

## Remembering the Life, Legacy, and Service of Deputy Commissioner Paul Vallone



*"I think this Veterans Committee has reached new heights on this bill and what's going to happen today and tomorrow. And, creating this agency is now going to be a legacy that we can all finally be proud of. I chose to be on this committee envisioning a day like today where being a prime co-sponsor has never felt as special as today...And now, we're going to be able to tell our 200,000 veterans that they have an agency they can call their own...So I proudly vote yes on this."*

*-Paul Vallone, Committee Vote to Establish the Department of Veterans' Services, (Committee on Veterans, November 9, 2015)*

On November 9, 2015, the New York City Council's Committee on Veterans met to introduce a bill that would ultimately establish what we now know as the Department of Veterans' Services – our agency. At that time, Deputy Commissioner Paul Vallone served as Council Member Paul Vallone, representing District 19 in Northeast Queens and being a member of the Committee on Veterans. As indicated in his aforementioned comments, sponsoring the bill that would create DVS was a special moment for him. Suffice it to say, we would not have reached this point as an agency without his guidance and support.

Paul's passing is a profound loss, and it is an understatement to say that the veteran community has lost a true advocate and champion. He deeply understood

what it meant to lead, and we are grateful to have been the beneficiaries of his dedication, commitment, and compassion.

When Paul voted yes to establishing DVS, he voted yes to the beginning of a legacy where this city took care of those who dared to don the uniform and fight for their country. Our hope as an agency is to honor that legacy and serve the veteran community the way then-Council Member Vallone envisioned when he cast that first vote.

Lastly, we wish nothing but love, healing, and serenity for Paul's family. We thank them for giving him to us – "us" being the Veteran community, all of Greater New York City, and beyond.

We thank Paul for consistently putting all people and things ahead of himself. He embodies the phrase "service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around in the world."

Rest in peace.

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## **Emergency Healthcare Expenses Reimbursements**



Last year, the VA created a new one-year “window” during which Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare can apply for reimbursement of emergency medical expenses incurred at non-VA medical facilities **for emergencies that occurred at any time during the past 14 years**.

This VA “window” is open **even for Veterans who were previously denied reimbursement for emergency medical expenses**.

It is likewise open **even if the Veteran never applied for reimbursement for their emergency medical care at a non-VA facility in the past**.

The VA **MUST** receive the application for reimbursement **ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 22, 2024**.

Please include, with [VA Form 10-583](#), a copy of all invoices from the non-VA medical facility for the emergency medical services that the facility provided.

If you need assistance filing a claim or have any questions about the process, please fill out the VetConnect and select Benefits Navigation or email [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov).

[Get Assistance with Your Reimbursement](#)

[File a Request for Reimbursement](#)

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



It's that time of year again! 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](#).

#### **Bronx**

[Application](#)

**Deadline:** March 1, 2024

#### **Brooklyn**

[Application](#)

**Deadline:** February 19, 2024

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#### **Manhattan**

[Application](#)

**Deadline:** February 23, 2024

#### **Queens**

[Application](#)

**Deadline:** February 16, 2024

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#### **Staten Island**

[Application](#)

**Deadline:** No deadline

[Learn More About NYC Community Boards](#) |

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## **FY2025 City Council Discretionary Funding 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.

Please be advised that all not-for-profit community-based organizations that wish to apply for discretionary funding for FY2025 must submit a Council Application. More information about the **FY2025 application** can be found on the [City Council's website](#) and the **submission deadline will be Tuesday, February 20, 2024.**

[Learn More About City Council Discretionary Funding](#)

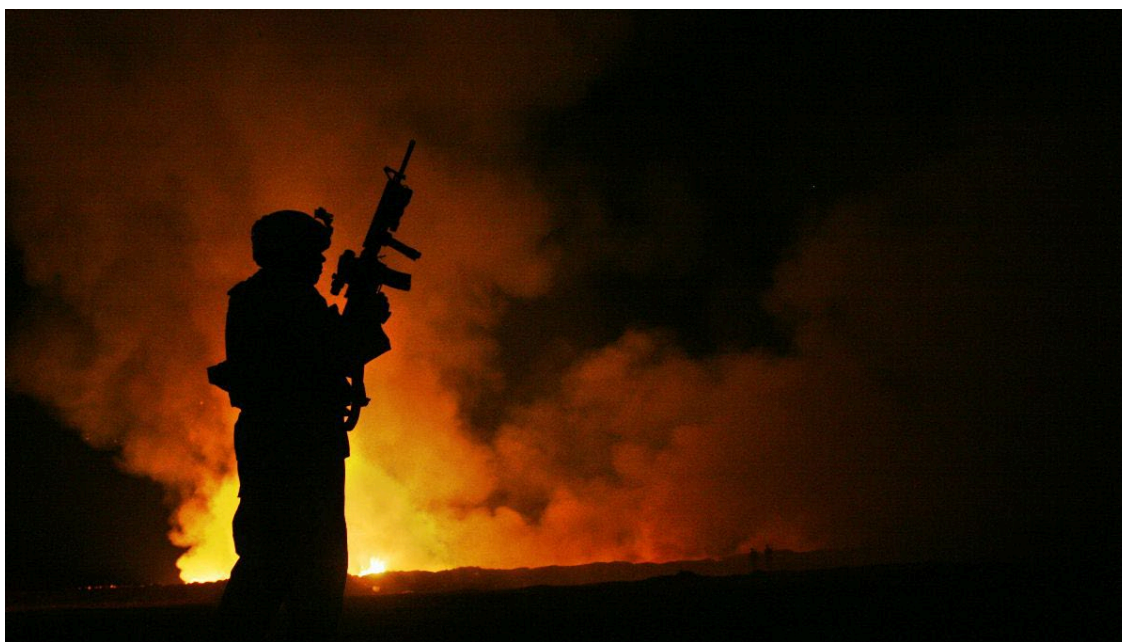
[Apply for FY2025 City Council Discretionary Funding](#)

