

## Happy Thanksgiving!



Happy Thanksgiving from everyone at Team DVS! We wish you and your family a holiday filled with gratitude, good times, and of course great food!

This time of the year is great for coming together and sharing memorable experiences. But for those unable to spend time with their loved ones for any number of reasons, the holidays can be challenging. You may find yourself experiencing feelings of loneliness and even deep sadness.

In the spirit of the holidays, if you're able, call or reach out to someone you haven't talked to in awhile--maybe it's a childhood friend, or someone you met while serving in the military. Whoever they are, the feeling of being cared for, despite significant time passing, may be the spark needed to make the holidays a little brighter.

And as always, if you or a loved one are experiencing a mental health crisis the [Veteran Crisis Line](#) can help. Dial 988 and press 1, or text 838255 to be connected to professional and confidential support.



The Veterans Crisis Line is available for all Veterans and their loved ones.

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## **Relaunch of Mission VetCheck! Sign-up to Volunteer Today!**



It's back! Our program to make sure our community has the most up-to-date information and care is back. And we're looking for volunteers from the Veteran community to help support its return!

Click the **VOLUNTEER** button below to learn how you can connect New York City Veterans to resources in partnership with the New York City Department of Veterans'

Services with [New York Cares](#).

Additionally if you are a veteran enrolled in a college, vocational, or professional training program you may be eligible to participate in Mission: VetCheck as a [DVS VA Work Study](#). If you are interested in applying to be a [Mission: VetCheck Intern](#) and meet eligibility requirements, please submit the following to [VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov):

Or if you would like to receive a check-in call or would like to request a check-in call for someone you know, fill out the [form on our website](#) or click the **REQUEST A CHECK-IN** button below.

Mission: VetCheck is a partnership between New York Cares and DVS that leverages volunteers to make supportive check-in calls to veterans across the city. This vital outreach effort creates a crucial point of connection between Veterans and our community through phone calls that provide resources and information about public services, including free meals, housing resources, employment information, and mental health services. Most importantly, this initiative creates a way for New Yorkers to express their gratitude to our Veterans for their service to our country.

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***Mission: VetCheck should not be used to receive support in the event of a personal emergency or mental health crisis. If you are having thoughts of suicide or hurting others, or experiencing an emotional crisis, please call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room for immediate assistance. You may also call the Veterans' Crisis Line at 988, then press 1, or NYC 988 by calling or texting 988.***

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**Volunteer with Mission: VetCheck**

Request a Check-in with Mission: VetCheck

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## Credentialing and Military Job Translator through DOD COOL



Department of Defense (DOD) Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) is the result of extensive inter-Service collaboration to facilitate credentialing of Service members. All Services recognize the important role that occupational credentials can play in professionalizing the Force and in enhancing the Service member's ability to transition to the civilian workforce upon completion of military service. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard each have their own Service-specific COOL programs designed to match military occupations to civilian credentials (occupational certifications, licenses, and apprenticeships) and provide resources to help Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen attain these credentials. The Services disseminate this information on their own COOL websites. DOD COOL is the umbrella site providing a single point of access to the Services' COOL websites.

In addition, DOD COOL includes the following features:

- DOD Civilian COOL — Built from the same mold as its sister sites, DOD Civilian COOL helps federal civilian employees find detailed information on certifications and licenses related to their federal jobs. They can also use DOD Civilian COOL to get background information on credentialing and related topics.
- Military Occupations Explorer — Learn how military occupations related to each other among the military branches, to civilian occupations and to civilian credentials.

The COOL initiatives began in 2002 when the Army launched the first COOL web site. In 2006, the Army and Navy entered into an agreement to allow for collaboration on COOL for Soldiers and Sailors. The Navy launched its COOL web site in 2006, and the Marine Corps and Air Force joined the COOL Team and launched their own sites in 2014. In 2019, the Coast Guard and DOD Civilian sites completed the COOL team.

The collaboration among the Services in implementing their COOL programs is in keeping with Department of Defense guidance to the Services to realize potential future savings and attain greater efficiency and effectiveness by combining joint functionality.

[Learn more about DOD COOL](#)

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**VFW Unmet Needs Program**



The VFW understands the challenges that our active-duty service members (to include activated Guard/Reserve members) and their families can face, and they believe that experiencing financial difficulties should not be one of them. That's the premise behind the VFW's **Unmet Needs** program.

Unmet Needs is here to help America's active-duty service members (to include activated Guard/Reserve members) and their families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties because of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The program provides financial assistance up to \$2,500 to assist daily necessities in the form of a grant – not a loan – so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, they pay the creditor(s) directly.

The needs of our active-duty service members (to include activated Guard/Reserve members) and their families should never go unmet. Let VFW offer you a hand-up when you need it!

