

# THE NEW RAPID DEPLOYMENT: RESOURCES FOR RETURNING VETERANS

## VETERANS RETURNING FROM IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN

*What are the best opportunities to make a big difference in their lives now?*



In Collaboration with:

The New York Community Trust

Disability Funders Network

Trinity Wall Street

## CONFERENCE AGENDA AND PROGRAM RESOURCES

DECEMBER 4, 2012

TRINITY WALL STREET, 74 TRINITY PLACE, NEW YORK NY

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*Special thanks to Trinity Wall Street, our hosts for*

*“The New Rapid Deployment: Resources for Returning Veterans.”*

## Welcome to the Conference

Over 2.3 million veterans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many have returned (or will be returning) home to their families and communities. Government organizations will not have enough resources to assist all of them as they make this often-difficult transition, and their communities will also be hard pressed to address all of their unique needs.

We hope that the knowledge shared during this conference—by grantmakers, government officials, veterans’ advocates and other experts—will help you and your peers discover the most urgent priorities for our returning veterans and their families, model your own initiatives on successful programs from across the country and find the connections between veterans’ issues and your own areas of focus.

Reintegrating our veterans is one of our nation’s most urgent challenges. But funders are working hand-in-hand with policymakers and others, across varied programmatic interests, to contribute to the full and healthy integration of veterans into civilian life. This gathering is a great opportunity for funders to find new ways to advance their philanthropic mission while at the same time giving back to those who have done so much for our nation.



Disability Funders Network

# Conference Agenda

7:30 to 8:00 AM Registration & Check- In

**8:15 to 9:15 AM Opening Plenary Session/Breakfast**

Welcome: The Rev. Dr. James Cooper, Rector, Trinity Wall Street and Ronna Brown, President, Philanthropy New York

*Introduction of Speakers by Ken Monteiro, Acting Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, Ford Foundation*

The Honorable **Christine C. Quinn**, Speaker, New York City Council and **Nancy Berglass**, Director, Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund

**Morning Sessions**

**9:25 to 10:25 AM Cracking the Books: Ensuring Our Returning Veterans' Education Experience**

A discussion on how philanthropy can make a difference for those veterans seeking higher education opportunities.

Moderator:

**Colonel James D. McDonough, Jr.**, U.S. Army (Retired), Senior Fellow for Veterans Affairs, New York State Health Foundation

Panelists:

**Daan Braveman**, President, Nazareth College

**Linda Frank**, Director of Military and Veteran Education, Empire State College

**Eli Williamson**, Program Director, McCormick Foundation

**10:30 to 11:30 AM Veterans at Work: Continuing to Serve at Home**

Moderator:

**Todd Bowers**, Vice President, Relationship Manager, JPMorgan Chase

Panelists:

**Kelly Dougherty**, Senior Policy Advisor, Workforce Development Division, NYC Department of Small Business Services

**Michael Haynie**, Executive Director and Founder, Institute for Veterans and Military Families

**Anna Laubach**, Director of Veterans Initiatives, McCormick Foundation

**11:30 AM to  
12:30 PM**

**Lunch Break, Featuring Keynote Speaker**

*Introduction of Speaker by Len McNally, Program Director, Health & People with Special Needs, The New York Community Trust*

**Raul Perea-Henze, M.D., M.P.H.**, Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs

**Afternoon Sessions**

**12:40 to 1:40 PM**

**Returning Home: How Visible and Invisible Mental Health Issues Challenge Successful Reintegration for Veterans**

Learn more about those making every effort to ensure every veteran has access to care and how your grant dollars can help.

Moderator:

**James Dao**, Reporter and Co-Editor of At War Blog,  
*The New York Times*

Panelists:

**Anita Aaron**, Executive Director, World Institute on Disability

**Jason Hansman**, Senior Program Manager, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

**Irfan Hasan**, Program Officer, Health and People with Special Needs,  
The New York Community Trust

**Jacqueline Martinez Garcel**, Senior Program Director, New York State Health Foundation

**1:45 to 2:45 PM**

**Families: Collateral Damage on the Home Front**

Supporting, connecting and empowering service members, veterans and the families as they return home—how philanthropy can help these communities succeed.

Moderator:

**Kim Hutchinson**, President/CEO, Disability Funders Network

Panelists:

**Andrew DePalo**, Director, New York National Guard Family Programs

**Kara Gagnon, O.D.**, Director, Optometric Acquired Brain Injury Clinic, VA Connecticut Healthcare System

**Kelly Giordano**, Grants Manager, Newman's Own Foundation

**Kathy Roth-Douquet, Esq.**, Co-Founder and CEO, Blue Star Families

**2:45 to 3:00 PM**

Closing Remarks

**Jim Knickman**, President & CEO, New York State Health Foundation

## Conference Speakers



**Anita Shafer Aaron** is Executive Director of the World Institute on Disability, an international disability policy development and training institute committed to economic and social inclusion of people with disabilities co-founded by Ed Roberts, Judy Heumann and Joan Leon. Prior to joining WID in 2010, Aaron served for twenty years as CEO of the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired headquartered in San Francisco focusing on local, regional and national policy and program concerns impacting individuals who are blind, visually impaired and/or deaf-blind. Aaron began her disability rights leadership career in 1981 as Deputy Director of the Berkeley Center for Independent Living.

Aaron's work in the blindness field resulted in numerous local and national acknowledgements for her individual efforts; however, she believes her most significant contribution to the disability movement overall is a commitment to building bridges between disability organizations, disability groups and among individuals with disabilities.

Aaron holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Tulsa and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University, San Francisco along with certificates in Facilitative Mediation and Nonprofit Management.



**Nancy Berglass** is Principal of the Los-Angeles-Based Berglass Community Investment Consulting, a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and the Director of the groundbreaking Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF). For over 25 years, her work at the helm of numerous philanthropic initiatives has earned her accolades as among the nation's leading strategists for the independent sector.

Berglass is the Founding Director of IADIF, which has distributed nearly \$250 million to scores of nonprofits serving the unmet needs of post-9/11 servicemembers, veterans and their families. From her leadership in developing the emergent field of veteran-support philanthropy, to her stewardship of the movement at the direct service and policy levels, Berglass' work as both grantmaker and scholar continues to uphold the role of community partners as stakeholders in veterans' wellness.

