

DVS Observes Mental Health Awareness Month: A Statement from Commissioner James Hendon



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to address the ever-pressing issue of mental health, especially among our military and veteran community. It is disheartening to note that nearly one in five veterans experiences a mental health condition, with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression being the most publicized. These conditions not only impact individuals directly, but also have a profound effect on their families and communities.

Furthermore, it is critical to acknowledge that the suicide rate among veterans is significantly higher than that of the general population. Since 9/11, four times as many U.S. service members and veterans have died by suicide than have been killed in combat. A somber reminder that we must act urgently to provide comprehensive mental health services, including access to counseling, therapy, and specialized care tailored to their unique needs.

While progress has been made, there is still much more to be done. We must intensify our efforts to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and improve mental health services for our military and veterans. It is vital that we address the underlying issues contributing to mental health challenges, such as the impact of combat-related trauma, multiple deployments, and the challenges of transitioning from military to civilian life.

As we observe Mental Health Awareness Month, let us confront these sobering statistics

head-on. We must advocate for increased funding for mental health research, treatment, and prevention programs. By working together, we can dismantle the stigma surrounding mental health and ensure that our military and veterans receive the quality care and support they deserve to lead fulfilling and healthy lives.

Be safe & stay well this Mental Health Awareness Month!



James Hendon
Commissioner
NYC Department of Veterans' Services

**Be prepared.
Save the number.
Dial 988 then Press 1**



Fleet Week New York 2023



Tour the Ships! Manhattan

Thursday, May 25 - Monday, May 29
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



USCGC Warren Deyampert
(WPC-1151)
Intrepid Pier
May 25-26



USNA Yard Patrol
Intrepid Pier



USS Wasp (LHD-1)
Pier 88

NATO ships open for tours!
NO TOURS IN MANHATTAN ON SUNDAY

Tour the Ships! Homeport Pier, Staten Island

Thursday, May 25 - Monday, May 29
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



USNS Newport
(T-EPF-12)



USS Oak Hill
(LSD-51)



USCGC Warran Deyampert
(WPC-1151)
May 27-29

For the latest information on all FWNY events check out the link below, "Like" FleetWeekNewYork on Facebook, and "Follow" @FleetWeekNYC on Twitter and Instagram.

Fleet Week New York 2023

**FRANCHISING 101: VETERAN OPPORTUNITIES IN
FRANCHISING**



careers
businesses
neighborhoods



FROM HONOR
TO OWNER

FRANCHISING 101: VETERAN OPPORTUNITIES IN FRANCHISING

When:

May 31, 2023
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

11:30 - arrival
11:45 - lunch
12:30 - program

Where:

NYC Small Business Services
One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor
Conference Room
New York, NY 10006



- **Ralph Yarusso**,
Air Force Veteran,
VetFran Chair,
President, Atticus
Franchise Consulting

"VetFran fills an incredible need by offering a pathway for transitioning service members, veterans and their spouses to help them continue to pursue a fulfilling career post Military service in the franchise community."

Join fellow Veterans for a presentation on franchise business ownership opportunities and special incentives and discounts for U.S. Veterans presented by the International Franchise Association Foundation VetFran program in partnership with the New York City Department of Veterans' Services and New York City Small Business Services. The presentation will deliver information about Franchising, how to assess a franchise brand, seek financing, and set yourself up for business success.

The IFA Foundation VetFran program educates and engages Veterans and franchisors about the unique match between the skills and aptitudes of entrepreneurial veterans and the opportunity of franchising. Although veterans make up only 7% of the U.S. population, they account for 14% of all U.S. franchisees. Veterans are also more likely to hire other veterans and spread the opportunity of franchising to other transitioning service members.

The IFA Foundation VetFran program works daily to advance franchise brands that have a veteran-focused program while also expanding program service offerings to link military-connected families with high quality jobs and

RSVP BY MAY 26!
bit.ly/NYC-Veteran



IFA FOUNDATION
EDUCATION. RESEARCH. IMPACT.

RSVP BY MAY 26th!!!

