

How to File Your Taxes for Free in NYC

The deadline for filing your 2022 tax returns is April 18. Here's what you need to know about how to get help — for free — with the paperwork.



Feb. 22, 2023

The City | By Divya Murthy

NEW YORK – Tax season can be daunting, especially if you prepare your paperwork on your own.

When should you file? What happens if you make a mistake on the form? What determines the size of your refund — or payment? Each tax year can bring new sets of questions, and getting help answering them can be expensive.

But filing taxes need not cost you a lot of money — or any money.

In New York City, low- and middle-income taxpayers qualify to get their taxes prepared and filed for free. The services are offered through many libraries, community centers and local nonprofits that are certified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to provide New Yorkers low-cost or free tax services.

When is the deadline?

You'll have to file your tax return on or before April 18. If you apply for an extension, your deadline is October 16. Here's the [form](#) you can use to apply for an extension.

Where can I get free tax preparation help in New York City?

Several places. The IRS and New York state and New York City governments all offer some form of free tax preparation and filing help. Each comes with different eligibility requirements.

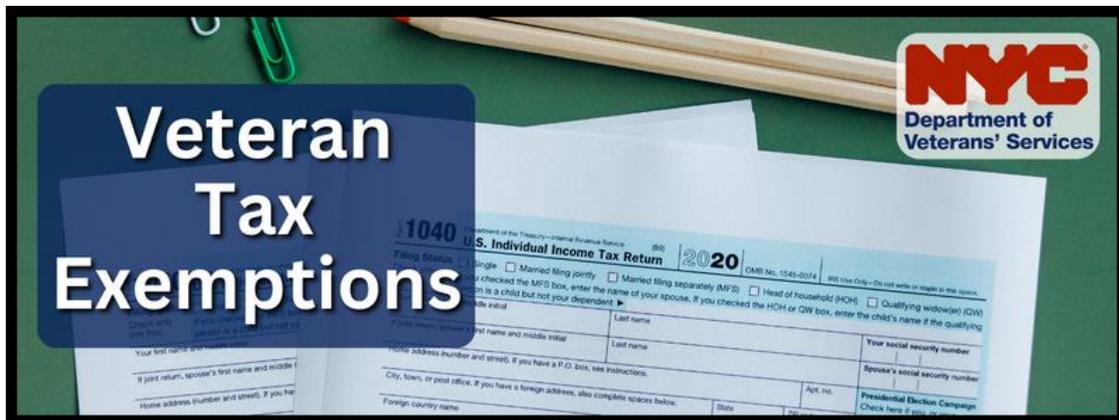
Also, nonprofit organizations like [Urban Upbound](#), [Food Bank for New York City](#) and places like local libraries are staffed by IRS-certified volunteers to help low- to middle-income taxpayers file returns.

I'm a small-business owner or a freelancer — where can I get help with my taxes?

Starting this year, a few NYC free tax prep sites also offer specialized tax prep and filing help for freelancers, small-business owners and gig workers who might have more elaborate tax returns. You'll need to fill in a few extra forms if this is your situation: along with your government-issued ID, SSN and any W-2s attached to wages, you'll have to bring forms related to income earned from your small-business or freelance work, such as a 1099, as well as proof of expenses related to your work— like rent statements, gas receipts, vehicle insurance, Internet or utility bills paid, etc. Find the complete list of tax-prep requirements for small-business owners, freelancers and gig workers [here](#).

This is an abridged version of an article from 'THE CITY.' To see the full piece visit their website [here](#). And visit nyc.gov/taxprep to learn more about filing your taxes in New York City.

Save Money on Property Taxes



As a Veteran, you are eligible for certain property tax exemptions. There are **three exemptions** available which apply to county, city, town, and village taxes (not special district taxes).

If you're an eligible Veteran, you must submit the initial exemption application form to your Assessor—a local government official who estimates the value of real property within a county, city, town, or village's boundaries. The **deadline for submission** in most communities is **March 1st**—please confirm the date and exemption availability with your Assessor. You can only receive one of the available exemptions. Below is a brief description of the exemptions:

- [Alternative Veterans exemption](#)
 - Available only on residential property of a Veteran who has served during a [designated time of war](#), or who has received an expeditionary medal.
 - Currently available in over 95 percent of the county, city, town, and village taxing jurisdictions across the state. The remainder of these jurisdictions may choose to offer this exemption in the future. School districts also have the option to offer this exemption.
 - Authorized by Real Property Tax Law, section 458-a.
- [Cold War veterans exemption](#)
 - Available only on residential property of a veteran who served during the [Cold War period](#).
 - Counties, cities, towns, villages, and school districts have the option to offer this exemption to qualified veterans.

