

## VA News: Veterans in Crisis Can Visit Any VA or Non-VA Health Facility for Free Emergency Care



As of January 17th, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis can visit VA or non-VA health care facilities for emergency health care at no cost. This includes inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in VA healthcare to use this benefit.

"Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve - no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they're enrolled in VA care," said **VA Secretary for Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough**. "This expansion of care will save Veterans' lives, and there's nothing more important than that."

[Data released by the VA in September](#) shows that for the second year in a row, Veteran suicide declined in 2020 reaching its lowest point since 2006. The VA views this new policy as a major stepping stone for its 10-year [National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide](#).

The policy allows the VA to:

- Provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible individuals' emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at a VA or non-VA facility for up to 30 days of inpatient care and 90 days of outpatient care.

- Make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care.
- Determine eligibility for other VA services and benefits.
- Refer eligible individuals for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the period of emergency suicide care.

If you are a not a Veteran in acute suicidal crisis, but are a Veteran in crisis or concerned about a loved one, please reach out to the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) by dialing **988** and then pressing **1** to connect with a qualified professional. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

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



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## **Attention Veteran Service Organizations and Local Nonprofits the FY2024 City Council Discretionary Funding Period is Now Open**



Every year, members of the City Council allocate discretionary funding to not-for-profit organizations in order to meet local needs and fill gaps in City services. Discretionary funding is a duly appropriated sum of money in the City's expense budget allocated to an eligible not-for-profit organization by the Council or a Member of the Council.

PPB Rule 1-02(e) allows certain elected officials— including Council Members and Borough Presidents (but not the Mayor or City agencies)— to designate specific not-for-profit organizations to receive funding as an alternative to funding programs through competitive procurement.

There are currently six categories of discretionary funding used by the City Council: **Member Local Initiatives, City Council Local Initiatives, Member Aging Discretionary Funds, Member Youth Discretionary Funds, Anti-Poverty Initiative, Citywide Initiatives.**

To be eligible, organizations must be registered with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau (unless exempt) and have a valid Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN). 501(c)(3) organizations are the most common recipients of discretionary funding, however there are numerous 501(c) designated entities that are eligible. For example, War Veterans' Organizations are a 501(c)(19), Civic Leagues and Social Welfare Organizations are a 501(c)(4), and Horticulture Associations are a 501(c)(5).

An organization that receives discretionary funding must itself deliver the services of the funded program. Subcontractors or consultants may not be the primary service providers for programs funded by discretionary awards. In limited circumstances, the Council may permit an organization to utilize the services of subcontractors or consultants as an ancillary/supplemental part of the delivery of services. In addition, subcontractors and consultants must be approved by the contracting agency prior to any work commencing.

**THE DEADLINE FOR FY2024 APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 21, 2023.**

If your organization provides services to Veterans and fits the above eligibility

requirements, we highly encourage you to apply for discretionary funding through the City Council.

[Apply for FY2024 City Council Discretionary Funds](#)

[Click Here for More Information on Discretionary Funding](#)

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## **Join Your Local Community Board and Advocate for NYC Veterans!**



Veterans, active duty service members, military spouses, and Gold Star families must be represented at every level of government. That's why DVS is encouraging members of NYC's Veteran Community to join their [local community board](#)!

Community boards are local representative bodies. There are 59 community boards throughout the City, and each one consists of up to 50 unsalaried members, half of whom are nominated by their district's City Council members. Board members are selected and appointed by the Borough Presidents from among active, involved people of each community and must reside, work, or have some other significant interest in the community.

Each community board is led by a District Manager who establishes an office, hires staff, and implements procedures to improve the delivery of City services to the district. While the main responsibility of the board office is to receive complaints from community residents, they also maintain other duties, such as processing permits for block parties and street fairs. Many boards choose to provide additional services and manage special projects that cater to specific community needs, including organizing tenants associations, coordinating neighborhood cleanup programs, and more.

