

Accessing Assistance

At the Department of Veterans' Services, we want to make sure you have the assistance you need when it comes to accessing the most basic needs. Whether you are struggling to put food on the table, scrambling to figure out where your next mortgage payment will come from, or having trouble heating your home, there are programs available to help!

Below is a sampling of some of the programs available at the city and state level to assist Veterans in need. We encourage you to check out the "Services" tab on our website, nyc.gov/vets to learn more about the programs available to you as a New York City Veteran.

Food Assistance with SNAP



[Inflation may be easing, but prices at the grocery store are still expected to rise in 2023.](#) Take the price of eggs as an example--in December the price of a dozen large eggs hit \$4.25, up from \$1.79 just one year earlier. Fortunately, there are programs available to is help for those who meet certain requirements.

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of families in need so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

SNAP takes into account a family's overall financial status and provides individualized aid. Your benefits package is determined by household size, expenses, and income. Don't be discouraged from applying if you're employed,

own your own home and car, and have money saved; you may still be eligible for benefits!

Those who receive a benefits package will be given an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to use at food stores that accept EBT. Most applications are processed within 30 days, however expedited processing is available and emergency benefits can be distributed within 5 days. Please don't wait if you are in need food assistance. To apply, click the button below to be directed to New York's Access HRA account.

[Click Here to Visit ACCESS HRA \(New York's SNAP Sign-up\)](#)

Becoming a Homeowner through SONYMA's Homes for Veterans Program



The [State Agency of New York Mortgage Agency \(SONYMA\)](#) offers Veterans, their spouses, or co-borrowers the opportunity to acquire a fixed-rate mortgage with 0.375% below the agency's interest rates. [Homes for Veterans](#) offers **Down Payment Assistance Loans (DPAL)** with financing up to \$3,000 or 3% of the purchase price (not to exceed \$15,000), whichever is higher. Moreover, borrowers are expected to put down 1% minimum while the remaining 2% is covered by the

DPAL. This program does not allow the purchasing of points which can be paid up front to further lower borrowers' interest rates. The following groups can apply:

- Active Duty Service Members, Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and Veteran co-borrowers
- U.S. military veterans with other than dishonorable discharge
- Active or honorably discharged members of the National Guard and reservists

Eligible Veterans and servicepersons must provide the following documentation:

- DD214 – Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or NGB Form 22 – Report of Separation and Record of Service
- Leave and Earning Statement (LES)(required for all active duty U.S. military personnel)
- Military ID Card (required for ALL active duty U.S. military personnel)
- Military Veteran's Eligibility Affidavit (SONYMA Form 243) - Required only if an eligible Veteran or their spouse or co-borrower is not a first-time homebuyer

If you would like to pursue Homes for Veterans, you must work with one of [SONYMA's participating lenders](#).

For more information, please visit the Affordable Housing section on our website.

[Learn More About Affordable Housing Options for Veterans](#)

Utility Assistance through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)



The Winter months in New York City can get pretty cold and keeping the heat on is sometimes a difficult financial decision for many New Yorkers. New York State offers a financially beneficial service called The **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**. Those who qualify may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year and could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if they are in danger of running out of fuel or having their utility service shut off.

Regular benefits for households that pay directly for heat based on actual usage are paid directly to the vendor that supplies the household's primary source of heat. The participating vendor list can be obtained by accessing the [HEAP Participating Vendor List](#). Select your county of residence, the fuel type you use to heat your home, and press "Go".

Your household may be eligible for a Regular benefit if:

- A member of your household is a United States Citizen or Qualified Non-Citizen
- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guides for your household size as posted in the table located on [HEAP's website here](#)
- You receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or
- You receive Temporary Assistance (TA) or
- You receive Code A Supplemental Security Income (SSI Living Alone)

For further information regarding the program visit HEAP's website at the button below:

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Website

To apply, visit New York State's myBenefits website, sign-up or sign-in, select "Apply for HEAP" and fill out the information requested.

[Visit New York State's myBenefits Website Here](#)

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

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



New York City Council

Please be advised that all not-for-profit community-based organizations that wish to apply for discretionary funding for FY2024 must submit a Council Application. More information about the **FY2024 application** can be found on the [City Council's website](#) and the **submission deadline will be Tuesday, February 21, 2023.**

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

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:

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

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

Auto Mechanic: Overhauls, repairs and maintains engines, motors and motor-powered equipment, component assemblies, and component systems used in automotive, construction and special purpose equipment powered by internal combustion engines. Mechanics act as “troubleshooters” in determining mechanical and electrical defects; overhaul, maintain and repair brake systems, transmissions, ignition systems, rear ends, differential assemblies, fuel systems, hydraulic systems, electronic systems, and other related components and systems; align wheels and repair steering equipment; reline and adjust brakes and clutches; make minor repairs and adjustments in the field so that a vehicle may be returned to the garage or repair shop under its own power; may supervise machinist helpers, automotive service workers, and other personnel as directed; train assigned machinist helpers, automotive service workers, or other related personnel in the performance of various maintenance and/or repair tasks; may make minor auto body repairs; may prepare reports and orders, and maintain records and inventories of parts, components, supplies and materials.

Child Welfare Specialist: Under varying degrees of supervision, with varying degrees of latitude for independent action, specialists supervise children in direct foster care, congregate care or in adoptive homes, overseen by the Administration for Children’s Services, in accordance with agency policies and procedures.

Deputy City Sheriff: Executes and Enforces mandates and orders resulting from litigation, issued from local or State Courts of competent jurisdiction, or occasionally from courts of other states, the federal government or foreign countries; execute process involving the seizure and safeguard of money or property pursuant to writs, warrants, garnishments and other valid court orders; remove persons from real property pursuant to court orders; enforce summonses; issue complaints, subpoenas, citations, petitions, orders or other papers; apprehend persons pursuant to orders and warrants of arrest; escort persons in custody to correctional facilities, hospitals and to and from court; interdict the trafficking of synthetic narcotics, illegal, untaxed or counterfeit stamped tobacco products and related tax crimes; conduct sheriff's sales; maintain records and make reports thereon; use automated office systems and other computer technology; enforce agency security procedures in accordance with applicable guidelines; make criminal arrests; issue accusatory instruments for criminal offenses and violations; drive a motor vehicle; voucher illegal drugs, products, weapons and evidence.

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.

Contact Us

- Complete the services 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.