

## Turkeys and Tunes: Sharing Thanksgiving with Veterans and Military Families



Every week, NYC DVS partners up with The Campaign Against Hunger, Black Veterans for Social Justice Inc, HelloFresh, Amazon and numerous other community partners to deliver meal kits to food insecure Veterans and military families. And with Thanksgiving around the corner we wanted to ensure our community can celebrate this special time of year by providing thanksgiving meals to families so that they can enjoy their own cherished holiday traditions.

This year we are so grateful to everyone who helped give, pack, deliver, and coordinate the whole operation, especially: The Campaign Against Hunger, Black Veterans for Social Justice Inc, HelloFresh, Amazon, The National Association of Black Military Women - Brooklyn Chapter, NYC Department of Small Business Services, NYC Department of Corrections, and The U.S. Air Force Band who not only played beautiful music, but helped pack meals as well! In total we distributed 1,300 turkeys, 1,000 trimming kits (potatoes, stuffing, etc.), and 1,000 chicken meals.

Happy Thanksgiving! And may you enjoy some quality mindfulness, appreciation, and relaxation surrounded by family and friends.

---

If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, sign up to receive free meals delivered to your door with [VetConnectNYC](#). Fill out the form with your information and select "Food Assistance" as your requested service.

[VetConnectNYC Signup Form](#)

---

## **Relaunch of Mission VetCheck!**



It's back! Our program to make sure our community has the most up-to-date information and care is back.

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.

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](#).

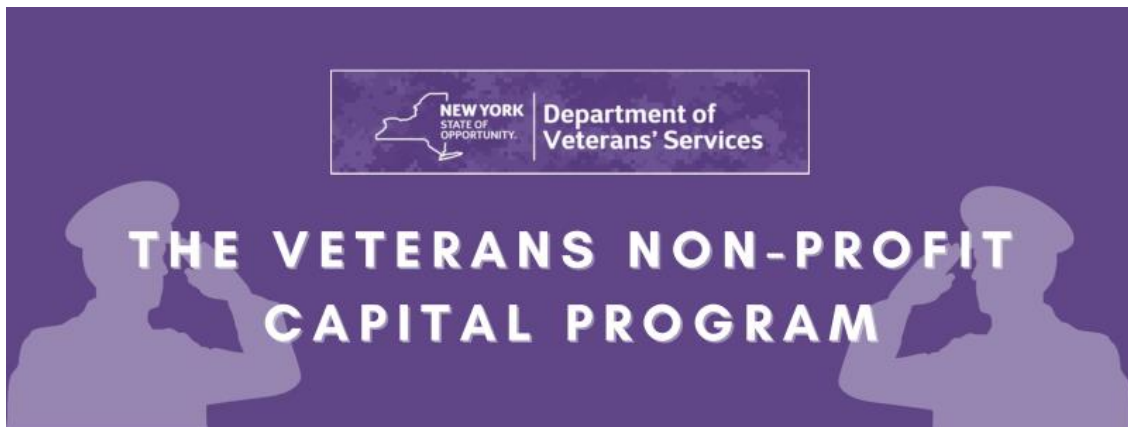
---

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.

[Request a Check-in/Volunteer with Mission: VetCheck](#)

---

## **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](#)

---

**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 pledges investigation into crisis line after whistleblower concerns**

Free, confidential support 24/7/365



By [Leo Shane III](#)

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023

[Veterans Affairs officials](#) promised a full investigation into the operations of their suicide prevention hotline a day after whistleblowers told Congress that [some unstable callers may be getting ignored or lost in the system](#).

In a letter to Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee ranking member Jerry Moran, R-Kansas, [VA Secretary Denis McDonough](#) said the goal of [the Veterans Crisis Line](#) must be to “make sure that veterans get the support they need, whenever and wherever they need it” and that he takes the recent whistleblower allegations “very seriously.”

McDonough also committed to working with an upcoming [Government Accountability Office](#) investigation into the allegations.

On Wednesday, Moran voiced concerns about “gross mismanagement creating a danger to the health and safety of veterans nationwide” in the crisis line’s operations and called for a full examination of the service.

