

DVS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Statement from Commissioner James Hendon

Hispanic American Heritage month is a time for us as Americans to pause and recognize the cultures and traditions of our Hispanic and Latinx peoples. It is a time to celebrate those cultures and traditions that continually shape our great nation. It is the realization that Hispanic and Latinx Americans are not a monolith, but a diverse and dynamic people whose stories are a fundamental part of the American identity.

In honoring the great accomplishments of the Hispanic and Latinx communities, it is critical to remember those who not only emigrated to this country, but who—for generations—proudly served this nation in uniform. Hispanic and Latinx peoples comprise approximately 7% of the US Veteran population, 16% of all Active Duty Military Personnel, and 21% of New York City's Veteran community. They consist of heroes like Cresencia “Joyce” Garcia, an Afro Puerto Rican woman who served in the US Army during World War II. Born in Maunabo, Puerto Rico, Garcia moved to New York City prior to enlisting in the military at age 24. She served as a medical assistant, working in a burn unit while assigned to the all-Black female Six Triple Eight Battalion, deploying to Europe in 1945. Garcia felt called to serve after the attack on Pearl Harbor, saying, “All the girls were going to the Army, so I said, 'Why can't I?' So I joined.”

“Why can't I?” is a sentiment that is echoed throughout the Hispanic and Latinx experience nationwide. That sentiment fuels an ongoing determination within these communities to build and protect the United States—in past, present, and future times. It is our undertaking as citizens to ensure that Hispanic and Latinx

peoples are honored and remembered for their contributions to every facet of American life, including their contribution to our nation's defense.

This month, we celebrate the generations of Hispanic and Latinx leaders, thinkers, artists, military heroes, and others who came to this land in search of opportunity and devoted themselves to help us collectively form a more perfect union. America is better because of their sacrifice. We at the NYC Department of Veterans' Services wish to particularly acknowledge those Hispanic and Latinx peoples whose sacrifice was embodied in military service—to those Service Members and their families. Thank you.

Happy Hispanic American Heritage Month!

Resources for Veterans: DVS's Official Veteran Resource Guide

VETERAN RESOURCE GUIDE



NYC Veterans have unique needs that the [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) is committed to addressing through collaborations with our partners.

DVS has compiled a new resource guide to provide NYC Veterans with information and resources about the benefits and services they have rightfully earned. In our official [Veteran Resource Guide](#), which can be found on our [Veteran Resource Guide page](#), you will find information on:

- Veteran resource centers
- DVS programs
- housing services
- City and State benefits
- [VA](#) health services
- mental health services.

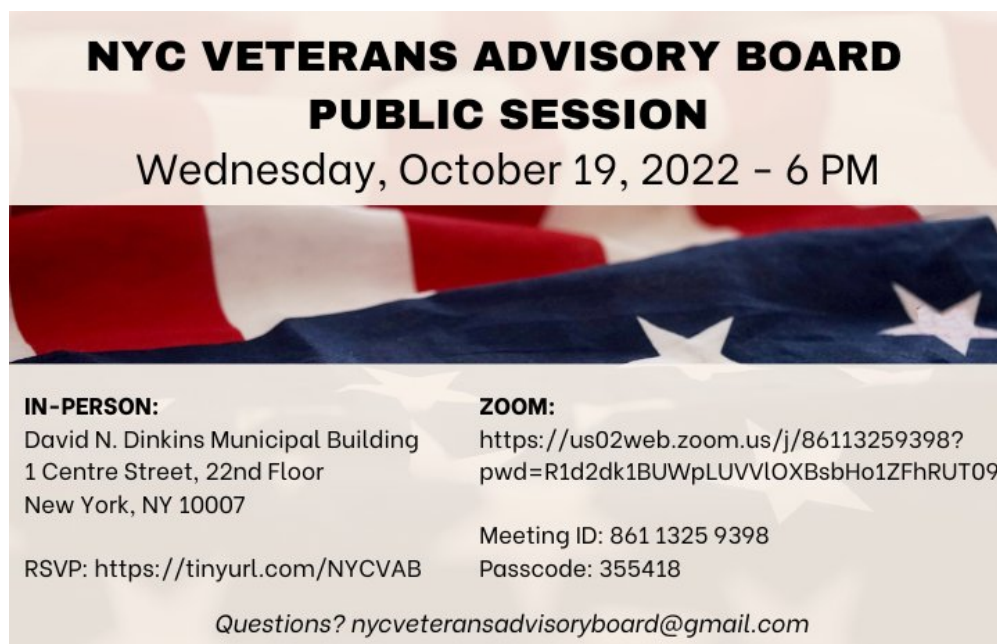
You will also obtain information on our agency's mission, how to connect to services from our partners, and NYC agencies that might be able to help

