

Care That Empowers: Whole Health Group at Bronx Vet Center

Intro to Whole Health Monthly 'Lunch' Group

**All Combat Eras,
Genders, and
Caregivers
Welcome!**

A Monthly *Virtual* Group Hosted on Webex by the Bronx Vet Center

New Monthly Time and Day!

**Third Wednesday of Every Month
Virtually 12:00pm – 1:00pm EST**



What is Whole Health?

Whole Health is an approach to health care that empowers and enables YOU to take charge of your health and well-being and live your life to the fullest. It starts with YOU. It is fueled by the power of knowing yourself and what will really work for you in your life.

Upcoming Groups:

***October 19th @ Noon
November 16th @ Noon
December 21st @ Noon***

Veterans need only attend one group to understand the basics of Whole Health.

Register via Webex from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

[Whole Health](#) is the [Department of Veterans Affairs'](#) approach to care that supports Veterans' health and well-being. In the VA's own words, "Whole Health is about you," not "What is the matter with you?" Whole Health can guide you to develop a personalized plan for healthy living centered on your values, needs, and goals. Self-care, skill building, and support are the key pillars of Whole Health.

On the third Wednesday of every month, [Bronx Vet Center](#) will host a virtual Monthly 'Lunch' Group focusing on Whole Health from 12 pm-1 pm. Your team at the Bronx Vet Center can help you with the skills, support, and follow up you need to reach your health goals. All resources provided are reviewed by VA clinicians and Veterans.

Take control of your health and [register](#) today!

VA Extends Survivorship Benefits for Spouses of LGBTQ+ Veterans



The [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#) recently announced that survivorship benefits will be provided to the surviving spouses of certain lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) Veterans. In 2015, same-sex marriage was made legal nationwide with the Obergefell v. Hodges decision. The historic [Supreme Court](#) decision in Obergefell v. Hodges made marriage equality the law of the land, changing the lives of millions of people who could now marry the person they love. However, there are many long-term partners of deceased LGBTQ+ Veterans who were unable to receive survivorship benefits because it was not legal for them to be married.

“VA is closing a gap in benefits for surviving spouses of LGBTQ+ Veterans, righting a wrong that is a legacy of the discriminatory federal ban on same-sex marriages,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said. “It is VA’s mission to serve all Veterans, including LGBTQ+ Veterans as well, as they’ve served our country, and this decision is a key part of that effort,” he said.

The VA last year began providing benefits to Veterans discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy of military service, which prohibited LGBTQ+ military personnel from sharing or openly acknowledging their sexual or gender identity.

In January, the department rolled out a policy allowing Veterans who identify as transgender or nonbinary to self-select their gender designation on official health records, which now include transgender and nonbinary gender markers. This change helps VA healthcare providers better understand and meet the medical needs of their patients.

"All Veterans, all people, have a basic right to be identified as they define themselves."

NYC Child Support Pay It Off Program



[Pay It Off](#) is a special limited-time program through the [NYC Human Resources Administration \(HRA\)](#) that may help you lower the amount you owe in child support. Pay It Off doubles the value of the payment (up to the amount you owe) that you make toward child support debt that is owed to the [NYC Department of Social Services \(DSS\)](#), allowing noncustodial parents to pay off their child support debt twice as fast. The program runs from October 17th through October 31st.

With Pay It Off, noncustodial parents can pay off their NYC DSS child support arrears twice as fast. The [Office of Child Support Services \(OCSS\)](#) will double the debt reduction when a payment of at least \$500 is made toward DSS arrears during October (up to the amount you owe). For those with an active support order, the court ordered child support amount must be paid first. Once this is made, the Pay It Off payment can reduce the debt by double. On top of that, parents may be eligible for additional reductions up to \$15,000 over three years. After you pay off your principle in full, all of the interest you owe to DSS will be eliminated.

Learn more about Pay It Off at <http://nyc.gov/payitoff>.

Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!



Being part of our team is a great way to continue to serve. The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) empowers communities with Veteran talent, skills, and preparedness. Join us in serving again - your community.

See below for current job openings at DVS:

Current DVS Job Openings

[Visit NYC.gov/jobs and select "Veterans' Services" from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to any of the jobs below.](#)

Community Outreach Coordinator

Procurement Analyst

Director of Housing & Support Services

Director of Mental Health & Care Coordination Unit

Director of Veteran Benefit Claims Unit

Veteran Benefits Coordinator – Bronx

Veteran Benefits Coordinator – Brooklyn

Veteran Benefits Coordinator - Staten Island

Human Resources Generalist

Burials Care Coordinator

Department of Veteran Services' College Aide

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.

See below for open competitive NYC Civil Service exam highlights:

Open Competitive Exams

Physical Therapist (DOE)

Are you passionate about anatomy and physiology, exercise, and helping people? Applications for the Physical Therapist (DOE) will be processed until October 25. Click [here](#) to register for the exam.

Plasterer

Do you have excellent hand-eye coordination skills? Applications for the Plasterer are being processed until October 25. To sign up for the exam, click [here](#).

Probation Officer

Are you considering a career in corrections? Applications for the Probation Officer are being reviewed until October 25. To apply to take the exam, click [here](#).

VetConnectPro: A First-in-the-Nation Employment Tool



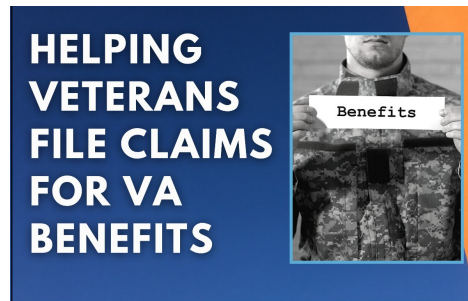
[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and get started today:

nyc.gov/vetconnectpro.

Programs and Initiatives

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](#). During a time of economic crisis and high unemployment, we want to ensure that all Veterans get the financial benefits they earned and deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](#) form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.



To request claims support, visit VetConnectNYC.org.



Our Fight to End Veteran Homelessness



Over the past five years, our [Housing Support Services \(HSS\)](#) team has found homes for over 1,000 formerly unhoused Veterans. Click [here](#) to learn more about DVS's efforts to end chronic homelessness among Veterans in New York City.

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.



Veterans Voices Project: Changing the Narrative of Veterans



Administered by the [NYC Department of Veterans' Services](#), the [Veteran Voices Project \(VVP\)](#) is an oral history initiative designed to preserve the stories of New York City's Veterans across all military branches and service areas. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/vetvoices](#).

Contact Us

- Complete the services request form at [vetconnectnyc.org](#)
- [Message the Commissioner](#)
- [Partner with DVS](#)
- [Press Inquiries](#)

Stay tuned on our website [www.nyc.gov/vets](#) and social media platforms [@nycveterans](#), or via email at connect@veterans.nyc.gov.



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