Community board members also reflect the points of views of their neighbors and advise government officials on how to best serve their local community. In this capacity, Community board members have the following responsibilities:

- Inform elected officials and government agencies on the critical issues of their community
- Ensure that NYC neighborhoods receive the services they need
- Advise the City about the community's budgetary needs
- Recommend initiatives to support an area's growth
- Lead a public discussion on issues that can alter their community

Every community board in NYC should include a member of the Veteran Community to reflect the needs of their peers. This is your opportunity to make your voice heard!

See below for more information, how to apply through the office of your Borough President or Council Member, and the application deadline for each respective borough.

## **Bronx**

[Bronx Community Boards](#)

[Apply through the Bronx Borough President](#)

Apply by contacting your [Council Member](#)

**Deadline: March 4, 2023**

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## **Brooklyn**

[Brooklyn Community Boards](#)

[Apply through the Brooklyn Borough President](#)

Apply by contacting your [Council Member](#)

**Deadline: February 14, 2023**

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**Manhattan**

[Manhattan Community Boards](#)

[Apply through the Manhattan Borough President](#)

Apply by contacting your [Council Member](#)

**Deadline: March 17, 2023**

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**Queens**

[Queens Community Boards](#)

[Apply through the Queens Borough President](#)

Apply by contacting your [Council Member](#)

**Deadline: February 16, 2023**

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**Staten Island**

[Staten Island Community Boards](#)

[Apply through the Staten Island Borough President](#)

Apply by contacting your [Council Member](#)

**No deadline**

**Be a voice for the Veteran Community and apply today!**

[\*\*Click Here for More Information About Community Boards\*\*](#)

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## **The U.S. Census Bureau's "American Community Survey"**

You may have received a letter from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) asking for your participation in the **American Community Survey (ACS)**. The ACS is an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, which provides vital information about our nation's communities. Information from the survey generates data that helps determine how more than \$675 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. If you're a Veteran, active duty service member, military spouse, or Gold Star family member, having your voice heard and counted is not only a service to yourself, but to the entire Veteran Community.

If you have received a letter about the ACS Survey, remember that you can respond by mail, online or in-person interview!

[Learn More About the American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#)

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## **Upcoming Veteran Advisory Board (VAB) Public Sessions**

## NYC VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD PUBLIC SESSIONS



**CALLING ALL VETERANS! YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED TO HONOR THE SERVICE YOU GAVE!  
TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE NYC VETERAN FRIENDLY!**

**Wednesday, February 8th (Manhattan)**

**Wednesday, April 5th (Queens)**

**Wednesday, June 7th (Staten Island)**

**Wednesday, August 9th (Bronx)**

**Wednesday, October 18th (Brooklyn)**

All Sessions begin at 6pm sharp and are hybrid. For those choosing to attend via zoom, follow the link below.

Meeting ID: 861 1325 9398 – Passcode: 355418

**ZOOM Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86113259398?pwd=R1d2dk1BUWpLUVVlOXBsbHo1ZFhRUT09>

All Veterans, their family members and caregivers are encouraged to attend!  
Please use the link below to gain access to the session.

If you are an organization that provides services that can assist NYC Veterans and their families, please contact the VAB to publicly share information about your organization to our veteran audience. If you have a question that you want answered at the public session, please use this **Email:** [nycveteransadvisoryboard@gmail.com](mailto:nycveteransadvisoryboard@gmail.com)

## 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](#)
- [Communications 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](mailto:VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov):

- Resume
- Job Specific Cover Letter
- Supporting Documents found in the Job Description

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**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**

**Deckhand:** Deckhands clean the vessel and/or terminal area; perform lookout and emergency duties of the assigned duty station, such as: launching and manning rescue boats and life rafts, operating firefighting equipment, and assisting in vessel to vessel transfers, under the direction of an Officer; operate boarding doors, gates, aprons and bridges; handle gangways and mooring lines; direct passenger and authorized vehicle traffic, as assigned; patrol deck and assigned duty station and make minor maintenance updates to ensure that all is in a safe and clean condition; assist passengers, as needed; report any suspicious circumstance or

object to an Officer or Ferry Terminal Supervisor; perform heavy manual labor, such as: handling vessel and terminal supplies and trash, loading and unloading freight, and snow and ice removal on vessels, terminals and docks using shovels, snow throwers and utility vehicles; participate in safety meetings, fire and lifeboat drills, steering, propulsion, anchor and abandon ship drills, and SMS and CSP training; and make announcements on vessels and in terminals.

