



# **A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PROVE INTERNS**

*2018-2019*



**PROVE**  
PROJECT FOR RETURN  
AND OPPORTUNITY IN  
VETERANS EDUCATION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Resources	-----	4
Benefits	-----	5
Academic	-----	6-7
Legal	-----	8
Mental Health Services	-----	9-10
Mind and Body	-----	11-12
Employment/Civilian Life	-----	13
Housing (Emergency Resources)	-----	14
Housing (General Resources)	-----	15-16
Campus Specific Resources	-----	16

## WELCOME

There are over 400,000 Veteran's Service Organizations (VSOs) in the United States, offering assistance with subjects ranging from benefit applications to job placement, vocational training, academic tutoring, health care services, social networking and community building. Some of those organizations are based at our own CUNY campuses while others are spread throughout the boroughs or even based in other states. As a PROVE intern one of the most common interventions you will provide is a referral to a VSO. But how can you tell which one is best? How do you know which one will meet the needs of your student veterans in a punctual, friendly, and compassionate manner?

The purpose of this guide is to provide a short list of resources that can help our student veterans in six areas: applying for benefits, academic assistance, legal advice, health and wellness resources, job readiness, and housing. Although these are only a handful of the many VSOs serving veterans in NYC, they come personally recommended by staff members and student veterans who have firsthand knowledge of the level of care provided by each. Where possible, each VSO has a point person listed so that you can provide a warm hand off or reach out before referring a veteran.

Think of this resource guide as a starting point for your interventions; the list is robust but not exhaustive. More importantly, treat this guide as a living document. If you, your veterans, or your co-interns discover a particularly helpful organization or service provider please add their name to the list and share the information!

You will see the following symbols used throughout the guide:

### ICONS



Student Vet Recommended



Staff Member Recommended



Membership And Services Are Free

Molly Pearl, 14'-15'  
mollepearl@gmail.com

Updated by Kerry Green and  
Kylene Kasch 2017

## GENERAL RESOURCES



### NYC Serves

1-844-347-9244 (main line)

[NYCServes.org](http://NYCServes.org)

<http://newyorkcity.americaserves.org/veteran-services/>

NYC Serves is an online database that connects veterans to service providers. Individual veterans can set up a profile and request services (ex: I need help with housing, financial assistance, etc.) and organizations will reply directly to them. Providers can set up a profile so that veterans can reach them about their services (ex: I'm thinking about returning to school, can you tell me more about BMCC?) Providers can also keep track of veterans they've served and follow up on referrals, etc. NYC Serves will send a representative to your campus to train you to use the platform. Clicking on the link above will bring you to a page listing resources for housing, legal concerns, and emergency service providers.



### Department of Veterans' Services (DVS)

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/veterans/index.page>

<https://a069-access.nyc.gov/ACCESSNYC/application.do>

This office is the link between veterans, veteran's services, and the city government. The new commissioner, Dr. Loree Sutton, is very responsive and dedicated to improving the lives of veterans in NYC. The website offers benefits information, a list of contact people within each city office that are familiar with veteran's issues, and a feedback form where vets can air their grievances or provide suggestions and feedback.



### National Military Family Association

(703) 931-6632 [www.militaryfamily.org](http://www.militaryfamily.org)

This service provider is a resource that can be utilized for our student veterans with families. They offer scholarships for military spouses (\$500-\$1,000), certificate/licensure money, loan repayment, and others as long as the spouse has a dependent ID card. They also have a free week long camp (Operation Purple) that connects children with others, addressing challenges with pre and post deployment, parental injuries, and adjusting to new lifestyles (parent leaving the military, stressors of military life, etc). They provide an extensive resource page for military spouses on transitioning, healthcare, divorce/marriage, child care, and adoption.

## BENEFITS

“No one should take on the VA alone. If you’re applying for your disability benefits you absolutely should be working with a VSO.”  
-Coco Culhane Esq, Director of the Veterans Advocacy Project at UJC



### ----- **Wounded Warrior Project**

1-888-997-2586 (National Resource Line)

register online at <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/wwwp-registration.aspx>

WWP services post 9/11 injured service members and veterans (OIF/OEF/OND/OIR). Disability claims, appealing claims decisions, job readiness, social events and networking, weekend retreats. Register online (the application takes about 10 minutes.) Copy of DD214 required. After registering, call the hotline and ask to be connected with a benefits specialist.



### ----- **New York American Legion**

212-807-3066 (New York Service Office) NYlegion.net Disability claims, appealing claims decisions, emergency financial assistance, scholarships, children & youth services, patriotic events, social events. Claims assistance is free (\$45.00) however there is a membership fee to join the organization. Service available to active duty and wartime veterans.