Veterans and their families. As we strive to make the City of New York one of the nation's most Veteran-friendly, we encourage you to educate yourself about the many pathways to care and support that are available to you and others who have found their tribe in military service.

Open our handy [Veteran Resource Guide](#) to open doors to everything America's most resilient city has to offer!

If you wish to have a Veteran Resource Guide mailed to you, please email your name and mailing address to: connect@veterans.nyc.gov and include "VRG" in the subject line.

Save the Date! Veterans Advisory Board Meeting - October 19



**NYC VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC SESSION**
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 - 6 PM

IN-PERSON:
David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007
RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/NYCVAB>

ZOOM:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86113259398?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86113259398?pwd=R1d2dk1BUWpLUVVVLOXBsbHo1ZFhRUT09)
pwd=R1d2dk1BUWpLUVVVLOXBsbHo1ZFhRUT09
Meeting ID: 861 1325 9398
Passcode: 355418

Questions? nycveteransadvisoryboard@gmail.com

All Veterans, their families, caregivers, and Veteran Service Organizations are encouraged to attend the October VAB meeting either virtually or in person. [RSVP here](#) to attend in-person. To join via Zoom, [click here](#).

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

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

Correction Officer

Are you considering a career in corrections? Applications for the Correction Officer will be processed until October 11. Click [here](#) to register for the exam.

Police Officer

Do you want to play an integral role in ensuring public safety? Applications for the Police Officer are being processed until September 30. To sign up for the exam, click [here](#).

Transportation Specialist

Do you have a passion for transportation? Applications for the Transportation Specialist are being reviewed until October 11. To apply to take the exam, click [here](#).

National VFW Day - September 29



Each year on September 29, National [Veterans of Foreign Wars \(VFW\)](#) Day is celebrated at Posts and in military communities across the U.S. National VFW Day honors the hard work and sacrifice of the men and women devoted to this valuable organization, and those members who have valiantly served our nation.

Founded on September 29, 1899, by Spanish-American War Veteran James C. Putnam, the VFW has since grown into some six thousand posts worldwide and 52 departments in the 50 states offering services and advocacy to Veterans and their families. Today, the VFW boasts more than 1.5 million members.

The VFW serves Veterans, military families, and those still serving through advocacy, lobbying work, and military and community service programs. As a Veterans service organization, the VFW focuses lobbying, awareness raising, and outreach efforts on an array of issues facing Veterans, servicemembers, and their families, including:

- Veteran healthcare
- disability assistance
- memorial affairs
- education, employment, and transition assistance
- military quality of life.

To access information about the VFW and its services, [click here](#).

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



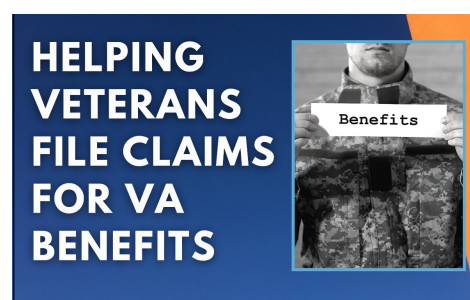
[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and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



To request claims support, visit VetConnectNYC.org



the VetConnectNYC.org form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.

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

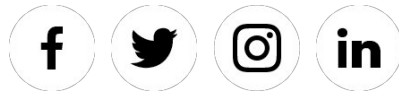


Administered by the [NYC Department of Veterans' Services](#), the [Veteran Voices Project \(VVP\)](#) is an oral history initiative designed to preserve the stories of New York City's Veterans across all military branches and service areas. For more information, visit nyc.gov/vetvoices.

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](https://www.instagram.com/nycveterans), or via email at connect@veterans.nyc.gov.



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