

A Message From Mayor Adams:

Each week moving forward DVS will share a short update on how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.



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)

DVS Celebrates Black History Month: A Statement from Commissioner James Hendon



Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 369th Infantry Regiment (the Harlem Hellfighters) arrive back in New York Harbor February 12, 1919 after serving in France during World War I.

Black History Month is a celebration of the achievements of African Americans throughout our nation's history. It is the recognition that the Black experience is the American experience. It is the promise to embrace the fundamental ideals of American democracy—the belief that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness can and should be afforded to all.

Dating back to before the United States was founded, African Americans have been in the trenches—fighting in every major conflict on behalf of our nation, despite the country's collective treatment in return. The fight for freedom and equality undergirds Black History. From the abolition of slavery to the Jim Crow era, to desegregation, to the civil rights movement, to today's protests against police brutality—time and time again, African Americans have demonstrated their steadfast resolve in their pursuit of equal treatment. In doing so, Black people

have helped to lay the foundation for underrepresented people and allies to hold accountable our stewardship of the American dream for the better.

African Americans in the military have consistently answered the call to serve, protect, and defend our nation with immeasurable pride. During our nation's history, ninety African Americans have earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions. Groups such as the Buffalo Soldiers, an all-Black cavalry regiment—who some say earned their nickname because of their rugged and tireless marching; the 369th Infantry Harlem Hellfighters, one of the first U.S. regiments to arrive in France during World War One and one of the most highly decorated upon its return; and the Six Triple Eight Battalion, who had the distinction of being the only all-African American, all-female unit sent overseas during World War Two; all served with extraordinary courage and bravery during a period when they were not fully accepted. At the same time, Black Soldiers, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, Airmen and Marines still faced discrimination, feared for their safety, and felt their identities hurt their advancement.

Black History Month is not only about remembering the great accomplishments of individuals or a group of people. It is a reminder that there is still work to be done. It is about fostering lasting change so that the approximately 350,000 African American Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Members and the more than 2.4 million African American Veterans experience the America we strive to represent.

Happy Black History Month!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Hendon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Hendon
Commissioner
NYC Department of Veterans' Services



Members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-African American, all-Female unit sent overseas during WWII.

VETERAN NEWS

'Toxic bird pits' Talk Shows Continued Ignorance of Burn Pit Dangers

By Leo Shane III, Military Times

Feb. 10, 2023

In his State of the Union speech on Tuesday, President Joe Biden insisted that Republicans and Democrats can work together on major issues, noting that in 2022 “we came together to pass the most significant law ever helping victims exposed to toxic burn pits.”

But the phrase was recorded as “toxic bird pits” on some closed captioning systems, prompting social media searches on the phrase and a New York Times article on Friday asking if bird pits were “some major news story” that their staff had missed... [Read More](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

Stars and Stripes: [The VA is ‘fighting like hell’ to get toxic exposure benefits to veterans, McDonough says](#)

Federal News Network: [VA onboards health care workers at record rate, but still ‘far from where we need to be’](#)

Marijuana Moment: [Bipartisan Senators File Revised Veterans Marijuana Research Bill, With House Companion Set To Drop Next Week](#)

U.S. News & World Report (HealthDay): [In Autopsy Study, Over 90% of Former NFL Players Showed Signs of Brain Disease CTE](#)

**Attention Veteran Service Organizations and
Local Nonprofits, Fiscal Year 2024 City Council
Discretionary Funding Period
Deadline Approaching!**



Every year, members of the City Council allocate discretionary funding to not-for-profit organizations in order to meet local needs and fill gaps in City services. Discretionary funding is a duly appropriated sum of money in the City's expense budget allocated to an eligible not-for-profit organization by the Council or a Member of the Council.

PPB Rule 1-02(e) allows certain elected officials– including Council Members and Borough Presidents (but not the Mayor or City agencies)– to designate specific not-for-profit organizations to receive funding as an alternative to funding programs through competitive procurement.

There are currently six categories of discretionary funding used by the City Council: **Member Local Initiatives, City Council Local Initiatives, Member Aging Discretionary Funds, Member Youth Discretionary Funds, Anti-Poverty Initiative, Citywide Initiatives.**

To be eligible, organizations must be registered with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau (unless exempt) and have a valid Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN). 501(c)(3) organizations are the most common recipients of discretionary funding, however there are numerous 501(c) designated entities that are eligible. For example, War Veterans' Organizations are a 501(c)(19), Civic Leagues and Social Welfare Organizations are a 501(c)(4), and Horticulture Associations are a 501(c)(5).

An organization that receives discretionary funding must itself deliver the services

of the funded program. Subcontractors or consultants may not be the primary service providers for programs funded by discretionary awards. In limited circumstances, the Council may permit an organization to utilize the services of subcontractors or consultants as an ancillary/supplemental part of the delivery of services. In addition, subcontractors and consultants must be approved by the contracting agency prior to any work commencing.

THE DEADLINE FOR FY2024 APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 21, 2023.

If your organization provides services to Veterans and fits the above eligibility requirements, we highly encourage you to apply for discretionary funding through the City Council.

[Apply for FY2024 City Council Discretionary Funds](#)

[Click Here for More Information on Discretionary Funding](#)

NYC Small Business Opportunity Fund



The NYC Small Business Opportunity Fund is made possible through public-private partnerships with the following:



NEW YORK – New York City **Mayor Eric Adams** and New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) **Commissioner Kevin D. Kim** announced the creation of the \$75 million **NYC Small Business Opportunity Fund**, the largest public-private loan fund directed at small businesses in the city’s history on Monday, January 23rd, 2023.

At a time when small businesses continue to struggle and recover from the pandemic, the groundbreaking initiative would offer loans from **\$2,000 to \$250,000** at a below-market-rate of **4%**. Considering the prevalent barriers BIPOC and immigrant run companies continue to face, by eliminating credit score requirements and application fees, the program aims to ensure broad access to all New Yorkers.

“Small businesses kept us going through the pandemic, and they are leading the way during our economic recovery. Now, we are giving back with the NYC Small

Business Opportunity Fund,” said **Mayor Adams**. One of the Adams' administrations platforms has been revitalizing and reinvigorating small businesses, outlined in their "[Rebuild, Renew, Reinvent: A Blueprint for New York City's Economic Recovery](#)," agenda.

Boasting a partnership between the city and **Goldman Sachs, Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, Community Reinvestment Fund**, and local community development financial institutions, The Opportunity Fund hopes to improve city life for all New Yorkers and boroughs. “This innovative public-private partnership will not just help over 1,000 businesses but also have lasting ripple effects in the lives of workers and in the health of our neighborhoods where these businesses operate,” said **Deputy Mayor for Economic and Workforce Development Maria Torres-Springer**.

Regarding the program's impact on long-term business sustainability, **New York State Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar** said, “The small businesses in my district define the character of our blocks. They create jobs, add to our vibrancy, and cater to the diverse needs of the people of Queens. Mayor Adams’ NYC Small Business Opportunity Fund will provide the capital infusion they need to grow and thrive for decades to come.”

If you need or know a small business owner in need of a loan, the program is **now live**.

If you would like more information on NYC services offered to small businesses, visit the **Department of Small Business Services** website [here](#).

[Apply for a Loan Through the NYC Opportunity Fund Here!](#)

**New York State Division of Veterans' Services
Nonprofit Capital Program Request for Grant
Applications (RGA)**



New York State Division of Veterans' Services is currently accepting applications for the [state's newly created Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program](#) which will provide \$5 million in Grant funds for reimbursement for costs related to capital improvements designed to expand and enhance quality services available to the state's veterans, service members and their families. Funding for projects will range between \$25,000 and \$75,000 and be administered by the New York State Division of Veterans' Services.

Funding through the Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program is limited to the following: design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or expansion of an eligible facility; purchase of furnishings or equipment for an eligible facility, provided the furnishings or equipment have a useful life of 10 years or more; and certain construction soft costs including architectural, engineering and design. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, replacing a roof, paving a parking lot, or making a building ADA compliant.