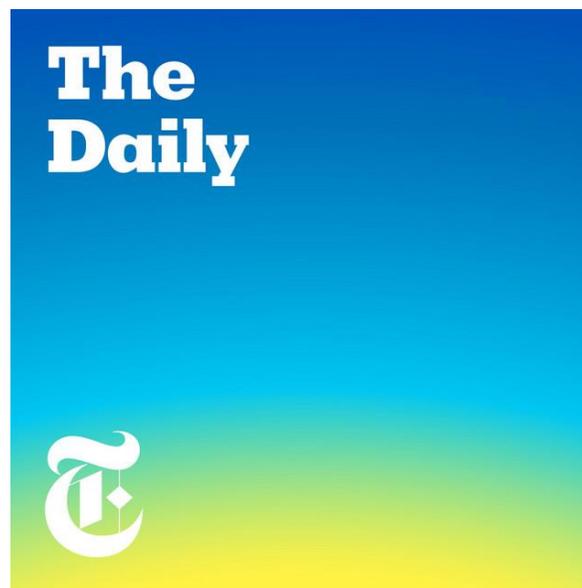
- Check with your assessor or clerk to see whether the Cold War veterans exemption is offered.
- Authorized by Real Property Tax Law, section 458-b.
- Eligible funds exemption
 - Provides a partial exemption.
 - Applies to property that a veteran or other designated person purchases. Such owners must purchase the property with pension, bonus or insurance monies.

For more information on eligibility or the exemptions themselves, please visit New York State's Department of Taxation and Finance page [here](#).

VETERAN NEWS

The Veterans Fighting to Legalize Psychedelics

After 50 years of prohibition, state legislatures in the United States are now considering decriminalizing the drugs



Feb. 22, 2023

New York Times | The Daily

More than 50 years ago, the United States outlawed psychedelic drugs. Now, in a major shift, states and cities across the country are moving to legalize them as a medical treatment. According to my colleague, Andrew Jacobs, the sudden change of heart has a lot to do with who is now asking for these drugs.

[Listen to the Full Episode](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

New York State Office: [Governor Hochul Announces Establishment of New York's First State Veterans Cemetery](#)

Military.com: [Trading on Patriotism: How Extremist Groups Target and Radicalize Veterans](#)

Axios: [Study finds Hispanic Veterans Wait Longer for Specialists](#)

NY Post: [Military families forced to rely on food pantries to survive in 'grossly expensive' NYC](#)

American Legion: [Veterans can now access disability benefit decisions online](#)

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



Attention!

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

Seeking RFI submissions for profit **and** not-for-profit organizations.

The PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Support Program was created to increase social connectivity of U.S. Military Veterans and their families. Organizations looking to submit a response should submit in PASSPort or by email at DVSDwyer@veterans.nyc.gov no later than March 24, 2023. For more information visit nyc.gov/vetdwyer

Some examples of services/programs to be offered to the Veteran community:

- Animal Assisted/Oriented Programs
- Body & Mind-body Exercises or Therapies
- Creative Arts Programs
 - Art, dance, music, film, poetry, etc.
- Culinary Arts
- Community Construction Programs

Upcoming Information Sessions:

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| • March 8, 2023 | 10:30 AM |
| • March 9, 2023 | 11:30 AM |
| • March 14, 2023 | 2:30 PM |

Meetings will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams. Those interested in attending should email dvsdwyer@veterans.nyc.gov by March 1, 2023.

Responses to the Dwyer Support Fund RFI should be submitted in PASSPort or by email at DVSDwyer@veterans.nyc.gov by no later than March 24, 2023.

To view/access the RFI search EPIN: 06323Y0007 in the [PASSPort Procurement Navigator](#).

[Learn More About the PFC Dwyer Veterans' Support Fund](#)

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

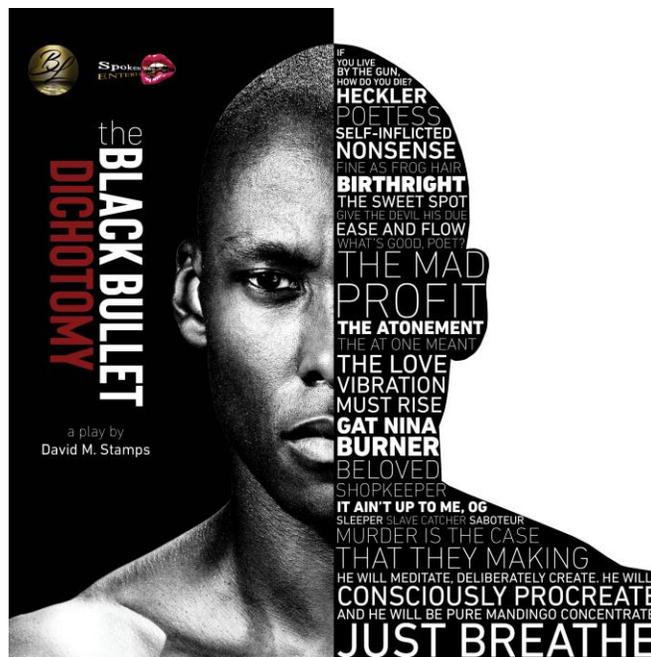
– at nyc.gov/hearfromeric!

Veterans in the Arts

We are looking to highlight Veterans in the art community! Whether it's an upcoming 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 are 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

the Black Bullet Dichotomy



David M. Stamps is a 55-year old Veteran and member of the LGBTQ+ community, who has been named the Artist-in-Residence at The Kennedy Center in Washington DC for 2023.