SAGE: Old and Bold SERVICES FOR ALL



Old and Bold: Services for All is a campaign launched by SAGE to ensure that LGBTQ+ and HIV-positive older people nationwide are able to access welcoming aging services and support regardless of where they live.

Did you know?

- LGBTQ+ elders are 2x more likely to live alone and 4x less likely to have children than their heterosexual, cisgender peers. This makes it more difficult to age successfully in their homes and communities.
- A national survey in 2015 reported that 65% of older transgender respondents felt that they would have limited access to care as they age, and 55% feared that they would be denied medical treatment.
- 70% of LGBTQ+ older people fear having to “re-closet” themselves when seeking elder housing.
- 53% of LGBTQ+ elders report feeling isolated from others.
- 41% of LGBTQ+ older people report having a disability, compared to 35% of heterosexual older people.
- 50% of all Americans living with HIV are over 50 years old.

The Mission

The goal is to build a world where LGBTQ+ people can age with dignity and respect. A world where without fear, they can access services like meal assistance, senior center programs, health and wellness promotions, caregiver support, benefits enrollment, transportation, or any other aging service.

SAGE USA, SAGE Serves & SAGE Vets

[SAGE](#) is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ older people. Founded in 1978 and headquartered in New York City, SAGE is a national organization that offers supportive services and consumer resources to LGBTQ+ older people and their caregivers.

[SAGE Serves](#) creates ever-growing opportunities to serve our community's older people and support their unique needs. We do this through direct services at our five SAGE Centers and care management programs in New York City, programs designed to support LGBTQ+ elders across New York State, and programs designed for LGBTQ+ elders in Southern Florida.

[SAGE Vets](#) is a statewide program to help LGBTQ+ Veterans in New York State who are age 50 and older improve their access to the VA and other Veteran services, as well as support their overall health and wellness.

[Learn More About SAGE USA](#)

Big Apple TAP: New York Mets Military Transition Summit in Partnership with NYC DVS



New York Mets Military Transition Summit

 Saturday | June 24, 2023

 CitiField | 41 Seaver Way, Queens, NY 11368

 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Theme: "Tools & Resources for Hacking Your Transition"

The session will feature breakout rooms and discussion panels on the following topics:

- Navigating NYC
- NYC Community and Resources
- Financial Security
- Career and Education Networking
- Entrepreneurship
- Resources for Women Veterans
- Job Preparation
- Housing
- Health and Emotional Wellness

Lunch & refreshments will be provided, along with a chance to meet Mr. & Mrs. Met, a tour of Citi field, giveaways, and more.

Scan the QR Code above to register! Space is limited! RSVP to secure your spot! Admission will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis!

About the NYC DVS Big Apple TAP Initiative

The New York City Department of Veterans' Services now offers a Transition Assistance Program for recently separated service members and any Veteran interested in calling the Big Apple their home. This information session will serve as an introduction to our agency and highlight how we can serve as a resource for you and your loved ones during your transition and beyond. The information you receive during this session will help you take advantage of the benefits you earned while in uniform as well as get you acclimated to life in New York City.

This is not your “run-of-the-mill” Transition Assistance Program—this is Big Apple TAP—designed for the select few who are interested in settling down in New York City. At your last duty station, you were told about a suite of programs and services at the federal and state level as a part of your out-processing, but what about at the city level? Lucky for you, New York City has an agency dedicated to providing you and your family with information about the many programs and services unique to the Big Apple. Whether you plan to stay for a few years or a lifetime, we can help ease your landing!

To learn more about NYC DVS's Transition Assistance Program and to stay up-to-date with future sessions, [CLICK HERE](#).

Register for the New York Mets Military Transition Summit

VETERAN NEWS

PGA Hope uses golf to lift veterans, military communities



BY JUSTIN WILLIAMS

MAY 17, 2023 | CBS SAN FRANCISCO

A group of Bay Area military veterans this week got to show off their golf skills on the national stage thanks to PGA Hope, an organization that aims to do so much more than introduce the game to our nation's heroes.