**Forester:** Foresters implement professional forestry plans regarding the selection, planting, pruning, repairing, spraying, removal, and inspection of city trees; collect data for work load planning and computer model simulation of work to be done by contractors for stump removal, tree pruning, tree planting and related urban forestry contracts; serve as borough liaison to central office staff for assigned contract work; prepare detailed specifications of agency forestry contracts; attend preconstruction meetings to discuss contract specifications, schedules and payment procedures; monitor daily progress of agency contractors and prepares daily status reports on agency contract work; report results and recommendations to supervisors; collect statistical data concerning mensuration measurements, silvics indicators, and physiological parameters in order to maintain a complete and accurate borough or citywide tree inventory update; modify micro and macro EDP software programs as required; provide professional support and follow-up on consultancy with private and municipal agencies and private individuals on forestry-related matters; conduct research and provides entomological and pathological surveys required for the development of plans and programs regarding forestry methods, practices and procedures; as a member of a team, participate in the preparation of reports for proposals, analyses and budget requests; may supervise subordinate employees involved in professional forestry activities; operate and maintain technical and professional instruments, kits and tools in the performance of the above mentioned professional research and survey duties; operate motorized equipment and vehicles incidental to the performance of these duties.

**Police Communications Technician:** Police Communications Technicians, working under direct supervision in the Police Department Communications Section, serve as 911 call-takers; obtain necessary information from callers in order to initiate emergency assistance; serve as radio dispatchers of police

resources; view pictures, videos and listen to audio attachments sent via "Text to 911"; and perform clerical, administrative and other duties related to the provision of emergency service.

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.

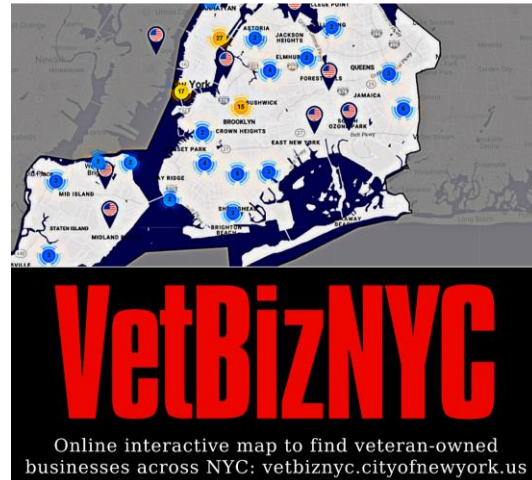
### **Empowering Veteran Business Owners**



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.

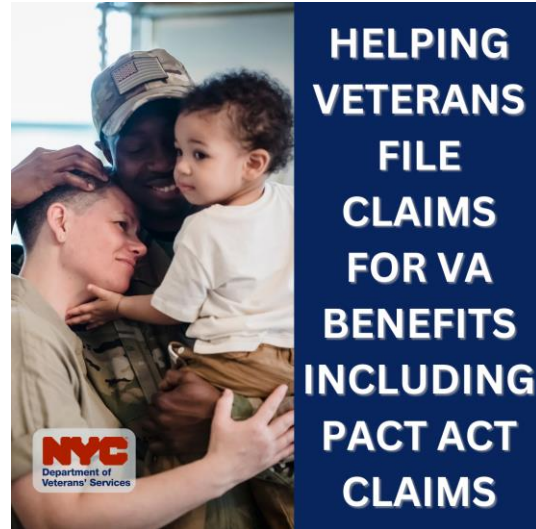
## **VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship**

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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## ***Contact Us***

- Complete the services request form at [vetconnectnyc.org](https://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](https://twitter.com/nycveterans), or via email at [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov).