

## Contact Information

### CITY OF BRIDGEPORT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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### STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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### REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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## VETERANS SUPPORT CENTER

*The Veterans Support Center is the first of its kind in the nation. This unique center serves as a central location for area veterans to access City, State, and Federal assistance. A wide range of services are available such as transportation to the West Haven V.A. hospital, membership to the food pantry for Bridgeport residents, information about veteran housing applications, as well as assistance with City, State, and Federal benefits, compensation, pensions and more.*

Main Phone: 203.576.8348

Hours: Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(Closed on State holidays)

Address:

752 East Main Street

Bridgeport, CT 06608

## Veterans Support Center

Serving The Needs  
Of Veterans

### Resources:

City of Bridgeport Department of Veterans Affairs

State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



## City of Bridgeport Department of Veterans Affairs

### Transportation

The department provides shuttle bus service from Bridgeport to the V.A. Hospital in West Haven with two round trips daily. This program is made possible by a grant from the City of Bridgeport and is available to veteran who are residents of Bridgeport. The shuttle leaves the Bridgeport office to go to the V.A. Hospital at 9:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

### Food Pantry

The food pantry is open to all veterans who reside in Bridgeport. Food is distributed on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To sign up for the pantry it is required to complete the registration paperwork, have veteran documentation (e.g. Veteran ID), and proof of residency (e.g. CT ID).

### Educational and Community-Based Programs and Events

Our department works closely with many organizations and groups throughout Bridgeport to provide community-based educational programs for veterans. These include informational sessions about housing, job applications, health and wellness, drug and alcohol use, and other topics.

## State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs

### Assist Veterans with Claims, Benefits, and Entitlements

The Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) act as advocates for veterans and surviving spouses. VSO's are the liaisons between the veteran and their family to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This includes providing assistance to apply for V.A. benefits such as disability, compensation, death benefits, Service Connected and Non-service Connected pensions.

This unique location is flexible and mobile. The VSO's are able to reach out to Connecticut veterans throughout the Fourth District. The VSO's visit assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and residences to assist veterans with claims. As some clients are unable to travel, we do not expect a senior or disabled veteran to travel to us for services.

The VSO's assist with collecting and preparing data relating to benefits and services for veterans. They also counsel veterans on educational training, health, medical, and rehabilitation. They assist veterans by preparing and presenting claims as well as representing veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. VSO's collaborate with service organizations in the surrounding area.

Lastly, VSO's also aid veterans with obtaining local and State benefits that include but are not limited to: tax abatement, motor vehicle registration, education, burial and ceremony, and veteran focused employment and reemployment.

## Representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

### Readjustment Counseling Service

Our counselor specializes in community-based services for all combat veterans. Bereavement counseling is available for those who have lost a loved one on active duty. The goal of the program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to all veterans to help with post-war adjustments to civilian life.

Assists veterans with questions and challenges for the following: Service Connected Disability Compensation, Non-Service Connected Pension, Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), the G.I. Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation, the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), the V.A. Home Loan, dependent benefits, and unemployment.

Additionally, veterans can receive help with homelessness referrals.