn more.

### Empowering Veteran Business Owners



The primary mission of the [VBLA](#) is to serve Veterans seeking support and assistance with running a business and in their pursuit of New York City Government contracting opportunities. Our leadership association engages with the private sector, government, advisory board, and local partners to build a consortium that

facilitates the growth and development of Veteran Businesses.

## **VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship**

DVS has launched [VetBizNYC](#), an interactive map that identifies Veteran-owned businesses across the five boroughs. New Yorkers can use our interactive map to find and support Veteran-owned businesses in their community.



## **Are You Getting the Benefits You Deserve?**

The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) represents NYC Veterans in claims for benefits from the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#). Our team is also qualified to assist with PACT Act related claims. If you had a toxic exposure during your service, time is crucial for you to get the benefits you deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](#) form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.



## **VetConnectPro: A First-in-the-Nation Employment Tool**



[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and get started today: [nyc.gov/vetconnectpro](http://nyc.gov/vetconnectpro).

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## Newsletter Sign-up

If you received this newsletter by way of a friend or colleague and have yet to sign-up on your own, click [here](#), and stay up-to-date with the latest news impacting the community, updates on city services, info on DVS programs, Veteran-specific resources & more.

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## Contact Us

- Complete a service request form at [vetconnectnyc.org](http://vetconnectnyc.org)
- [Message the Commissioner](#)
- [Partner with DVS](#)
- [Press Inquiries](#)
- [Event Request Form](#)

Stay tuned on our website [www.nyc.gov/vets](http://www.nyc.gov/vets) and social media platforms [@nycveterans](#), or via email at [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov).

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