The Veterans Crisis Line has seen a rapid expansion in recent years, growing from about 900 full-time employees in early 2021 to more than 1,800 today. It has also seen a dramatic rise in demand since last summer, when federal

officials launched a new three-digit dialing system — 988 — for individuals seeking emergency mental health care. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

---

## **More Veteran-related Headlines**

**Spectrum News NY1:** [Biden expands VA health care, creates veterans fraud and scam task force to mark Veterans Day](#)

---

**Forbes:** [New York's Marijuana Regulators Reach Settlement Over Licensing Lawsuit](#)

---

**VA | News:** [VA cracking the cancer code through genetic testing](#)

---

**News12 The Bronx:** [NYC nonprofit program teaches returning veterans culinary skills](#)

---

**QNS:** [Flushing veteran inducted into New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame](#)

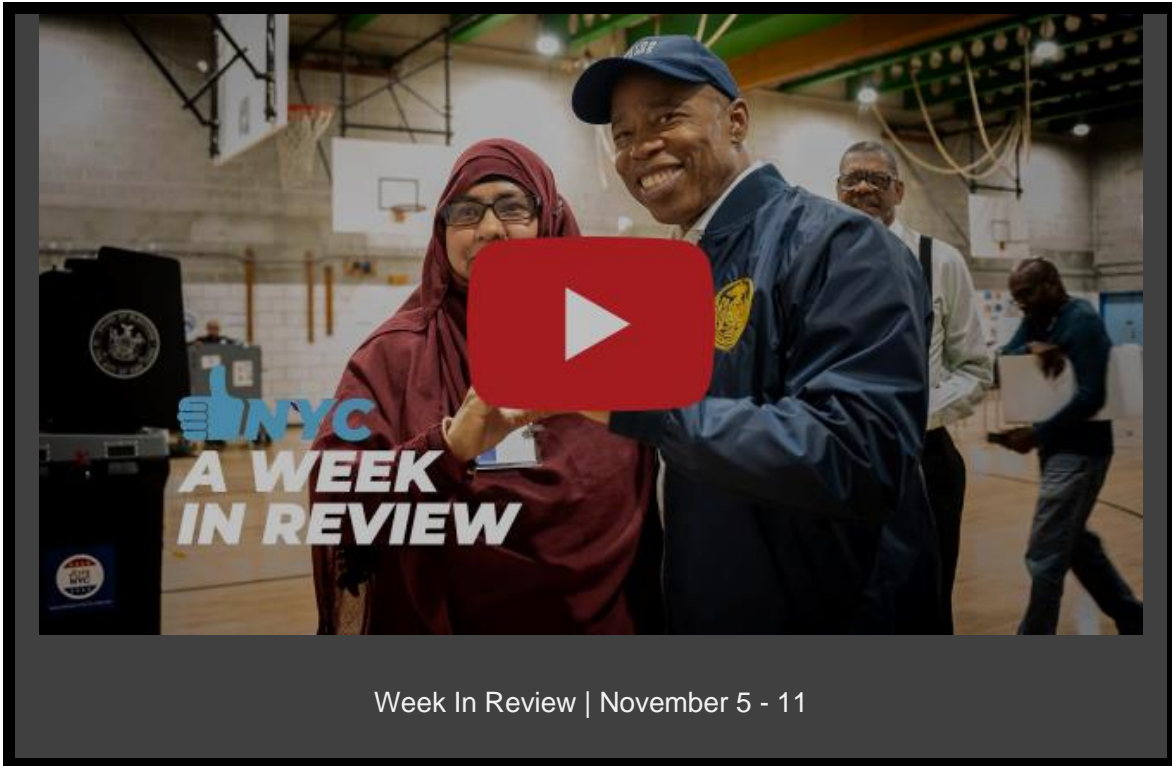
---

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

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

Public safety is both the prerequisite to prosperity and a top priority for this administration. We've taken nearly 13,000 illegal guns off the street since the start of this administration and brought overall crime down this year. This reduction in crime is thanks to the combined efforts of so many — both in and out of city government. However, we have more to do, and we will not stop fighting to keep New York City the safest big city in America. This past week, Mayor Adams launched a task force to combat retail theft and led a coalition of 62 mayors from across the country in calling for a federal assault weapons ban.





*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)*

---

[Mayor Adams, Chancellor Banks Celebrate First Increase In NYC Public School Enrollment In Eight Years](#)

---

[Mayor Adams, Union, Film And TV Industry Partners Break Ground On New Production Campus In Queens](#)

---

[Transcript: Mayor Adams Hosts "Hear From the Mayor" Radio Show](#)

---



---

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.

---

**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 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](#)

---

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](#)

---

## 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](#)

---

## **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).

---

## 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](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).

---



**f**

X



**in**