

## DVS Celebrates Women's "Herstory" Month: A Statement from Deputy Commissioner Glenda Garcia



March is recognized as Women's History Month although Women's "Herstory" Month seems to be the more accurate moniker. During this month we take the time to recognize, examine and renew our commitment to equality and equity. Time and time again, women have been at the forefront of change in this nation, met by the resounding chorus of "no, you can't," they have continued to persevere. Words fail to accurately capture their legacy of perseverance in the face of threats to their personhood, their right to fully participate as citizens, their bodily autonomy and more. This holds even more true when we look at the minority of women who raised their right hand and donned a military uniform in defense of this nation at any cost. To fully understand the role of women in shaping this great nation, both in-and-out of uniform is to be filled with inspiration, humility and pride. Throughout the United States' existence—and beyond—women have answered the call to serve even when our nation denied them the fundamental and necessary rights for their participation. As a country, we are propelled forward by heroines with the drive to take their destiny and the destiny of this country into their own hands.

Take for example the fact that women were not legally permitted to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces in a number of official capacities until 1948, when the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was passed. In defiance of slow-moving tides of change, women have served in some capacity since the Revolutionary war, at times going to great lengths to hide their gender. The story of Cathay Williams

comes to mind, the First African-American woman to enlist in the Army and the only female member of the Buffalo Soldiers. Cathay joined at a time when women were not yet allowed to serve in uniform. A former slave, Williams found her connection to the military in the early days of the Civil War—when the Union Army occupied Jefferson City, Missouri in 1861. She would enlist in the Army 5 years later to guarantee her independence. Cathay joined under a false name—Williams Cathay—posing as a man. She served under that pseudonym until she was discharged—after her true sex was discovered because of ongoing illnesses.

Moving ahead to present day, it is apparent how stories like the one above shape and undergird today's heroines. It is that determination, repeated again and again throughout history, which inspires women like Air Force Captain StarEagle. Coming from Brooklyn and Long Island's Matinecock Tribe, Captain Haida StarEagle is the United States Space Force's first Female Native American Intel Officer. Capt. StarEagle joined the Air Force with aspirations to become an astronaut and is making her dreams a reality. Inspired by her tribe and community to leave a legacy that she is proud of, she will become eligible for NASA's astronaut program once she completes her master's degree.

These phenomenal stories are not isolated incidents or one-off anecdotes but par for the course and must be shared again and again. Women like Deborah Sampson, Harriet Tubman, Susie Baker King Taylor, Army Nurse Captain Eleanor Yorke, the Black nurses of the American Red Cross who served during WWI, WAAC (Women's Auxiliary Army Corps), Members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the first women combat fighter pilots—Air Force Major General Jeannie Levitt and Navy Captain Rosemary Mariner—are instrumental in understanding the trajectory of America. Today, women make up 17.3% of the active-duty force and 10% of all Veterans. Their legacy of selfless-service in the face of societal adversity is why we are able to celebrate Women's "Herstory" Month. We celebrate to inspire, reflect, and lift-up those voices to the forefront of the national dialogue, so that all can flourish.

**Happy Women's "Herstory" Month!**

Glenda V. Garcia

## VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program



VA awards grants to qualifying organizations to plan, develop, manage, and implement programs to provide adaptive sports, provider training, and other opportunities for Veterans and members of the Armed Forces with disabilities. This year there are two separate notices of funding availability. One specifically for adaptive sports VA-SPORTS-23 and a second specifically for equine therapy VA-EQUINE-23.

The Adaptive Sports Grant Program is facilitated and managed by the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events Office (NVSP&SE).

The mission of the NVSP&SE office is to provide opportunities for Veterans to improve their independence, well-being, and quality of life through adaptive sports and therapeutic arts programs.

- **Eligibility** - An organization must be a **non-federal entity** with significant experience in managing a large-scale adaptive sports program and fit one of the criteria below:
  - Affiliated with a National Paralympic Committee or a National Governing Body authorized to provide Paralympic sports.

- An adaptive sports program of a National Governing Body that meets additional requirements, or
- An adaptive sports program in which at least 50 persons with disabilities participate or the eligible participants reside in at least five different congressional districts.
- **How to apply?**
  - All applications must be submitted at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Search for Funding Opportunity Number **VA-SPORTS-23** or **VA-EQUINE-23**.
  - **DEADLINE** to apply is **April 11, 2022, 3 p.m. ET**
- **Required Forms**
  - [VA Form 10096 Adaptive Sports Grant Application](#)
  - [VA Form 10091 FSC Vendor File Request Form](#)

For more information about the application process and FAQ, please visit the VA Adaptive Sports and Arts page [here](#).

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## Vet Center Scholarship Program



The Department of Veterans Affairs announced it will establish a Vet Center Scholarship Program to assist individuals pursuing graduate degrees in psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy, or mental health counseling.

On Nov 21, 2022, VA posted a final rule for public inspection in the Federal Register (86 FR 81094) to create this scholarship program. The rule originates

from the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 which created the scholarship program as an incentive to train more individuals in psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy or mental health counseling.

### **What to expect**

VA expects scholarship applications to be **available by March 2023**, and provide funding to cover up to two years of graduate studies for individuals pursuing these degrees. Recipients will be selected and their scholarships **awarded by the end of April 2023**. Upon completion of their degrees, these mental health professionals will then serve full time for a period of six years at one of VA's 300 Vet Centers across the country, specifically, in underserved areas and in states with a per-capita population of more than 5% Veterans.