### ----- **Chapter Colon-Rivera Memorial**

914-667-4751(David L. Hall; zulu8664@aol.com)

Disability claims, appealing claims decisions, other veteran’s benefits, patriotic events, volunteer opportunities. Claims assistance is free however there is a membership fee to join the organization.



### ----- **Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**

Davny.org/html (chapter information for NY)

<https://www.dav.org/contact-us/>

(212) 807-3157

DAV membership is available to wartime veteran, who were disabled to any degree and discharged under honorable conditions. DAV is a service provider that assists veterans’ during the complicated process of filing for their disability and compensation services with the VA. They can also assist with employment concerns, provide free rides to medical appointments (Bronx VA only). Main office located on West Houston New York.

## ACADEMIC



### VA Work Study Program

212-686-7500 x4218

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/workstudy.asp>

Students receiving GI Bill benefits and attending school at least 3/4 time may qualify for paid work study positions at the VA in a wide range of fields. Great for students interested in pursuing a career with the VA later on. Applications must be submitted through the regional processing center in Buffalo.



### VA Tutoring Program

212-686-7500 x4218

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/tutorial\\_assistance.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/tutorial_assistance.asp)

Students attending school at least half time may hire a tutor and get reimbursed for their costs by the VA (up to \$1200). Contact Lyn Johnson for advice. Ensure that your student veteran has carefully read the requirements on the website and understands that they must pay the tutor themselves and wait for the reimbursement.



### Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

212-982-9699

[www.iava.org](http://www.iava.org)

Post 9-11 veterans only.

Disability claim referrals, education benefits, welfare benefits, job readiness, advocacy, social events and networking. IAVA is particularly interested in creating social spaces on college campuses.



### Tutoring Services (School Specific)

Ask your field instructor for suggestions, check your school's website, and call individual departments for info.

Each CUNY campus offers a wide variety of free tutoring services. Some campuses have tutoring programs specifically for the student veterans on campus. Remember to research extensively before referring a student veteran to a paid service.

## ACADEMIC CONT'



----- **Student Veterans of America**

(202) 223-4710

[studentveterans.org](http://studentveterans.org)

This service provides resources that support veteran student success in higher education. They offer scholarships (<http://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships>), links to outreach resources, leadership opportunities, and free leadership workshops to chapter members.



## LEGAL



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**The Veteran's Advocacy Project,  
The Urban Justice Center**

**Director:** Coco Culhane, Esq, (646-602-5620),  
cculhane@urbanjustice.org  
646-602-5600 (main line)  
vap@urbanjustice.org

Housing and rental issues, appealing benefits decisions, updating discharge status, disability rights and general advice. Ms. Culhane will come to your campus and speak directly to your student veterans about legal issues. Highly recommended!



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**Veteran's Justice Project**

347-592-2409 (hotline) Monday-Friday, 10am - 4pm  
[www.legalservicesnyc.org/what-we-practice-areas-and-projects/veterans-justice-project](http://www.legalservicesnyc.org/what-we-practice-areas-and-projects/veterans-justice-project)

**VJP Staff Attorney:** David Falcon. dfalcon@nylag.org  
Walk-in centers available at the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn VA Hospitals

Housing and rental issues, securing public benefits, assistance with financial issues including those caused by student loan debt.



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**Veteran's Treatment Court**

Manhattan: 646-386-4634

<http://justiceforvets.org/what-is-a-veterans-treatment-court> [https://www.nycourts.gov/courts/problem\\_solving/vet/courts.shtml](https://www.nycourts.gov/courts/problem_solving/vet/courts.shtml)

**State Wide Coordinator:** Dennis Reilly Esq. (212) 428-2196, dreilly@nycourts.gov

Veteran's treatment courts are special court locations that connect veterans experiencing substance abuse issues and facing criminal charges to judges and advocates who understand their history and want to help them overcome dependency. Most often the veteran is mandated to a combination of treatment, court appearances, and randomized drug testing. Veteran's treatment courts are currently located in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens. Contact the Urban Justice Center for more information on how to be seen at a VTC. You can also contact the Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist at the VA hospital.

## MENTAL HEALTH



### ----- **Veteran Crisis Line**

1 (800) 273-8255 / PRESS 1  
Text 838255

An emergency service offered to Veterans' that are in crisis. Staffed by qualified VA responders, the Veteran Crisis Line is available 24 x 7 x 365 (all year round). Those who are hard of hearing can connect with responders through a TTY service: 1 (800) 799-4889. Services are offered to Veterans' of all ages and circumstances, regardless of discharge status.