In addition to her work with military and veteran populations, Berglass has served as the architect of other notable philanthropic initiatives. During the pinnacle years of the American AIDS pandemic, she served as President of the influential NAMES Project Foundation; the fruits of her work uniting community stakeholders and grantmakers after the 1992 civil unrest that rocked Los Angeles are sustained to this day. Berglass is an accomplished presenter, trainer and author on matters pertaining to grantmaking, and has served on numerous nonprofit boards. As a consultant, she works with funders large and small to strategically address the issues that face the communities they serve.

Berglass received the 2008 Department of Defense Distinguished Humanitarian Award, the 2010 University of California Distinguished Social Sciences Alumni Award, and is a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Kellogg National Leadership Fellow.



**Todd Bowers** currently serves as a Vice President in the JP Morgan Chase & Company office of Global Philanthropy focusing on Military and Veteran Affairs. In this role, it is his responsibility to ensure that an effective giving strategy is implemented firmwide providing the most effective support to veterans and military families with respect to housing, employment and education.

Bowers has served four voluntary tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and South America as a Civil Affairs Team Sergeant with the United States Marine Corps Reserve. On October 17, 2004, during his second tour, Bowers was wounded in Fallujah when a sniper bullet hit the scope on top of his rifle and exploded in his face. He suffered shrapnel wounds during the incident and hearing loss in his left ear, and was awarded the Purple Heart and Navy Commendation Medal with a combat "V" for valor.



**Daan Braveman**, the ninth President of Nazareth College, is a Rochester, N.Y., native. Braveman graduated from the University of Rochester in 1969 and obtained his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1972. He served as law clerk to Justice Samuel J. Roberts of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and then worked as an attorney for the Greater Upstate Law Project, located in Rochester. While at the Project, he was engaged in civil rights litigation throughout New York State. Braveman joined Syracuse University College of Law in 1977 and served as Dean from 1994 to 2002. During his tenure, he taught courses in civil procedure, civil rights, constitutional law, federal courts and federal Indian law. He was one of the founders and directors of the Public Interest Law Firm at the Law College.

He has published many articles and books on constitutional law, civil rights, legal education and federal Indian law. In 2003, he was one of seven candidates nominated by the New York State Commission on Judicial Nomination for position as Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals.

In 2005, he was inaugurated as the President of Nazareth College. Under his leadership, the College has expanded its programs in Health and Human Services, established the Arts Center as the premier mid-sized arts venue in the region, and increased international programs. It recently completed construction of the Integrated Center for Math and Science, the largest new building project in the College's history.

During the past six years, Nazareth has been selected by the *Princeton Review* for its publication on The Best Colleges in the United States, which recognizes less than 15 percent of the schools in the country. The Carnegie Foundation also named the College to its selective list of community engagement schools. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* selected Nazareth as a "Best College to Work For."

Braveman serves on a number of agencies, including the New York State Interest on Lawyers' Accounts, Rochester Business Alliance, Rochester Jewish Federation and the Sage Commission of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency.





**James Dao** is a reporter covering military and veterans affairs for the national desk of *The New York Times*. He writes about the military world from the ground up, looking at issues ranging from health care for veterans to the culture and daily lives of active duty troops and their families, at war and at home. He conceived and reported a series about an Army battalion's yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, "A Year at War," that received a 2011 Emmy, a 2012 Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University award, as well as honors from the American Society of News Editors, the Association of Military Reporters and Editors, the National Press Photographers Association and Pictures of the Year International. He is also a co-editor of *The Times*' military affairs blog, "At War."

Dao has been with *The Times* since 1992. Between 2006 and 2009, he was Deputy Metropolitan Editor for three years, overseeing columnists and beat reporters. Before that, he served as a national correspondent roving through the south and mid-Atlantic states. From 1998 until 2003, he was a Washington correspondent with stints covering Congress, the Pentagon, the State Department and the 2000 presidential campaign. During the invasion of Iraq in 2003, he embedded with Special Operations Forces in the Persian Gulf and Diwaniya Province, and has embedded with American forces in Afghanistan five times. Prior to going to Washington, Dao was *The Times*' state house bureau chief in Albany, N.Y., where he covered two governors, Mario Cuomo and George Pataki.

Dao has also worked at the *Daily News* of New York, where his series profiling the changing neighborhoods of Queens was honored by the American Planning Association. In 1990, he was principal writer on a year-long investigation into the smuggling of people from China to America, focusing on a criminal ring that was later responsible for the calamitous Golden Venture voyage. Dao began his writing career at the New York Chinatown History Project, now known as the Museum of Chinese in America, where he raised funds, conducted oral histories, wrote radio scripts and developed programs about Chinese immigrants in America. Born in Buffalo, N.Y., he received a B.A. in History, *cum laude*, from Yale College.

**Andrew DePalo** is the Director of the New York National Guard Family Programs. The Family Programs Office's primary mission is to establish and facilitate ongoing communication, involvement, support and recognition between National Guard families and the National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both and enhances the quality of life for National Guard members, their families and the communities in which they live. The Family Programs Office facilitates this through education, outreach services and partnerships leveraging resources, training and constantly capitalizing on new capabilities, concepts and technological advances. After over 28 years of service, DePalo retired as a Sergeant Major, and received a Bronze Star for his service during Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2004-2005.



**Kelly Dougherty** is a Senior Policy Advisor in the Workforce Development Division at the NYC Department of Small Business Services. In this capacity, she oversees the Workforce1 Veterans Employment Initiative as well as jobseeker services throughout the Workforce1 system. Dougherty's prior experience includes work on education and workforce policy and programs for Washington State Senator Maria Cantwell, New York State Lieutenant Governor Richard Ravitch and the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity. She has a Master's in Public Administration from Columbia University.





**Linda Frank** is the Director of Veteran and Military Education at Empire State College, where she manages military and veterans education programs and services across the college's 35 locations, including the Center for Distance Learning, which serves students online in New York, nationally and internationally. Frank previously served as Director of Corporate and Military Programs in the college's Center for Distance Learning for more than a decade, where she was responsible for the operations of all military programs including eArmyU, GoArmyEd, the Career Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) Degrees Program, Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnership (NCPDLP) and the Air Force's Air University Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative (AU-ABC).