For the purposes of this program, veterans' organizations are defined as any not-for-profit organization doing business in the state, the membership of which consists of individuals who were members of the United States Armed Forces and/or which the main purpose of the organization is to benefit members of the country's Armed Forces.

Applicants are encouraged to submit questions about the Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program to grants@veterans.ny.gov. Applicants also can find more information on the [New York State Grants Gateway](#) website, which must be used

to submit the application for funding.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2023 at 4:00 PM

[Learn More about the Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program \(VNCP\) Grant Opportunity](#)



2023 NYC Parks Summer Lifeguard Recruitment is Now Open

Make summer happen for NYC! Becoming a lifeguard is a rewarding experience. You'll work outdoors in some of New York City's most iconic locations, playing a critical role in helping New Yorkers of all ages and abilities have safe access to beaches and pools.

NYC Parks will be hosting qualifying swim tests throughout the 5 boroughs through February.

Manhattan-

Chelsea Recreation Center:

February 11th - 1:30PM and 2:30PM

February 18th - 1:30PM and 2:30PM

February 25th - 1:30PM and 2:30PM

Brooklyn-

St. John's Recreation Center:

February 27th - 6:30PM and 7:30PM

Queens-

Roy Wilkins Recreational Center:

February 13th - 6:00PM and 7:00PM

February 20th - 6:00PM and 7:00PM

[Learn More About Becoming an NYC Parks Lifeguard](#)

Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!



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

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](#)

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

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:

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

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



You served your country. Now serve your city!

Do your part to keep the city running! The [NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services \(DCAS\)](#) makes City government work for all New Yorkers.

There are many diverse career opportunities with NYC DCAS.

Veterans are no longer required to pay application fees for NYC Civil Service examinations. And Veteran Spouses are now eligible for a one-time application fee waiver for NYC Civil Service examinations.

See below for open competitive NYC Civil Service exam highlights:

Open Competitive Exams

Painter: Painters, do inside and outside patching and painting of a general nature, including all coats. They work on and from ladders, platforms and scaffolds as jobs may require; erect ladders; may rig lines and scaffolds; prepare, fill, and prime surfaces for painting; mix paint components and match colors; apply paint with a brush or roller or spray gun to surfaces; apply plaster to surfaces, including skimming walls and taping joints; take proper care of all materials, tools and equipment; keep work records as required; may hang wallpaper; and may operate a motor vehicle in the performance of assigned duties.

Associate Housing Development Specialist: Associate Housing Development Specialists, perform very complex and responsible analytical or coordination work related to the development, and/or implementation of housing programs designed to preserve and upgrade neighborhoods, or to improve urban renewal areas or public and private housing; may supervise subordinate staff; may perform the duties of subordinate personnel; and may perform the duties of the supervisor in his/her absence.

Environmental Police Officer: Environmental Police Officers perform and supervise staff performing duties involved in protecting the watershed areas, water supply systems and installations maintained by the Department of Environmental Protection of the City of New York; enforce the City's Watershed Rules and Regulations and other laws; and perform special duties or assignments as may be directed by superior officers. Environmental Police Officers operate motor vehicles and may perform aerial reconnaissance.

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](#)

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.

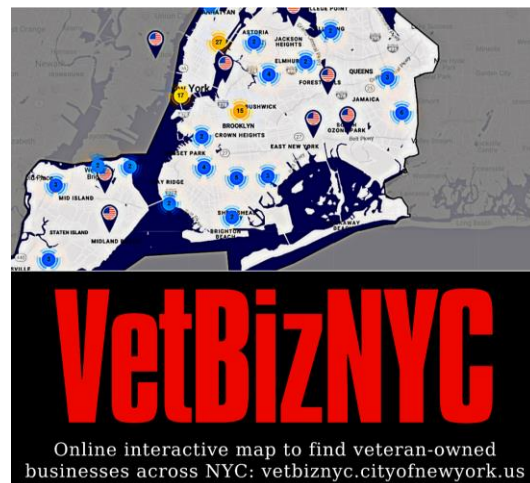
Empowering Veteran Business Owners



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.

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.

Contact Us

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

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