### ----- **VA Harbor Health System and NYC Veterans' Hospitals**

[www.nyharbor.va.gov](http://www.nyharbor.va.gov)  
Manhattan: (212) 686-7500 | 423 East 23rd Street  
Brooklyn: (718) 836-6600 | 800 Poly Place  
St. Albans: (718) 525-1000 | 179-00 Linden Blvd.  
Bronx: James J. Peters (718) 584 – 9000 | 130 W Kingsbridge Rd.  
Staten Island: Community Clinic (718) 761 – 2973 | 1150 South Ave #3-301

The VA provides healthcare and mental health services to eligible veterans' at no-cost and sliding scale. To be eligible for treatment, the student must have an honorable discharge and be formally enrolled in the system. Service connected disabilities are treated free of cost.



### ----- **Vet Centers**

**Director:** Leyana Overstreet Stevenson. (212) 951- 6866  
**GWOT Program Outreach Specialist:** Dwayne Allen, MA, Brooklyn (718) 630 - 2830  
**GWOT Outreach Specialist:** Eric Chester, Bronx, (718) 367-3500  
Free mental and emotional support and counseling available to current and former service members regardless of discharge status. Walk-ins and appointments available. Staff can assess suicidality. Vet Centers DO NOT share information with the VA or release information without a court order.



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### **Give An Hour**

<http://www.giveanhour.org/Home.aspx>

A network of mental health professionals dedicated to donating their time to help veterans and their families with a wide range of issues. Use the provider search to find a professional based on expertise and location. Phone counseling available. Great for individuals seeking care outside the VA system.



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### **Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic**

855-698-4677 (main desk)

Free and confidential counseling for veterans and their families offered in a wide range of areas. Family is defined broadly and individuals can attend regardless of if the veteran is attending.

## MIND & BODY



### **The Soldiers Project**

877-576-5343 (hotline)

<https://www.thesoldiersproject.org/contact/>

Free counseling for post 9/11 service members and their families regardless of discharge status. Call to set up an intake session, after which you will be matched with a therapist in your location.

Alina Perez, MSW is the current NYC chapter director.



### **Military Resilience Project**

Aynisa Leonardo

(347) 921-4848 or [aleonardo@milresilience.com](mailto:aleonardo@milresilience.com)

[www.milresilience.com](http://www.milresilience.com)

Community based project that focuses on foster connection, support, and mutual understanding. Services offered are inclusive, free, and for all generations (regardless of discharge status). They provide retreats, mind-body workshops (such as yoga), day trips, partnerships with “vets on stage”, and much more.

## MIND & BODY CONT'D



### VA Hospital OEF/OIF Transition Clinic

212-686-7500 ext.7146 (Mark Schonfeld, LMSW, Manhattan VA)  
718-584-9000 ext. 3719 (Ann Feder, Bronx VA OEF/OIF clinic – she is also the women’s coordinator for the BX)

718-836-6600 ext 6352 (Christina Tsakos, LCSW, Brooklyn)

A special clinic within the VA hospital that serves as a first point of contact for OIF/OEF veterans seeking services at the VA. Focus on mental and physical health.



### VA Hospital Women’s Program

(212)951-7500 ext. 3314 (Jennifer Friedberg, Ph. D.,Manhattan VA,)

(718) 836-6600 ext. 6797 (Betzaida Ruiz, LCSW, Brooklyn Campus)

(718) 584-9000 ext. 3719 (Ann Feder, Bronx VA)

The Women’s Program is a service provided for female veterans receiving treatment at the VA Hospital. The program ensures that there is continuity of services between primary care, behavioral health, and specialists. The program can also help a vet find a female doctor, address grievances, and offers support groups. Check veteran’s eligibility criteria as only the MST treatment program is available for free regardless of discharge status.



### Omega Institute

<http://www.eomega.org/>

An organization dedicated to supporting the minds and bodies of veterans. They offer a women’s leadership conference, weekend and week-long retreats, volunteer opportunities, and resources for caregivers and family members of veterans. Some events are free or can be covered by scholarships.

## EMPLOYMENT/CIVILIAN LIFE



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### **American Corporate Partnership**

[www.acp-usa.org](http://www.acp-usa.org)

[info@asp-usa.org](mailto:info@asp-usa.org)

Joshuah Chrisman (Operations Associate) – [jchrisman@acp-usa.org](mailto:jchrisman@acp-usa.org)

(212) 752-0700

ACP offers two tools; an online networking platform and a nationwide mentoring program that pairs veterans with leaders from top corporations and universities to help with networking, resume writing, and job market knowledge. Both veterans and spouses of those wounded or killed in action are eligible. See website for a list of affiliated companies.