For the past several years, she has held several elected positions, including President, on the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Executive Board, a national organization that promotes and supports accessible and effective higher education programs for the military community. Frank currently serves on the Board as Immediate Past President. She also serves on the Veteran Artist Program (VAP) Advisory Board, Senator Gillibrand's Veterans Affairs Working Group, the State University of New York Veterans and Active Military Advisory Council, the State University of New York e-Portfolio Task Force, and is active in the New York State Advisory Council of Military Educators (NYS ACME). In 2009, under Frank's direction and leadership, Empire State College's Office of Veteran and Military Education received the ACE Wal-Mart Foundation Success for Veterans Award grant. Frank was recognized for her service and contribution to the college in 2006 when she was named the recipient of the Empire State College Foundation Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Frank holds an M.A. in Social Policy with a concentration in Education Policy.



**Kara Gagnon, O.D.**, currently serves as the Director of Low Vision Optometry at the Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center, and Director of the Optometric Acquired Brain Injury Clinic at VA Connecticut Healthcare System. She holds Adjunct Faculty positions with the following Colleges of Optometry: New England College of Optometry; Illinois College of Optometry, State University of New York College of Optometry and Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Dr. Gagnon served as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Visual Sciences at Yale Medical School Department of Ophthalmology for a 9 year period; this appointment begins again in July of 2013. During her tenure of 17 years with the Veterans Affairs Department, she has chaired numerous national committees. Some of her most significant accomplishments include: serving as the Founder and Chair for the National Low Vision Veterans Affairs Optometric Workgroup; serving as the Founder and Chair for the National Acquired Brain Injury Veterans Affairs Optometric Workgroup; serving as Chair of the Workgroup that developed National Clinical Practice Recommendations for the Prescription of Low Vision Devices; and chairing two National VA/Department of Defense Interdisciplinary Conferences addressing the Visual Consequences of Traumatic Brain Injury.

Dr. Gagnon has helped in writing national policy, defining the delivery system of care and the standards of care for visually impaired, blind and traumatically brain-injured soldiers and veterans. She has been recognized for this work with numerous commendations from the Department of Veterans Affairs, an award from the National Blinded Veterans Association and an award presented by the former Secretary of Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. James Peake. Her other respected professional activities and appointments include serving as an Executive Council Member of the Vision Rehabilitation Section of the American Optometric Association; Chair of the Brain Injury Committee of the Vision Rehabilitation Section of the American Optometric Association; membership and Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry; and Advisory Board Member for SUNY College of Optometry China Project.

**Kelly Giordano**, the Grants Manager at Newman's Own Foundation, has over 14 years of experience in both the finance and nonprofit sectors. At Newman's Own Foundation, she is responsible for managing all grantmaking processes and programs. Giordano reviews and summarizes grant inquiries and applications, measures and reports grant impact, manages the grants database, maintains grantee relationships and tracks the grants budget. She started her career at Goldman Sachs as a controller in both the currency and commodities and private wealth management divisions before leaving the firm to pursue a career in the nonprofit sector and corporate philanthropy. After Goldman Sachs, she interned at Channel Thirteen in New York City, and spent two years at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she managed the museum's Corporate Patron Program.

Most recently, Giordano spent five years at Lehman Brothers as a Vice President in the Corporate Philanthropy group and as Assistant Treasurer of The Lehman Brothers Foundation. Giordano managed the firm's Employee Giving Campaign and Nonprofit Board Placement program, in addition to managing the Foundation's financials, annual audit and tax filing. Giordano received her Bachelor's degree in Economics/Finance and Spanish from Bucknell University and also serves on the board of the Norwalk Education Foundation.



**Jason Hansman**, the Senior Program Manager at Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, executes health programs designed to serve their membership, including referrals, mental health support and access to benefits. Prior to joining IAVA, Hansman completed an 8-year enlistment in the Army Reserves as a Civil Affairs Sergeant. From 2004 to 2005, he was deployed to Mosul, Iraq as the Operations NCO of a Civil Affairs company and helped manage hundreds of reconstruction projects. Hansman graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Near Eastern Language and Civilization.



**Irfan Hasan**, the Program Officer for Health and People with Special Needs at The New York Community Trust, covers The Trust's grantmaking in the areas of health services and health policy, children and youth with disabilities, mental health and mental retardation, and people with visual disabilities; he also manages the animal welfare grantmaking portfolio. Following September 11, 2001, Hasan was also instrumental in emergency mental health response grantmaking through The Trust's September 11th Fund. Before joining The Trust in 2000, Hasan spent eight years at Greater Boston Rehabilitation Services, developing and overseeing programs to help people with disabilities, chronic health problems and other barriers to employment return to work.

He is a Mayoral appointee to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Community Service Board and a member of Grantmakers in Health's Behavioral Health Funders and Philanthropy New York's Health Policy working groups. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Disability Funders Network, serving as Chairman from 2007 to 2011; a former Co-Chair of the United States Student Selection Committee for the United World Colleges; and has served on the planning committee for two Council on Foundations Annual Conferences.

Hasan earned a B.A. in Sociology from Northeastern University and holds a Master's in Public Administration from the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.



**Michael Haynie**, the Executive Director and Founder of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families, is the Barnes Professor of Entrepreneurship at Syracuse University's Whitman School. Haynie completed his doctoral degree in the field of entrepreneurship and business strategy at the Leeds College of Business, University of Colorado at Boulder. His academic research is focused on decision-making, identity and entrepreneurial thinking, and has been published in many of the leading entrepreneurship and business journals. He serves on the editorial review boards of the *Journal of Business Venturing* and the *Journal of Management Studies*.

Before beginning his academic career, Haynie served for 14 years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Trained in logistics and acquisition, he was stationed throughout the U.S. and around the world in both operational and staff assignments. Prior to joining the faculty at Syracuse University, Haynie was assigned as a Professor of Management at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Shortly after he arrived at SU, Haynie founded the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) program, an initiative designed to offer world-class training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans disabled as a result of their military service. More than 500 veterans have received EBV training since 2007, and the program is now being offered by a network of world-class schools across the country. In 2009, the EBV was recognized as a "National Best Practice" by the Secretary of the Army for serving soldiers and their families, and in 2011 the editors of *Inc.* magazine selected the program as one of the "10-Best" college-based entrepreneurship training programs in the U.S.

Haynie is a sought-after advisor and speaker on issues related to business, veterans and entrepreneurship. His work empowering veterans through business ownership has been featured nationally on the *ABC Evening News with Diane Sawyer*, MSNBC, CNN, CNBC and Fox News, and also in *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Inc.*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *Fortune* and *Entrepreneur*. He currently serves on the external advisory committee of the Center for Integrated Healthcare at the Syracuse Regional Veterans Medical Center, on U.S. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand's veterans' advisory working group, and is an appointed member of the U.S. Secretary of Labor's Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach. Haynie is a steering committee member of the Military Child Education Coalition's New York Living in the New Normal Public Engagement Initiative and in 2011 was appointed by New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo to the NYS Council on Returning Veterans and Their Families.