### **What does the Unmet Needs Program do?**

- Unmet Needs provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active duty service members and their immediate families to assist with daily necessities.

### **Who is eligible to receive assistance?**

Service members who are currently serving on active duty (to include activated

Guard/Reserve members) whose financial hardship is a direct result of one of the following:

- A current deployment.
- Military pay error at no fault of the service member.
- Currently pending a medical discharge due to service-connected injuries/illnesses received while on active duty.

**Who is not eligible to receive assistance?**

Anyone who has not served in the military, or the financial hardship is caused by one of the following:

- Misconduct.
- Civilian, legal, or domestic issues.
- Issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
- Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

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**Unmet Needs Eligibility Criteria**

**Unmet Needs Application**

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**Second Round of Veterans Non-Profit Capital Program**



The Veterans Nonprofit Capital Grant Program overseen by the New York State Department of Veterans' Services and administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, is a vital initiative dedicated to enhancing and enabling critical upgrades to the facilities of veterans organizations across the state. Following a successful first round with over \$2.5 million distributed, an additional \$2.4 million will be available through a second round of applications.

In this second round of funding, which will open for applications on **November 29, 2023**, selected organizations will receive reimbursement for costs related to capital improvements, with awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$75,000. This invaluable support will enable these organizations to make critical upgrades, including new roofs, ADA-compliant enhancements, and renovations to common areas and kitchens.

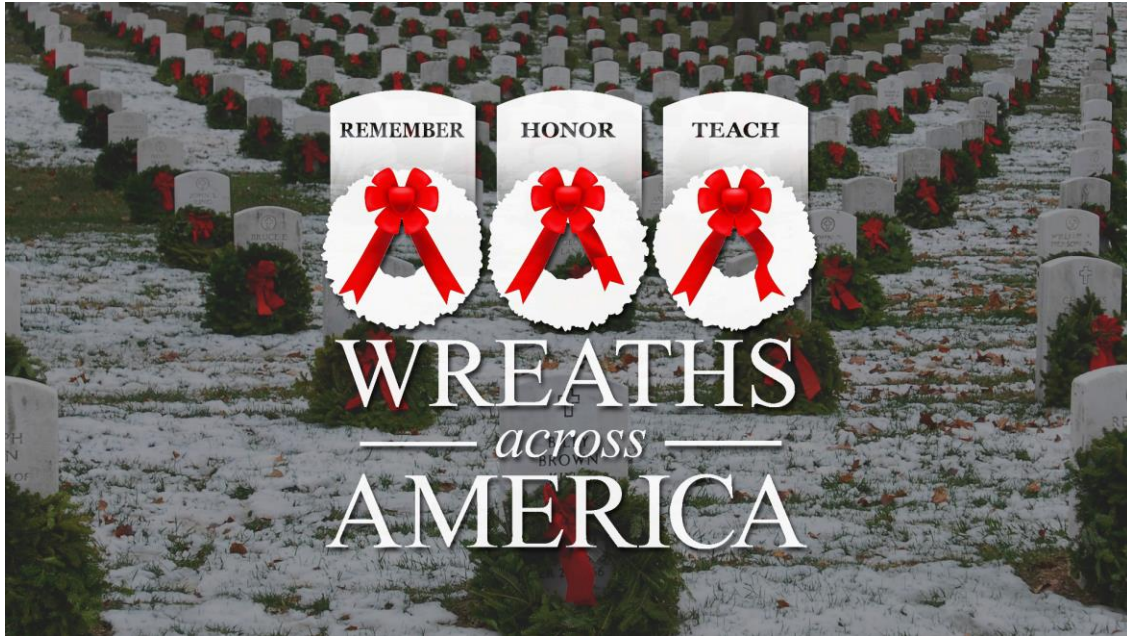
A live presentation to provide interested organizations with information about how to prepare to apply for this funding opportunity was held on Friday, November 17 at 12:00 PM. A recording of the presentation has been made available on the DVS website.

[NYS DVS Homepage](#)

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## Wreaths Across America: Cypress Hills National Cemetery (NYCHNB)



On **December 16, 2022 at 12:00 pm**, Wreaths Across America will be at [Cypress Hills National Cemetery](#) to Remember and Honor Veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

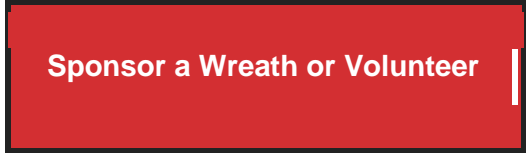
If you are interested in participating as a sponsor or would like to volunteer in the wreath laying ceremony at [Cypress Hills National Cemetery](#), click on the "Sponsor a Wreath or Volunteer" button below or visit [Wreaths Across America](#) for more information about the mission.