### **Application process**

The application process is currently being developed and will be posted on the program's page when available. Please visit the [VA Scholarship Program page](#) for all updates and additional information.

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### **What are Vet Centers?**

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional counseling to eligible Veterans, service members, including National Guard and Reserve components and their families. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma. In Fiscal Year 2022, 286,907 Veterans, service members (including members of the National Guard and Reserves) and their families received counseling at VA's 300 Vet Centers, totaling nearly 1.34 million visits and outreach contacts.

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## **New York City Vet Center Locations**

### **Manhattan Vet Center**

519 8th Ave  
Suite 2401  
New York, NY 10018  
Phone: (212) 951-6866  
[Directions \(Google Maps\)](#)

**Harlem Vet Center**  
2279 3rd Avenue  
2nd Floor  
New York, NY 10035-2249  
Phone: (646) 273-8139  
[Directions \(Google Maps\)](#)

**Bronx Vet Center**  
2471 Morris Avenue  
Suite 1A  
Bronx, NY 10468-5450  
Phone: (718) 367-3500  
[Directions \(Google Maps\)](#)

**Brooklyn Vet Center**  
25 Chapel Street  
Suite 604  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1954  
Phone: (718) 630-2830  
[Directions \(Google Maps\)](#)

**Staten Island Vet Center**  
60 Bay Street  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
Phone: (718) 816-4499  
[Directions \(Google Maps\)](#)

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## VETERAN NEWS

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**VIDEO: Older Black Veterans battle for GI education, housing, compensation and disability payments**

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Feb. 27, 2023

NBC News NOW | Lucy Bustamante

Black Veterans of wars in the last century say they failed to receive benefits they were owed due to systemic racism, lack of outreach and other availability issues. NBC News takes a look at where the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress stand on righting these wrongs. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

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### **More Veteran-related Headlines**

**Military.com:** [All Combat-Injured Vets Would Keep Their Full Retirement, Disability Pay Under Proposal](#)

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**Syracuse.com:** [New York, let's prioritize cannabis licensing for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses \(guest column\)](#)

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SILive.com: [Pete Alonso, Mets welcome one cool pup to spring training in hopes of saving military veterans](#)

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Military Times: [Lawmakers eye caps on attorney fees for Camp Lejeune suits](#)

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Times Union: [‘Healed with the right help’: Veterans courts expand upstate](#)

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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 write-up describing your piece and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

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**War Dreamer and Veteran Voices  
Presented By:  
Loading Dock Theaters & Poetic Theater Productions**



Poetic Theater Productions' Veteran Voices program is partnering with Loading Dock Theaters and the team behind the play *War Dreamer* to present two special showcases featuring military Veterans and family members of Veterans to share reflections on the military experience, reintegration into civilian life, and hope for the future. The poetry will run alongside performances of *War Dreamer* at 3:00 PM on March 11th and 25th at The Wild Project 195 E 3rd St. Manhattan.

**Complimentary tickets** are available for current Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. For reservations, please send an email to [loadingdocktheatre@gmail.com](mailto:loadingdocktheatre@gmail.com) including your name, the performance date you wish to attend, and the number of tickets needed.

[Learn More About Poetic Theater Productions' Veteran Voices](#)

[Learn More About Loading Dock Theaters' 'War Dreamer'](#)

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**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](mailto:DVSDwyer@veterans.nyc.gov) no later than March 24, 2023. For more information visit [nyc.gov/vetdwyer](http://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](mailto:dvsdwyer@veterans.nyc.gov) ahead of the information session.

Responses to the Dwyer Support Fund RFI should be submitted in PASSPort or by email at [DVSDwyer@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto: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 DVS will share a short update about 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)!*

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## 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](mailto: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**

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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](https://www.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](#)

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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**

**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.

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.

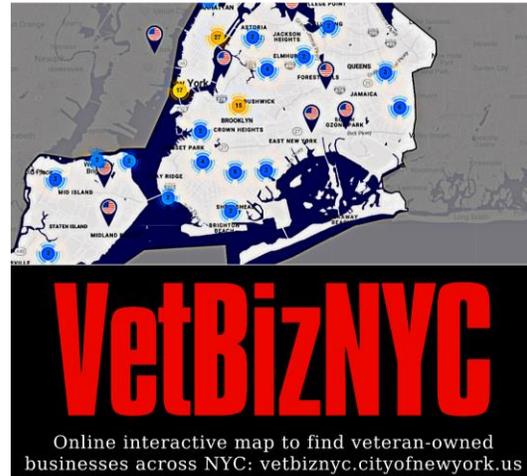
### **Empowering Veteran Business Owners**



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.

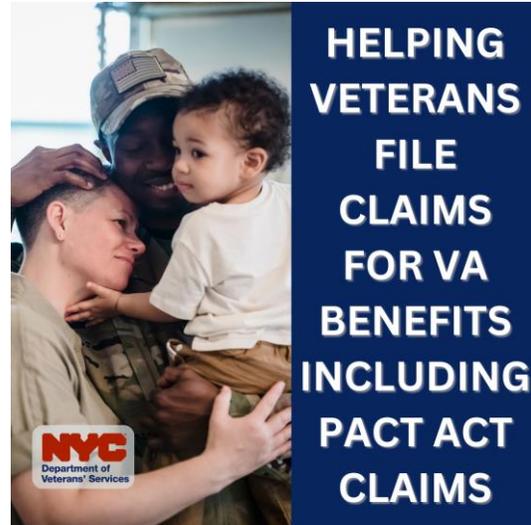
### **VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship**

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](https://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).