They veterans represented PGA Hope's Northern California chapter at the annual Secretary's Cup Monday at Penfield Country Club in Western New York, just a 15-minute commute from where the 2023 PGA Championship will be held at Oak Hill Country Club.

The charitable organization was founded by the PGA of America to positively impact the physical, mental and emotional wellness of veterans by introducing them to the game of golf. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

[More Veteran-related Headlines](#)

Military Times: [Hoax alert: tale of homeless vets booted because of immigrants false](#)

Bloomberg: [NYC Guaranteed Income Program Goes From Pilot to Permanent](#)

VA News: [VA now working with 1,000+ community-based coalitions to end Veteran suicide](#)

CNN Health: [Veterans exposed to chemical at Camp Lejeune faced a 70% higher Parkinson's risk, study says](#)

Fox News: ['Do you know these WWII veterans?': Missouri historical society asks for help in identifying unnamed heroes](#)

AmeriCorps/NYC VISTA Program



What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities.

What is AmeriCorps Vista?

VISTA members serve at New York City government agencies (known as host sites) full-time from **July 31, 2023 to August 2, 2024** to address critical city issues related to poverty by engaging in capacity-building work. Capacity building refers to tasks and activities that create, expand or strengthen the systems and processes that help an organization carry out its anti-poverty work. These tasks and activities include the transfer of knowledge/skills, products, and relationships.

For more info about AmeriCorps VISTA, visit [here!](#)

DVS VISTA Job Opening:

The **NYC Veterans Support VISTA Member** will manage the DVS/ NYC Cares Mission: VetCheck program. The program connects Veterans to fellow New Yorkers through supportive check in calls. The VISTA Member will manage a robust volunteer effort where trained volunteers provide information on essential public services and other resources to Veterans.

For more info on DVS's job, visit our posting [here!](#)

Who is eligible?

- Must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States
- Have successfully obtained a High School diploma or its equivalent prior to the start of the program
- Agree to and pass a criminal background check
- Ability to serve full time for the program term (generally M-F 9AM - 5PM)

How to apply:

To apply, create an [AmeriCorps account](#) and select apply now on our [job listing](#).

To learn more about **NYC Service**, visit their website [here](#).

To learn more about benefits of working for **AmeriCorps** visit their website [here](#).

Memorial Day Weekend Flag Planting at Cypress Hills National Cemetery



Remember the Wreath Laying we did in December at Cypress Hills? On May 27th, for Memorial Day weekend, we'll be honoring our Veterans by planting flags at their graves. There are over 27,000 Veterans buried at [Cypress Hills National Cemetery](#) and we will be sure to honor every last one, so no hero is left behind.

 **Saturday, May 27, 2023 (rain or shine)**

 **9am Start**

 **Cypress Hills National Cemetery**

625 Jamaica Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11208

Things to Consider:

- Wear comfortable clothing and dress accordingly for the weather.
- We suggest you wear gloves as the flags are on wooden poles and can give you splinters as you insert the flags into the ground.
- Feel free to bring little carts or backpacks to carry as many flag bundles as possible.
- **Bring water/hydration.**

For questions or concerns, please reach out to Carlos Varon via email at: lcvaron@gmail.com or by phone at: 718-374-1926



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 with a brief bio, an artist statement, art medium, and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

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)*

DCAS Civil Service Pathways Fellowship



Ready to start your career working for the City of New York? NYC Citywide Administrative Services is accepting applications for their Civil Service Pathways Fellowship. This **two-year program** is designed to create a pipeline from college to a career in civil service.

The **Fellowship** is set to begin in **August 2023** and is subject to the requisite approvals for city agency placement.

Applicants

The Fellowship position for the NYC Department of Veterans' Services highly encourages student Veterans and student Veteran spouses to apply!

How to apply

Fill out DCAS's application [here](#)!

If you have any further questions about the program, please reach out to the **Department of Citywide Administrative Services** ([DCAS](#)).