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**VETERAN NEWS**

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## VA eyes more medical care for vets with toxic exposure issues



FALLUJAH, IRAQ | 05.25.2007 | Photo by [Cpl. Samuel Corum](#)

Published: [Military Times](#) | February 1, 2024

By [Leo Shane III](#)

Thousands of veterans who faced [toxic exposure risks](#) in the military may be eligible for expanded [health care options](#) through Veterans Affairs starting this March, under plans being finalized by department officials.

White House leaders last fall said they hoped to accelerate portions of the [Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act](#) — better known as the PACT Act — passed by Congress in 2022 which expanded medical care and benefits eligibility for millions of former service members.

In the last 16 months, about 100,000 veterans have enrolled in VA health care thanks to provisions in the legislation, and more than 697,000 have received benefits claims approved. [[READ MORE...](#)]

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## **More Veteran-related Headlines**

**NPR:** [Lawmakers move to help veterans at risk of losing their homes](#)

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**Stars and Stripes:** [Community vet centers cited for failing to assess veterans at high risk for suicide](#)

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer:** [A Philly Army vet stole the identities of fellow servicemembers, tried to cancel VA benefits, feds say](#)

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**WGN9-TV:** [Battle over benefits: Army vet's Supreme Court fight for G.I. Bill could impact 1.7 million soldiers](#)

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**Military.com:** [VA Set to Expand Fertility Treatment to Single Veterans and Same-Sex Couples Following Defense Department Shift](#)

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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.*

New York City isn't just coming back —we're back. Under this administration, New York City has more private-sector jobs than ever before in city history, and in his State of the City speech last week, Mayor Adams announced new steps to position New York City at the front of emerging industries like clean technology with a \$100

million Climate Innovation Hub that will create green energy jobs for New Yorkers. The mayor challenged New York City to reach 5 million jobs by 2025, a year ahead of schedule, and here at DVS, we are working side by side with our veteran entrepreneurs to ensure they have the resources to succeed and boost our city's economy.



*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 Takes Major Steps To Advance 'Dining Out NYC,' Nation's Largest Outdoor Dining Program](#)

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[Mayor Adams Unveils New Anti-Trash Technology, Launches Next Phase Of City's War On Trash](#)

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[Mayor Adams' Statement on Passage of City Council Bills that Will Make New York City Less Safe](#)

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We want to showcase Veteran work and help spread the word. 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** - 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](#)
- [Communications Intern](#)
- [Data Science Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [Intake Aide](#)
- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Mission: VetCheck Intern](#)
- [Outreach Intern](#)
- [Policy and Strategic Partnership Intern](#)

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

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## NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



### Open Competitive Exams

[Call Center Representative](#)

[Police Communications Technician](#)

[School Safety Agent](#)

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

[Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter Here](#)

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## Programs and Initiatives

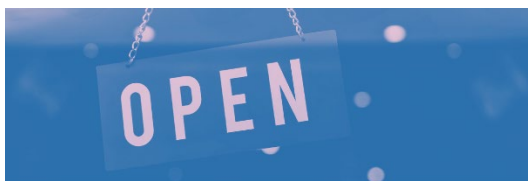


**NYC**  
Department of  
Veterans' Services

# Affordable Housing for Veterans

Resources to help veterans maintain and secure stable and affordable housing

This banner features a dark blue background with a large white arrow pointing right and a red arrow pointing left. The text is centered in the red arrow.



**VetBizNYC**

Online interactive map to find veteran-owned  
businesses across NYC: [vetbiznyc.cityofnewyork.us](http://vetbiznyc.cityofnewyork.us)

The image shows a map of New York City with various neighborhood names and blue location pins. Below the map is a black box with the text "VetBizNYC" in large red letters and a description of the interactive map.



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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](https://twitter.com/nycveterans), or via email at [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov).

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