

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/

PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans' Support Program Request for Information (RFI)



The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) is pleased to announce the establishment of the NYC Private First-Class (PFC) Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Fund. We are seeking Requests for Information (RFI) from for-profit and not-for-profit organizations which support the mission of increasing social engagement and connectivity for U.S. Military Veterans and their families. Our goal is to provide Veterans peer-to-peer support through recreational, artistic, athletic, culinary, educational, health and wellness programs.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, visit our [PFC Dwyer Veterans' Support Program](#) page on the [DVS website](#).

Note, this is an RFI seeking information only from interested organizations. There will be no award based on this RFI. However, if any organization wishes to do business with any City of New York agency, they will first need to be [registered into the NYC's PASSport System](#).

Additionally, the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS) holds a monthly in-person workshop called "Your Neighborhood," designed to provide prospective contractors with the critical support needed to contract with the city and use of PASSport.

Businesses interested in registering for MOCS in Your Neighborhood are encouraged to complete the form found [here](#).

Upcoming "Your Neighborhood" Workshop Schedule:

- February 22, 2023 at 10:30 A.M. (Manhattan)
- March 9, 2023 at 10:30 A.M. (Queens)

Background

Despite the array of programs and services available for Veterans, a 2021 community survey conducted by our agency showed that one out of four NYC-based Active-Duty Service Members, Reservists, National Guardsmen, and Veterans say they are lonely three or more days per week. Only one-third of lonely respondents feel as though they have someone they can approach when they are in need. Moreover, when asked how likely they are to seek help for emotional distress, 40% of all lonely respondents would be somewhat or very unlikely to do so.

The [PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program](#), first established by the State of New York during the 2012-2013 legislative session, aims to reduce Veteran isolation and associated mental health issues by having Veteran community members meet with fellow members in secure, comfortable settings; this helps them cope with emotional issues caused during or exacerbated by their military service. In essence, the program builds a unique healing community whereby Veterans and/or their loved ones integrate into a life-affirming support system, enabling them to successfully reset and acclimate to civilian life.

The Dwyer Program exists in 25 counties throughout New York State. New York localities that have received funding through the program ascribe to a diverse cross-section of intervention modalities. For the first time, the City of New York has been awarded funds to establish its own program for up to one year.

Program Qualifications

For funding consideration, the program must empower the Veteran community, be in-person, and free to Veterans, their caregivers, families, and survivors.

DVS has identified the following priority areas of focus for its support. A Respondent's proposed services need not meet all areas listed but should align

with at least one of these areas. Services should be administered in an in-person group setting rather than one-on-one.

Note: the examples given below are not all-inclusive. If your organization provides a service not listed and you believe it might be appealing to the Veteran community, we encourage you to answer the question that requests this information.

Examples of Services to be Offered to the Veteran Community:

- Animal Assisted Modalities
- Somatic Modalities
- Expressive Modalities
- Educational Programs
- Culinary Arts Instruction
- Community Construction Programs

[See the Latest About the PFC Dwyer Veterans' Support Program RFI](#) |

Honoring Veteran Community Changemakers (HVCC)



The DVS Veteran Community Changemaker Series is our way of highlighting Veterans, spouses/caregivers, civilian volunteers, and other practitioners who actively support the NYC Veteran community. Each month DVS will honor two New York City Veteran champions with a Certificate and feature in this newsletter and on social media.

To kick off our Honoring Veteran Community Changemakers Series we are celebrating two of our own—Donee Smalls and Terrance Holliday. A former supply sergeant for the U.S. Army, Donee now serves the New York City Veteran community as a Community Coordinator for our agency. And Terrance a.k.a. Terry is a retired Air Force Colonel and the former Commissioner of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs. Please join us in congratulating them as our inaugural Veteran Community Changemakers!

Do you know someone who could be the next NYC DVS Veteran Community Changemaker? Could it be you? The Department of Veterans' Services is looking to you for nominations! All applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis and we do accept self-nominations. Visit the button below to nominate your Community Changemaker!

VETERAN NEWS

An 'Ambassador for All Service Dogs,' German Shepherd Leaves a Legacy for Veterans with PTSD



Feb. 13, 2023

Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

Former Speaker of the House Paul Ryan reportedly once called Kaya, a German shepherd frequently padding along the halls of Congress alongside Marine veteran Cole Lyle, the "most powerful lobbyist on the Hill."

With her large brown eyes, gentle manner and keen ability to read emotions in a room, the service dog swayed every member of the House and Senate to fund service dog training for veterans with mental health conditions.

Kaya, [whose work ensured passage of the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers, or PAWS, for Veterans Therapy Act](#), died Feb. 4 after a short battle with cancer, just a few months shy of her 9th birthday.

More Veteran-related Headlines

Military Times: [Vets groups push for another hefty increase to VA's budget next year](#)

KCRW (NPR-89.9, Audio): [City of Tents: Veterans Row. Veterans camped outside the VA that promised them housing](#)

MedPage Today: [Buprenorphine for Chronic Pain, Not Full Agonist Opioids, New VA Guidance Says](#)

WTEN (ABC-10, Video): [Students participate in 10th annual Valentine's for Veterans program](#)

Food Assistance with SNAP



Great news, **DVS can help file your SNAP benefit!** If you or a Veteran community member you know is in need of food assistance, reach out to us

and apply for your benefit today! To receive assistance applying email our team at claims@veterans.nyc.gov.

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of families in need so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency. SNAP takes into account a family's overall financial status and provides individualized aid. Your benefits package is determined by household size, expenses, and income. Don't be discouraged from applying if you're employed, own your own home and car, and have money saved; you may still be eligible for benefits!

Those who receive a benefits package will be given an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to use at food stores that accept EBT. Most applications are processed within 30 days, however expedited processing is available and emergency benefits can be distributed within 5 days. Please don't wait if you are in need food assistance. To apply, click the button below to be directed to New York's Access HRA account.

[Click Here to Visit ACCESS HRA & Sign-up for SNAP Benefits](#)

Funding Opportunities



CALLING ALL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Every year, the New York City Council allocates discretionary funding to local not-for-profit organizations to meet community needs and fill gaps in services. Organizations must apply by February 21 to be considered for funding.



Current Discretionary Funding Categories:

Member Local Initiatives City Council Local Initiatives Member Aging Discretionary Funds Member Youth Discretionary Funds Anti-Poverty Initiative Citywide Initiative

FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 21, 2023

If your organization provides services to Veterans, and is a registered New York charity with a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN), we highly encourage you to apply.

Visit the link below to apply



New York City Council

[NYC Discretionary Funding Application](#)



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.

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

Administrative Construction Project Manager: The primary responsibility in this class of positions is to direct the professional and technical staff, including consultants, engaged in overseeing the execution of capital construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation projects. Administrative Construction Project Managers operate motor vehicles. The decisions made by the Administrative Construction Project Managers impact the City's capital budget and capital construction.

Resident Buildings Superintendent: Resident Buildings Superintendents, supervise the operation and maintenance of properties of the New York City Housing Authority; implement established procedures; establish work schedules; develop job instructions to maintain and/or improve agency standards; may utilize computers; may operate a motor vehicle.

Machinist: Machinist set up and operate machine shop equipment and tools, such as engine lathes, shapers, milling machines, drill presses, planers and grinders; use tools and instruments required for machinist's work; do outside machinist's work in the inspection, overhaul and repair of all types of main and auxiliary stationary power plant, marine propulsion, water and disposal works equipment; maintain, repair, test, overhaul, and replace all types of building systems equipment such as fans, blowers, exhausters, pumps and compressors; fabricate obsolete parts from existing parts or sketches; direct subordinates in the performance of various maintenance and/or repair tasks; prepare reports and requisitions; maintain records and inventories of supplies and materials; and may operate a motor vehicle or other motorized equipment in the performance of assigned duties.

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.

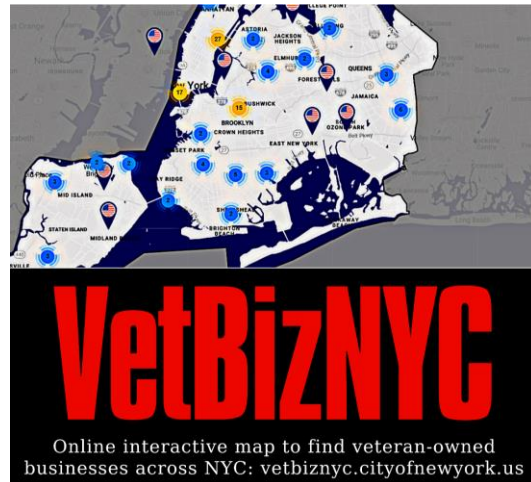
Empowering Veteran Business Owners



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.