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### **Edge 4 Vets**

<http://www.reclaimingthesky.com/>

Tom Murphy, Director of the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham University

[tom@reclaimingthesky.com](mailto:tom@reclaimingthesky.com)

360-731-0603

Job and career advice based out of the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham University. Edge 4 Vets offers resiliency workshops, a vocational workshop focused on the life sciences field, and a resource center for counseling, guidance, and support.



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### **Black Veterans for Social Justice**

[www.bvsj.org](http://www.bvsj.org)

665 Willoughby Ave, Brooklyn NY 11206

718-852-6004

A VSO based in brotherhood and sisterhood. Focus on community and reintegration. Also offers claims assistance, welfare/benefits assistance, peer mediation, substance abuse and homelessness services, etc.



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### **Operation: Good Jobs**

Martha Jackson

718-361-5415

[OGJ@goodwillnynj.org](mailto:OGJ@goodwillnynj.org)

OGJ, a subsidiary of GoodWill, offers career assessment, individualized career planning, financial education, job placement and career advancement services, transitional services, family support services, assistance with child care, support for spouses and other family members.

## HOUSING (EMERGENCY RESOURCES)



### ----- **Jericho Project**

646-624-2341 (main desk) [info@jerichoproject.org](mailto:info@jerichoproject.org)  
<http://www.jerichoproject.org/find-help/veterans-initiative/Jericho>  
Project operates two supportive housing complexes at Fordham Village and Kingsbridge Terrace in close proximity to the Bronx VA. Qualifying individuals have a history of substance abuse, homelessness, or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Therapy, peer mentorship, financial counseling, and job readiness programs are provided on-site. Jericho's Supportive Apartment Program can also help place veterans in apartments throughout the city and offer case management. ***Veteran must submit an OL form to determine eligibility.***



### ----- **Samaritan Village**

[www.samaritanvillage.org/people-we-serve/veterans](http://www.samaritanvillage.org/people-we-serve/veterans)  
718-657-6195 (residential substance abuse treatment program)  
212-586-1270 (supportive services for veteran families program)  
718-206-2000 x1268 (shelter/transitional housing/permanent housing program)

Samaritan Village offers three inpatient residential treatment programs for veterans struggling with alcohol and drug dependency. Two male residences are located in NYC and one female residence is located in upstate NY. Additionally, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program assists veterans who are currently homeless or at imminent risk for becoming homeless. SSVF provides temporary financial assistance, housing and financial counseling, legal referrals, and transportation services.



### ----- **Petrie Grants (School Specific)**

Contact the financial aid department, student affairs, or your school's Dean.

Some schools receive funding to help meet the emergency financial needs of students. These funds can be given as a loan or a grant. Identify who the contact person is at your school for emergency funding and approach them with your specific veteran's case. Funding is subject to grant renewal.

## HOUSING (GENERAL RESOURCES)

*Many of the Student Veterans we serve have difficulty finding housing. Some are new to NYC and not sure how the process works. Some just got released from active duty and are struggling with reintegration and the idea of finding a roommate. Many landlords aren't familiar with the GI Bill and don't accept BAH as proof of income.*



### ----- **Craigslist**

<http://newyork.craigslist.org/i/apartments>

It might seem obvious but many student vets have luck finding rooms or apartments on craigslist. This is an easy way to get around proving income. Offer to accompany your student veteran to apartment showings so they feel comfortable and safe.



### ----- **Rent Direct New York**

<http://www.nofeerdny.com/>

For a one-time fee of \$139 you gain access to an extensive list of no-fee apartments listed directly by landlords and small management companies. Have your student veteran write a letter introducing themselves and explaining the GI Bill and BAH. Many times this personal touch does the trick.



### ----- **Insurent**

<http://www.insurent.com/>

Insurent acts as a guarantor and accepts the GI Bill as qualifying income. They only work with a few pre-approved housing complexes so options are limited.



### ----- **The Listings Project**

<https://www.listingsproject.com/>

Artist Stephanie Diamond puts together a weekly email blast featuring rooms and apartments for rent, sublet, and swap as well as shared and private art studio spaces. Listings come directly from real people and don't involve fees. This service is intended for those in the art community.





----- **NYC Housing Connect**

<https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/lottery.html#home>

This is a great option for student veterans looking for long term, affordable renting options in NYC. Create a profile on the webpage and then browse current advertisements for rent stabilized buildings. Some buildings offer preference to veterans and ALL buildings offer preference for disabled individuals.

**SCHOOL SPECIFIC RESOURCES**

*Use this space to share resources specific to your campus*



----- **W.E.T.S 4VETS**

[jkatz@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:jkatz@jjay.cuny.edu)

Weekly Wednesday swim program hosted by John Jay and Dr. Jane Katz. No swimming experience needed! Food and refreshments will be served. Contact for current locations and times.