For questions about the prospective role at DVS, please reach out to **Assistant Commissioner of Operations & Administrative Services**, [Jason Parker](#).

May 2023 - Citywide Hiring Events



Saturday, May 20, 2023

Event: NYC Government Hiring Hall

Location: Manhattan – 31 Chambers Street

Time: 9 AM – 4 PM

Featured titles: Engineering titles, Inspector titles, Maintenance Worker, Assistant City Highway Repairer, Apprentice (Construction Laborer), Case Manager, Eligibility Specialist, Job Opportunity Specialist, Clerical Associate, and community titles

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Event: NYC Government Hiring Hall

Location: TBD

Time: 9 AM – 4 PM

Featured titles: TBD

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.

Manager of Claims - The Community Services Unit works to close gaps and empower New York City Veterans’ and their families through the proper connection to resources and support offered through our VetConnectNYC program. The Manager of Claims will be expected to manage claims processes including intake, preparation and filing of claims for a broad spectrum of federal, state, local, and private Veterans’ benefits, such as for Disability Compensation, Non-service Connected Pension, and other benefits.

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](#)

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



Open Competitive Exams

Correction Officer - Correction Officers, under supervision, maintain security and are responsible for the care, custody, control, job training and work performance of sentenced and detained inmates within New York City correctional facilities. They supervise inmate meals, visits, recreational programs, and other congregate activities; inspect assigned areas for conditions which threaten safety and security; conduct searches in order to detect contraband; complete forms and reports; maintain appropriate log books; communicate with other area Correction Officers to exchange pertinent information; issue verbal orders, announcements and explanations to inmates; observe inmates and make recommendations concerning medical and/or psychiatric referrals; safeguard Department supplies and equipment; escort inmates within and outside of the facility including their transportation in Departmental vehicles; respond to unusual incidents and disturbances; enforce security procedures in accordance with Department guidelines; request medical assistance for inmates when necessary; count and verify the number of inmates present in assigned areas; verify identification of inmates; supervise inmates of either sex; and operate a motor vehicle.

Administrative Procurement Analyst - Administrative Procurement Analysts perform one or more of the following or similar assignments: supervise a procurement unit or program of some size or complexity within an agency involving the acquisition of goods, services, and construction; prepare overall work schedules and coordinate workflow. Administrative Procurement Analysts oversee and manage pre-solicitation review activities; evaluate solicitation documents and work with program/user personnel to ensure that user needs are satisfied in a timely, cost effective manner, and that technical specifications are in compliance with applicable regulations and are clearly understood by vendors and contractors; review and approve contract specifications before advertising to ensure conformity to the agency's requirements and federal/state/city mandates; review submissions and/or draft recommendations for contract awards, modifications, various procurement documents, and extensions of time on contracts; supervise the review of specifications by users in order to determine the most cost effective way of obtaining the required items; review work of subordinates for effectiveness, efficiency and compliance with established rules and guidelines; consult with and advise the Agency Chief Contracting Officer (ACCO) and other superiors on contracting and procurement policies; confer with, consult and advise department heads on problems relating to the procurement of goods, services, and construction; make recommendations pertaining to vendor responsibility decisions, vendor performance, product performance, and vendor integrity.

School Safety Agent - School Safety Agents patrol designated areas of school buildings and surrounding areas; identify and prevent infiltration of unlawful or prohibited items through scanning; give routine information to visitors and direct them to the proper personnel and offices; request identification of, and remove from the premises, any unauthorized persons; aid sick and injured persons and call for medical, police or fire assistance, when needed; notify supervisors of all emergency incidents and complete any related documentation; respond to altercations between students and other persons, and attempt to separate the involved persons and resolve conflicts; maintain records of persons entering and leaving buildings; monitor security camera systems to ensure facility entrances are secure; identify persons violating Department of Education Rules and Regulations; apprehend persons violating the Penal Law and notify the proper administrative personnel; prepare reports and testify in regard to these violations at Superintendent's or Principal's hearings and/or in court; monitor and use radios to request assistance from co-workers; may operate motor vehicles; 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.