**Kim Hutchinson**, the President/CEO of the Disability Funders Network, has been a nonprofit management consultant, nonprofit executive, public health policy expert and community advocate for people with disabilities for more than 15 years. As an executive leader of multi-million dollar voluntary health organizations focusing on the disability field, she has demonstrated an ability in the areas of strategic planning and capacity building, crisis management and business turn-around. She was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations as well as providing leadership in developing a long-term growth strategy for these organizations. Her focus has been to ensure full integration, independence and equal opportunity for all people with disabilities by removing barriers to the social, economic, cultural and civic life of their community.

For 15 years prior to working in the not-for-profit sector, Hutchinson was a versatile executive manager and lobbyist for a global commercial real estate development and construction company. She is a native of Virginia and received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Richmond, a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Doctorate in Public Policy.



**James R. Knickman** is the first President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth), a private foundation dedicated to improving the health of all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable. Under Dr. Knickman's leadership, NYSHealth has invested more than \$75 million since 2006 in initiatives to improve health care and the public health system in New York State. Equally important, the Foundation is committed to sharing the results and lessons of its grantmaking; informing policy and practice through timely, credible analysis and commentary and serving as a neutral convener of health care leaders and stakeholders throughout New York State.

Today, NYSHealth focuses its efforts in three priority areas: reducing the number of New Yorkers without health insurance coverage; improving prevention and management of diabetes; and integrating mental health and substance use services for people who cope with both issues at the same time. In 2012, Dr. Knickman and his staff are also focused on developing a new strategic priority to advance primary care, to begin in 2013.

Prior to joining NYSHealth, Dr. Knickman was the Vice President of Research and Evaluation at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey. Dr. Knickman has a long history in New York State; between 1976 and 1992, he served on the faculty of New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Earlier, he worked at the New York City Office of Management and Budget, and he has been a visiting professor at the University of Rochester, UC Berkeley and Princeton University. Dr. Knickman received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Psychology from Fordham University and his Ph.D. in Public Policy Analysis from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Anna Laubach** joined the Robert R. McCormick Foundation in 2008 and is Director of Veterans Initiatives for the Veterans Program. In this role, she is leading a strategic grantmaking plan for the foundation to impact successful reintegration of veterans into their home communities. Given the complex needs of returning veterans as they transition back into civilian life, the McCormick Foundation is developing a model for better coordination of services for veterans and their families. Laubach has worked in philanthropy for 10 years. Prior to joining McCormick, she was a Senior Program Officer with Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation where she coordinated the grantmaking process for the foundation and managed a portfolio of projects focused on children's access to health care, mental health, and oral health services. Previous to that, she was a Senior Program Officer with McCormick Foundation in the Communities Program, where she oversaw projects addressing a variety of social and human service needs across the country.

Before coming to philanthropy, Laubach worked for ten years as a licensed clinical social worker in a variety of community based settings serving adults, children and families. She has been active in the social service community as a volunteer and advocate. She currently serves on the board of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and is an active volunteer in grantmaking with the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. Laubach received her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan and her Bachelor's degree in History from Rice University.





**Jacqueline Martinez Garcel** is the Senior Program Director of the New York State Health Foundation; in this role, she serves as an advisor to the President and CEO and has a central role in developing the Foundation's program areas, identifying emerging opportunities and strategic niches, building partnerships with other foundations, ensuring quality and accountability and evaluating the performance of programs and grantees. Martinez Garcel provides leadership and guidance to two priority areas: Improving Health Care for People with Diabetes and Integrating Mental Health and Substance Use Services. She also has a special interest in the strategic and creative development of leadership and capacity-building programs with community-based organizations throughout the State.

Martinez Garcel has more than 10 years of experience in managing and developing community-based health programs for medically underserved communities throughout New York City. She previously served as the Program Director for the Northern Manhattan Community Voices Collaborative at Columbia University's Center for Community Health Partnerships, where she implemented and evaluated health programs.

Martinez Garcel was a Research Associate for the City University of New York Medical School where she conducted an analysis of peer-reviewed literature on racial and ethnic disparities in diagnosis and treatment in the U.S. health care system. She was also a Program Manager for Alianza Dominicana, Inc., a National Institutes of Health Fellow for the Department of Public Health in the City of Merida in Yucatan, Mexico, and an Assistant Coordinator for Beginning with Children, a Brooklyn-based charter school.

Martinez Garcel holds a Master of Public Health degree from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development from Cornell University. She has served as Adjunct Professor of Sociology at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, Board Director of the Institute for Civic Leadership, and board member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness-New York City Metro.



**Colonel (Retired) James D. McDonough, Jr.**, is the Senior Fellow for Veteran Affairs of the New York State Health Foundation and serves as an advisor to the President and CEO on matters related to its Initiative for Returning Veterans and their Families. Colonel McDonough is responsible for the Foundation's efforts to advance public policy to ensure that veterans' funding meets the needs of New York State's returning veterans and their families, increase comprehensive community-based services for veterans and their families and build knowledge and cultural competency related to military issues among primary care and mental health providers to help them meet the unique needs of returning veterans and their families.

Colonel McDonough is an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. Upon retiring from the Army in 2007 after a 26-year career, Colonel McDonough was appointed Director of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, where he served until 2010. Prior to joining the New York State Health Foundation in 2012, Colonel McDonough was President and CEO of Rochester, New York's Veterans Outreach Center, Inc. He holds both a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the United States Army War College and a Master of Communication degree from Indiana State University. Colonel McDonough is a member of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and the American Legion and serves on a number of veteran-related advisory boards.



**Raul Perea-Henze, M.D., M.P.H.**, was nominated by President Obama and subsequently confirmed by the Senate as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the Department of Veterans Affairs. He was sworn in by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki, on March 22, 2010. As Assistant Secretary, Dr. Perea-Henze is the principal policy and strategy advisor to the Secretary and is responsible for strategy, transformation and interagency collaborations for the Department. He directs corporate policy, strategy and governance, program analysis and evaluation, enterprise program management and interagency collaborations (DoD).

Dr. Perea-Henze has a long and distinguished career as a global health physician, corporate executive and government official. He began his medical career as a clinician caring for underserved populations in developing countries, later moving to research in biochemistry and physiology, and academia as an Adjunct Professor of Health Policy at New York University. As a management consultant, he specialized in global health strategy, and as a senior official in New York City government in the early 1990s he focused on infectious diseases and mental health. Most recently, he led global science and medical policy for the two leading pharmaceutical companies building multinational programs and partnerships with UN agencies, foundations and NGOs worldwide.

He served directly under all four Secretaries of Commerce during the Clinton Administration, first as a White House Fellow and Senior Policy Advisor at the White House and later as (acting) Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget at the Department of Commerce. His work as a board member of prominent nonprofit and philanthropic organizations in the areas of HIV/AIDS, mental health, community leadership, Hispanic affairs and human rights spans many years, and has been recognized with several awards. Dr. Perea-Henze graduated *magna cum laude* as a Medical Doctor in Mexico at age 21 and obtained a Master's degree in Public Health, with concentration in Health Policy and Management, from Yale University, School of Medicine. He completed an Executive Leadership Program in Strategy and Management at INSEAD, France, and another in Corporate Governance at the Harvard Business School. His affiliations have included the Clinton Global Initiative, Aspen Institute, Council on Foreign Relations, World Medical Association and the UK Royal Medical Society.



**Christine C. Quinn** was overwhelmingly elected City Council Speaker by her colleagues, first in 2006, and again in 2010. Over the last seven years, she has proven herself to be a tireless champion of practical solutions in areas of importance to working New Yorkers—especially education, affordable housing and job creation. She has fought to eliminate unnecessary regulation and excessive taxes on small businesses and worked to diversify the city's economy, investing in growing job sectors like health care and food manufacturing. She has helped the city develop an economy of innovation through initiatives like the biotech tax credit and the creation of NYC Tech CONNECT, which helps technology entrepreneurs start new ventures in the five boroughs. Quinn passed the Safe Housing Act, which has dramatically improved conditions in some of the city's worst residential buildings, and the Tenant Protection Act, which allows landlords to be taken to court for harassing tenants or interrupting basic services.

She has focused on early childhood education, securing passage of legislation making kindergarten mandatory in New York City and expanding full day pre-kindergarten by nearly 4,000 seats. Her Middle School Task Force produced the definitive report on middle grades reform in New York City, with many recommendations being implemented in public schools. In addition, Quinn has presided over budget negotiations that have reduced government spending while still preserving core services like teachers, firehouses, police officers, senior centers and child protective services.



**Kathy Roth-Douquet** is Co-Founder and CEO of the military family organization Blue Star Families. In three years, Blue Star Families has grown to over 24 chapters, with over 30,000 members, and programming reaching half-a-million military families. She is an award-winning author, attorney, military family advocate, commentator and a former Clinton White House and Pentagon appointee. She is a Senior Fellow for the Truman National Security Project, and a Fellow with the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces in Society. She is the co-author, with Frank Schaeffer, of two books: *AWOL, The Unexcused Absence of America's Upper Classes from Military Service and How It Hurts the Country* (Collins, 2006) and *How Free People Move Mountains* (Collins, 2008). She is currently co-authoring a children's book. Roth-Douquet has appeared on the *Today Show*, *Fox and Friends*, NPR, PBS and other television programs; her commentary has appeared frequently in *USA Today*, as well as other major newspapers and magazines.

Roth-Douquet received her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College, her M.P.A. in International Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University (where she held a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship) and a J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law, *magna cum laude* and the Order of the Coif. While serving at the Pentagon as Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acting), she received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service for her work on defense reform. Roth-Douquet serves on the advisory board of the wounded warrior charity Hope For the Warriors and the veterans charity Beyond Tribute. She serves on the President's Advisory Board for Bryn Mawr College. Roth-Douquet lives in Stuttgart, Germany while her husband serves with Marine Forces Europe.



**Eli Williamson**, Director of the Veterans Program for the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, is a former staff sergeant with the U. S. Army and Co-Founder of Leave No Veteran Behind, an Illinois-based nonprofit focused on employment opportunities for veterans. While serving as Executive Director at Leave No Veteran Behind, Williamson implemented debt relief and transitional employment programs, workforce skills training and community service opportunities for veterans making the transition from military to civilian life.

Prior to 2009, Williamson served in both Iraq and Afghanistan as a member of "psychological operations" teams and as an Arabic linguist, working on outreach to civilian communities and supporting special operations forces. Before leaving the Army, Williamson served as a retention officer, providing career counseling to a battalion of over 150 soldiers. He is the recipient of numerous awards and medals, including the Bronze Star, two Army Achievement Medals, an Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal and Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals.

Williamson received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Linguistics (with a minor in African studies) from Luther College in Iowa and is presently completing a Master's Degree in Nonprofit Management from DePaul University.



## Funding Information from Our Speakers

### In this section:

- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America: 2012 Top Foundation Donors
- Empire State College: Veteran Initiative Funders
- Funding Support for NYC Department of Small Business Services' Workforce1 Veterans Employment Initiative
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation Veterans Program Grant List 2011 – 2012
- Newman's Own Foundation 2010-2012 Military Grants
- The New York Community Trust: Grants Made to Help Veterans Returning from the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
- New York State Health Foundation Grants to Support Returning Veterans and Their Families



## 2012 Top Foundation Donors

Foundation Name	Contact Information	Gift Amount
Charles and Helen Schwab Charitable Foundation	Kristi Kimball <a href="mailto:Kristi.kimball@gmail.com">Kristi.kimball@gmail.com</a>	\$250,000
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation	Michael Maness <a href="mailto:maness@knightfoundation.org">maness@knightfoundation.org</a>	\$250,000
Robin Hood Foundation	Eric Weingartner <a href="mailto:weingartner@robinhood.org">weingartner@robinhood.org</a>	\$210,000
Infinite Hero Foundation	Juliana Williams <a href="mailto:info@infinitehero.org">info@infinitehero.org</a> 855.687.4376	\$100,000
Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation	Catharine Grimes <a href="mailto:Catharine.grimes@bms.com">Catharine.grimes@bms.com</a> 212.5476.4196	\$181,000
New York Community Trust	Len McNally <a href="mailto:lm@nyct-cfi.org">lm@nyct-cfi.org</a> 212.686.0010 x 556	\$75,000
van Ameringen Foundation	Eleanor Sypher <a href="mailto:esypher@vanamfound.org">esypher@vanamfound.org</a> 212.758.6221	\$50,000
Rosenthal Family Foundation	Rupa Balasubramanian <a href="mailto:rupa@tabankinassoc.com">rupa@tabankinassoc.com</a>	\$50,000 over 2 years
Goldhirsh Foundation	Tara Roth McConahy <a href="mailto:tara@goldhirshfoundation.org">tara@goldhirshfoundation.org</a>	\$25,000
Triad Foundation	Joanne V. Florino <a href="mailto:jvf@triadfoundation.org">jvf@triadfoundation.org</a> 607.257.1133	\$20,000



## Empire State College: Veteran Initiative Funders

- American Council on Education/Wal-Mart Foundation Success for Veterans Award Grant (*for support of veterans program*)
  - Contact: Meg Krause, Director, Veterans Programs  
American Council on Education  
202-939-9702
- Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) MET Fund (*for veterans MBA*)
  - Contact: Irene Masa, GMAC MET Fund Manager
- Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women (*for veterans scholarship*)
  - Contact: Elizabeth Leiman Kraiem, Executive Director  
Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women



## Funding Support for Workforce1 Veterans Employment Initiative

- Robin Hood Foundation grant: \$600,000
  - Contact: Kim Smith, Robin Hood, [ksmith@robinhood.org](mailto:ksmith@robinhood.org)

## Robert R. McCormick Foundation Veterans Program Grant List 2011 – 2012

Albany Park Community Center, Inc. Chicago, IL	\$300,000	Veterans Transition and Workforce Development Program	Sep 07, 2011 - Sep 06, 2013
Albany Park Community Center, Inc. Chicago, IL	\$70,000	For Veterans Transition and Workfoce Development program	Jan 01, 2011 - Dec 31, 2011
American Democracy Institute Washington, DC	\$50,000	for Building Capacity and Collaboration in the Military and Veteran Advocacy Community	Apr 02, 2012 - Apr 01, 2013
American Democracy Institute Washington, DC	\$100,000	for Illinois Joining Forces	Sep 12, 2012 - Sep 11, 2013
AMVETS National Service Foundation Lanham, MD	\$50,000	For a memorial carillon	Jun 21, 2011 - Jun 20, 2012
Boston VA Research Institute, Inc. Boston, MA	\$15,000	for honorarium for the ongoing work of Dr. Terrence Keane	Feb 14, 2011 - Feb 13, 2012
Chicago Workforce Investment Council Chicago, IL	\$150,000	for a veterans portion of the Complete the Degree Chicago	Dec 15, 2011 - Dec 14, 2012
Cornell University Ithaca, NY	\$700,000	For the Program for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Studies at the Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University	Aug 03, 2011 - Aug 02, 2013
Cornell University Ithaca, NY	\$200,000	For Program for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Studies	May 27, 2010 - May 26, 2011
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning Chicago, IL	\$125,000	for developing toolkits and promoting advising strategies for veterans	Sep 09, 2010 - Sep 08, 2011
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning Chicago, IL	\$292,100	Maximizing the value of Education for Veterans' Futures	Sep 07, 2011 - Sep 06, 2013
Duke University Medical Center Durham, NC	\$500,000	For "The Welcome Back Veterans Culture and Clinical Competencies Breakthrough Series Collaborative"	Jun 01, 2011 - May 31, 2013
Emory University Atlanta, GA	\$1,150,000	for Braveheart: Welcome Back Veterans Southeast Initiative	Feb 01, 2011 - Jan 31, 2014
Health and Disability Advocates Chicago, IL	\$34,455	for the Returning National Guard Project	Apr 15, 2011 - Apr 14, 2012
Health and Disability Advocates Chicago, IL	\$450,000	Warrior to Warrior in Illinois: Connecting Soldiers to Wellness	Oct 01, 2011 - Sep 30, 2013
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights Chicago, IL	\$40,000	For New Veterans in Illinois program	Sep 09, 2010 - Sep 08, 2011
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights Chicago, IL	\$50,000	Inside perspectives: engaging female veterans in services and understanding employers' hiring practices	Sep 07, 2011 - Sep 06, 2012

## Robert R. McCormick Foundation Veterans Program Grant List 2011 – 2012

National Able Network, Inc. Chicago, IL	\$300,000	Veterans Employment Initiative	Sep 07, 2011- Sep 06, 2013
National Able Network, Inc. Chicago, IL	\$75,000	For the Able Veterans program	Sep 09, 2010- Sep 08, 2011
National Center on Family Homelessness, Inc. Needham, MA	\$50,000	for the Chicagoland Female Veterans: a qualitative study of attachment to the labor force	Mar 15, 2011- Sep 14, 2012
Pat Tillman Foundation Tempe, AZ	\$200,000	For the Tillman Military Scholars Program	Sep 09, 2010- Sep 08, 2011
Rand Corporation Santa Monica, CA	\$645,000		Sep 01, 2011- Jan 31, 2015
Rush University Medical Center Chicago, IL	\$1,000,000	For the Rush Center for Returning Veterans and Their Families	Sep 24, 2012- Sep 23, 2014
Stanford University San Francisco, CA	\$62,000	For Clinical Phase Out of Veterans Connect Center	Jan 01, 2011- Dec 31, 2011
The Red Sox Foundation, Inc. Boston, MA	\$1,085,000	For the Home Base program	Feb 01, 2011- Jan 31, 2013
The Thresholds Chicago, IL	\$300,000	Thresholds Veterans Employment Project	Sep 07, 2011- Sep 06, 2013
The Thresholds Chicago, IL	\$250,000	for the Veterans' Project	Sep 09, 2010- Sep 08, 2011
The University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI	\$1,000,000	For the Welcome Back Veterans Core Center	Feb 01, 2011- Jan 31, 2013
The University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI	\$200,000	for the Welcome Back Veterans Core Center	Apr 01, 2010- Dec 30, 2011
University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA	\$1,000,000	For UCLA Veterans Family Resilience Center	Feb 01, 2011- Jan 31, 2014
Women's Business Development Center Chicago, IL	\$50,000	for Women Vetrepreneurs Initiative	Sep 12, 2012- Sep 11, 2013

## Newman's Own Foundation 2010-2012 Military Grants

Organization	Program	Grant Amount	Grant Timing
Fisher House	Fisher Houses & Family Support Initiative	\$500,000	2010-2011
USO	Operation Enduring Care	\$400,000	2010-2011
Fidelco Guide Dogs	Veterans Program	\$225,000	2010-2011
Outward Bound	Veterans Expeditions	\$150,000	2010-2011
Armed Services YMCA	Operation Hero	\$100,000	2010
Operation Homefront	Emergency Assistance in key locations and/or transitional housing	\$150,000	2010-2011
National Military Family Association	Operation Purple - Camp Challenge Grant	\$150,000	2010-2011
Business Executives for National Security	Warrior Gateway	\$100,000	2010
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)	Good Grief Camps for children of deceased service members.	\$75,000	2010
Farmer Veteran Coalition	Farmer Veteran Coalition - Innovators in Agriculture Program	\$75,000	2011
Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute	Female Soldiers Forgotten Heroes	\$25,000	2011
Posse Foundation	Veterans Posse	\$100,000	2012

The New York Community Trust

Grants made to help veterans returning from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Grant Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Association of the Bar of the City of New York	To expand pro bono assistance to veterans filing disability claims.	\$35,000	October 2008
Association of the Bar of the City of New York	To expand pro bono assistance to veterans filing disability claims.	\$35,000	December 2009
Association of the Bar of the City of New York	To expand pro bono assistance to veterans filing disability claims.	\$35,000	December 2010
Association of the Bar of the City of New York	To expand pro bono assistance to veterans filing disability claims.	\$35,000	December 2011
Greater New York Hospital Foundation*	To help the City's non-military hospitals improve services for returning service members and their families.	\$75,000	October 2012
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America	To strengthen services for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans returning to New York.	\$10,000	December 2011
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America*	To expand online and telephone mental health services for veterans with emotional problems.	\$75,000	October 2012





<u>Organization</u>	<u>Grant Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Legal Services NYC	To provide legal services to the City's veterans, service members, and their families.	\$100,000	December 2011
Service Women's Action Network	To expand services for female veterans and those on active duty.	\$66,000	October 2010
Service Women's Action Network*	To strengthen a telephone support line and referral services for returning female service members.	\$75,000	October 2012
The New York City Veterans Fund	To establish a veterans funder collaborative.	\$150,000	December 2011
Urban Justice Center	For legal assistance for low-income veterans with mental illness.	\$50,000	December 2011

\*Grants made from the New York City Veterans Fund in The New York Community Trust

For more information please contact: Irfan Hasan, Program Officer (212) 686-0010 extension 573 or [iha@nyct-cfi.org](mailto:iha@nyct-cfi.org).

## **New York State Health Foundation Grants to Support Returning Veterans and Their Families**

**About NYSHealth:** NYSHealth is a private, statewide foundation dedicated to improving the health of all New Yorkers. Since 2006, the Foundation has awarded approximately \$65 million in grants, primarily in three areas: (1) Expanding health care coverage and reducing health care costs; (2) Improving prevention and management of diabetes; and (3) Integrating services for substance use and mental health disorders, with a special focus on Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families.

Of the nearly 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, or both wars, approximately 100,000 reside in New York State and have returned home. Our Foundation has carved out a role as the organization within New York State to raise the visibility of military families' needs and to serve as the neutral convener that brings together the full spectrum of organizations across the State with a role to play in meeting those needs—community-based veterans-serving organizations, the VA, community-based providers of health care and mental health services, colleges and universities, the business community, and other funders. This role of leader, convener, and coordinator is at least as important as the Foundation's role as a funder of innovative programs to support New York State's military families.

**New York State's Military Families:** A recent Foundation-commissioned needs assessment (conducted by the RAND Corporation) of New York State's returning veterans and their families found that 22% of returning military servicemembers have a current probable diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and/or major depression, but only half of those who sought care for a mental health need received even minimally adequate treatment. The report also found that nearly half of returning veterans prefer to receive care and services in their communities, rather than at the VA. The report found that nearly 13% of New York State's veterans are unemployed, compared to the 8.3% of all New Yorkers during the same time period. Of those who are employed, 77% report that additional training or college would help to advance their careers.

Models are emerging to engage employers, educational institutions, and health and social service providers to become more active in addressing the needs of military families. NYSHealth has committed \$2 million to address the needs of military families by supporting promising models and spreading successful programs to improve care and services.

The Foundation has focused its efforts on advancing public policy to serve returning veterans and their families and helping other foundations make strategic investments in the area through providing support to the following organizations and programs:

### **Veterans Outreach Center, Inc.**

#### **Serving our Service Members: Replicating and Spreading Best Practices for Community-based Services for Vets and Their Families**

**Location:** Rochester, NY      **Award Amount:** \$96,586

Veterans' health and wellbeing are the responsibility of both the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other clinical and social service delivery systems. Since nearly half of New York State veterans prefer to receive care outside the VA system, it is vital to support community-based clinical and social services. In addition, 42% of veterans do not have a good understanding of the benefits available to them, indicating a significant need for improved outreach services. To address the needs of the veteran community, the Veterans Outreach Center, Inc. (VOC) designed and developed a blueprint of its existing model of service and a roadmap to replicate in other organizations throughout New York State. The resulting report

entitled “Coming Home from War: A Blueprint for Serving Veterans & Families” highlights the importance of leveraging resources from five key domains of government, community, veterans and families, and virtual technology while fostering veterans-centered operating values and program elements of supportive services such as case management, employment resources, peer-mentoring, and counseling on benefits and readjustment for veterans and their families.

### **New York State Unified Court System**

#### **Replicating the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court (Phase II)**

**Location:** Buffalo, NY      **Award Amount:** \$241,118

National studies have confirmed that many veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan face significant reintegration challenges. They are at higher risk for mental health or substance use issues, and face formidable barriers to accessing behavioral health services. Recognizing the unique challenges veterans face, Buffalo City Court, part of the New York State Unified Court System, added a veterans treatment court to its existing drug and mental health court treatment system in January 2008. This court was the first of its kind in the nation to offer services to rehabilitate veterans and successfully reintegrate them into their communities. To date, none of the participants have been reincarcerated or have experienced additional encounters with the criminal justice system. With the objective of enabling courts to plan and implement a Veterans Treatment track in their existing drug and/or mental health courts, the New York State Unified Court System replication project aims to develop, pilot test and evaluate a two-day training course for problem solving courts in New York State based on the process evaluation of the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court.

### **Mental Health Association of New York City, Inc**

#### **A Voice for Improving Mental Health Care for Veterans and Their Families**

**Location:** New York, NY      **Award Amount:** \$125,000

This grant will provide core support to two coalitions working to improve access to, and the quality of, mental health and substance use services for veterans and their families. The two coalitions—the Veterans Mental Health Coalition of New York City, which has more than 150 members, and the Veterans Health Alliance of Long Island, which has more than 80 members—have been diligently working with State policymakers to ensure that resources meet the needs of veterans living in New York State. Each group consists of a cross-section of veterans service and advocacy organizations; behavioral health, health, and social services providers; and local, State, and Federal government officials.