Stamps' "The Black Bullet Dichotomy" is a *choreopoem* that explores one young poet's existential crisis in the aftermath of a tragic event using hip hop, spoken

word/poetry, dance, and song.

At 4:00PM this Sunday, February 26, 2023, he will be hosting a free virtual reading of his newest work "The Black Bullet Dichotomy" on Zoom.

[Zoom Registration for the Black Bullet Dichotomy Here](#)

Funding Opportunities



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

March 4th - 1:30PM, 2:30PM, and 3:30PM

Brooklyn-

St. John's Recreation Center:

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

Fort Hamilton High School:

March 5th - 9:00AM, 10:00AM, and 11:00AM

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

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.](#)

Senior Policy Analyst - Reporting to the External Affairs Unit, the Senior Policy Analyst acts as a liaison between the agency, the Mayor's Office, governmental agencies, non-profit and private veteran advocate stakeholders. The selected candidate will provide project management, analytical assistance for planning, coordinating and implementing inter agency and agency-specific projects. These projects represent critical initiatives, directed by the Commissioner / External Affairs Unit to improve efficiency, effectiveness, coordination, and accessibility of key City, non-profit, and private veteran services.

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](#)

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

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



**Division of
Veterans' Services**

NYS Division of Veterans' Services Job Opening

New York State's Division of Veterans' Services is looking to fill a job vacancy for **Veterans Benefits Advisor 1**.

Location: 2094 Albany Post Road Montrose, NY 10548 (Westchester Country)

Qualifications:

Current New York State employee with one year or more of qualifying permanent service in a position allocated to a Grade 16 or above and eligible for transfer under Section 70.1 of the Civil Service Law.

OR

Provisional Pending Examination OR individuals with current 55b/c status who meet the postings specific qualifications.

Duties:

- Assist, advise, and advocate for veterans as well as their families and survivors on a variety of topics and concerns relating to their rights and benefits. Topics include but are not limited to educational training, military law, employment and reemployment, health, medical and rehabilitation services and facilities, and the provisions of laws relating to veterans' rights and privileges.
- Perform other duties and special projects as required.
- Provide services for Veteran Outreach Programs which may include nights, weekends, and holidays.
- Travel is required (approximately 50%), including evening and weekends, depending on mission and assignment.

[New York State Division of Veterans' Services Job Posting](#)

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



Open Competitive Exams

Auto Body Worker: Auto Body Workers, perform required body repair or vehicle modification involving the refurbishing, replacement, disassembling or welding of sectional metal parts of vehicles such as trucks, autos, scooters, buses and other motor vehicles.

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.

Traffic Enforcement Agent: At Assignment Level I, under supervision, Traffic Enforcement Agents patrol an assigned area in order to enforce laws, rules and regulations relating to movement, parking, stopping and standing of vehicles. They prepare and issue paper and electronic summonses for violations; prepare and issue summonses to vehicles and motorists; testify at administrative hearing offices and court; report inoperative or missing parking meters and traffic conditions requiring attention; prepare required reports; operate a motor vehicle; operate portable and vehicle radios and other electronic equipment; and perform related work.

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

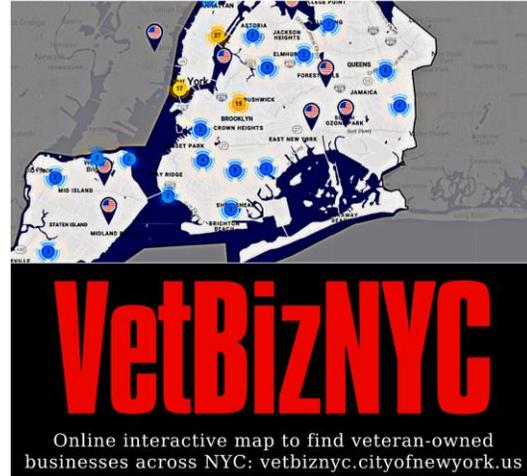


The primary mission of the [VBLA](#) is to serve Veterans seeking support and assistance with running a business and in their pursuit of New York City Government contracting opportunities. Our leadership association engages with the private sector, government, advisory board, and local partners to build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

facilitates the growth and development of Veteran Businesses.

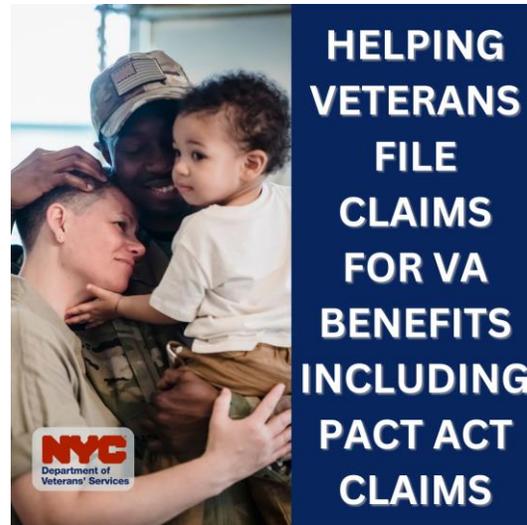
VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship

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.