***What does it mean to sponsor a wreath?*** It means you'll honor an American hero at one of more than 2,800 locations nationwide this year on Wreaths Across America Day. Your sponsorship will ensure that a wreath is hand-crafted of all-American balsam and hand-tied with a red velvet bow here in Columbia Falls, Maine. It will then be sent to one of our participating locations, where a volunteer will place it on the marker of a fallen hero. That volunteer will then "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten.

***What does it mean to volunteer?*** It means you'll honor an American hero by placing a wreath on the marker of a fallen hero. You will then "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten.

**History of Cypress Hills National Cemetery:**

Cypress Hills National Cemetery, established in 1862, holds the distinction of being the first and largest national cemetery in New York City. Stretching 18 acres, it is the final resting place for some 27,000 individuals, spanning from the American Revolution to the Vietnam War. Among those interred are 24 Medal of Honor recipients, including three who received the honor twice. Last year's wreath-laying ceremony saw the placement of 6,048 wreaths, honoring the legacy and sacrifice of those interred there.



**VETERAN NEWS**



**VA halts foreclosures for thousands of veterans about to needlessly lose their homes**



By [Chris Arnold](#), [Quil Lawrence](#)

Thursday, Nov. 17, 2023

The Department of Veterans Affairs is halting foreclosures for 6 months for veterans and servicemembers who have VA Loans.

The move follows an [investigation by NPR](#) that found thousands of veterans who took what's called a COVID forbearance are now at risk of losing their homes through no fault of their own.

"Helping Veterans and their families stay in their homes is a top priority at VA," said VA Press Secretary Terrence Hayes in a statement. "We are calling on mortgage servicers to pause foreclosures of VA-guaranteed loans through May 31, 2024."

The forbearance program was set up by Congress after the pandemic hit in order to let people who suffered a loss of income skip mortgage payments for six or 12 months, and then have an affordable way to start paying their mortgage again.

But in October 2022, the VA ended the part of the program that allowed

homeowners an affordable way to get current on their loans again, which has left many veterans facing foreclosure. The VA has a new program to replace it, but says it will take four or five months to implement. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

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## **More Veteran-related Headlines**

LIC Post: [Community for a Cause raising funds for Borden Avenue Veterans Residence in Long Island City this holiday season](#)

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NYT: [V.A. Recruits Millionth Veteran for Its Genetic Research Database](#)

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CBS News: [U.S. military veterans turn to psychedelics in Mexico for PTSD treatment](#)

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VA | News: [VA and ETS-SP partnership enhances transition experience](#)

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American Legion: [Hollywood veterans inspire others into film industry](#)

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## **A Message From Mayor Adams:**

*Each week DVS shares a brief update about how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.*

We're investing in our young people at every stage of their development, because we know that they are our future. Just last week, we announced that every New Yorker, between ages 13 and 17, will have free access to tele-mental health services, so they can be their best. And here at DVS, we're connecting families to *Our Military Kids* which offers grants to children of **deployed and stateside activated National Guard and Reserve** service members, as well as those of **combat-injured Veterans** from any

service branch, to grants to help pay for extra curricular activities to help our young 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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[Mayor Adams, Governor Hochul Release Details for First-of-its-Kind Job and Education Hub for Growing Health Sector](#)

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[Mayor Adams Appoints Jeffrey Garcia as Office of Nightlife Executive Director, Signs Bills to Bolster Nightlife Industry](#)

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[Mayor Adams, Governor Hochul Announce Initial \\$95 Million in Emergency Rental Assistance for NYCHA Residents](#)

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

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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.

**Site Reliability Engineer** - The Site Reliability Engineer will play a key role for DVS Information Technology (IT) Team and report directly to the Chief Information Officer. This position will support and develop the agency’s core business applications while providing secured network connectivity, asset management, and technical support for a highly mobile team.

## **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**



**Emergency Medical Specialist-EMT (Fire)** - EMTs, under general supervision, perform tasks such as the following: provide timely, professional pre-hospital emergency medical care/Basic Life Support (BLS) to anyone who requests/requires it; provide transportation to the appropriate medical facility; operate department vehicles; receive, prioritize and dispatch calls for emergency medical assistance; and provide patient care under the authorization of the Medical Director. To read more, visit the posting [here!](#)

**Supervisor of Stock Workers (CUNY)** - Supervisors of Stock Workers (CUNY) perform supervisory work of varying degrees of difficulty with regard to the operation of a storehouse, storage unit, stores division or a section thereof.t. To read more, visit the posting [here!](#)

**Special Officer (NYC H+H)** - Special Officers (NYC H+H), under supervision, perform Special Officer (NYC H+H) work of ordinary difficulty and responsibility relating to physical security, safety, loss prevention and maintenance of order. To read more, visit the posting [here!](#)

To view more job listings, visit the exam board [here!](#)

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](http://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).

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