### **Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court**

#### **Process Evaluation of Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court**

**Location:** Buffalo, NY      **Award Amount:** \$19,350

The Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court (BVTC) has pioneered a collaborative program to keep veterans with minor, non-violent offenses out of jail, and requires a formal process evaluation to successfully replicate the program throughout New York State. This grant initiated the project’s first phase in which a formal process evaluation of the BVTC program was conducted by an external evaluator. The findings from the evaluation permitted recommendations and guidelines for the content of a training curriculum emphasizing mental health, cross-training among disciplines, military culture, involvement from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, veteran-staffed training teams, respectful relationships between service providers and program participants, and a revised set of key components from drug and mental health courts. The second phase of the project used the evaluation results to implement a training curriculum for local court systems interested in establishing their own veterans treatment courts.

**R.A.N.D.****Needs Assessment of Returning Veterans and their Families****Location:** Statewide **Award Amount:** \$494,900

Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are at high risk of suffering from a multitude of health, mental health, and social issues that affect the quality of their lives and their ability to successfully reintegrate into their communities. The New York State Health Foundation (NYStateHealth) commissioned the RAND Corporation, an international nonprofit research institution, to conduct the first comprehensive needs assessment of the health, mental health, and social service needs of returning veterans and their families in New York State. Quantitative findings indicated a notable discrepancy between the need of veterans and the services they receive. Specifically, while veterans' risk for major depression was two- to four-times higher and their risk for PTSD was eight-times higher than that of the general population at the time of the study, only one-third of those veterans in need sought mental health treatment and only half of those seeking treatment received a minimally adequate standard. Qualitative findings also pointed to significant stress and mental health problems in addition to perceived challenges related to social isolation because of stigma, under- and unemployment, benefits eligibility confusion, disability evaluation obstacles, and lack of family support.

**Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America****2008 IAVA Veteran's Health Initiative****Location:** Manhattan **Award Amount:** \$ 74,985

Founded in 2004, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization focused on education and advocacy for returning veterans and their families. This project undertook several key activities at the state level including convening and educating a statewide community of returning veterans around specific critical issues using both in-person and online outreach strategies. In addition to partnering with the RAND Corporation to create needs assessments of the issues veterans face in New York State and subsequently promoting the release of the study through a strong media presence, IAVA also focused on community-building through the New York City Veterans Day Parade, job fairs, employer training workshops, and social activities. Similarly, IAVA's report "New York's Newest Veterans" analyzed several key findings from the statewide needs assessment and identified unemployment, mental health, and service navigation as the top issues facing new veterans in New York.

**Veterans Outreach Center (VOC), Inc.****"Operation Welcome Home and Recovery and Veterans Reintegration Assistance Program"****Location:** Rochester, NY **Award Amount:** \$372,430

Through its Veterans Reintegration Assistance Program, the Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) provided outreach and reintegration case management for veterans and their families in the Finger Lakes region, and created a cross-sector team to improve coordination of reintegration services throughout Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, and surrounding areas. The final report entitled "Operation Welcome Home and Recovery" outlined activities and outcomes of the program, including identification of priorities for health reintegration, academic partnership for veteran student support, community outreach, and family initiatives addressing combat-related stressors.

**Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCs)****"Home Again: Veterans Families Readjustment & Reintegration"****Location:** The Bronx**Award Amount:** \$372,441

The Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCs) focused on providing readjustment counseling and links to mental health services to veterans and their families. Through the initiative "Home Again: Veterans Families Readjustment & Reintegration" JBFCs conducted mental health community outreach for veterans and their families, created a referral network of nearly 200 programs focusing on veterans services throughout the New York City and surrounding area, trained health professionals and peer-advocates on mental health screening for veterans, and provided treatment to nearly 100 veterans and family members.

**Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF)****"Taking Care of the New Home Front: Leveraging Federal Resources to Expand Community Capacity to Serve New York State's Returning Veterans and their Families"****Location:** Syracuse, NY**Award Amount:** \$511,489

The number of veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness is an increasingly prevalent corollary to the present-day conflicts. It is known that during other times of military deployment that the tragic consequences of homelessness include an increased likelihood of mental health and substance abuse issues, unemployment or underemployment, and an overall decline in physical health and well-being. In a recent national survey, veterans reported an average of nearly nine years homeless, compared to just over seven for non-veterans. To prevent homelessness among veterans and their families, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) competitive grants initiative intends to provide access to a broad range of housing, health and wellness, income and disability services supports. New York State currently has eleven SSVF grantees, but opportunities exist to increase its SSVFs over the coming years. DVA provides broad-based TA to all SSVF grantees. This project will provide New York State-specific resources that work within and across NYS communities to build, grow, and sustain SSVF programs. Demonstrating replicable methods for sustaining these programs and improving their outcomes will ensure that no New York State veteran or their family need fear becoming homeless.

You may contact the following personnel for further information regarding these grants:

**Colonel (Ret.) James McDonough, Jr.**

Senior Fellow for Veterans Affairs

212-292-7397

McDonough@NYSHHealth.org

**Jacqueline Martinez Garcel**

Senior Program Director

212-584-7672

Martinez@NYSHHealth.org

## Additional Resources

- [Coming Home to Caring Communities: A Blueprint for Serving Veterans & Families](#), Rochester Veterans Outreach Center and the New York State Health Foundation (May 2012)
- [The Employment Situation of Veterans In America](#), Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University (to subscribe to this monthly report, visit <http://vets.syr.edu/employment/resources>)
- [Key Facts: The Health & Mental Health of Returning Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars](#), New York State Health Foundation (October 2009)
- [The Needs of New York State's Returning Veterans and Their Families](#), New York State Health Foundation (January 2011)
- [New Veterans in Illinois: A CALL TO ACTION](#), Social IMPACT Research Center and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation Veterans Initiative (December 2012)
- [Supporting Our Troops, Veterans and Their Families: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities for Philanthropy](#), California Community Foundation (November 2009)
- ["When the Transition Out of the Service Is Less Than Smooth,"](#) by Colonel (Ret.) James McDonough, Jr., Senior Fellow for Veterans Affairs, New York State Health Foundation, on *The New York Times*' "At War" blog, October 26, 2012