

## Behavioral Health

- **New Haven Vet Center:** 203-795-0148 (The New Haven Vet Center Readjustment Counseling Service provides an array of information/referrals to Combat Veterans to include disability benefits, career/education assistance, and other ancillary services. Other services include: Individual/Group/Family Counseling for Combat Veterans, Sexual Trauma and Bereavement Cases, and Outreach to Veterans)
- **Coaching Into Care:** 888-823-7458. Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST (Helps Veterans having difficulty transitioning from combat to home life. Returning home can be a tough adjustment, and loved ones can help. Coaching Into Care offers free coaching to help you help your Veteran.)
- **Home Base Program:** 617-724-5202 (Provides clinical care and support services to service members, veterans and family members throughout New England.) [www.homebaseprogram.org](http://www.homebaseprogram.org)
- **Veterans in crisis can call 1-800-273-TALK,** (1-800-273-8255) press option #1 (The hot line is based at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center in New York State and is staffed by mental health professionals. Hotline staff provides immediate help and will link callers to mental health services, including suicide prevention coordinators located at every VA medical center)
- **Veterans Online Chat:** "Chat" live online with a crisis counselor. The online chat service is available 24/7. Click here and then click on the "Veterans Chat" link. or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Benefits

- **VA Pension:** Contact Veterans Service Officer: Ramon Agosto at 203-336-2570. (VA pension is a needs-based benefit for wartime Veterans with limited or no income who are age 65 or older. Those who have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability may also qualify. In addition, Veterans who are housebound or require an aid to perform daily activities may qualify for pension at an increased rate)
- **Veterans Choice Program:** 1-866-606-9198 (Veterans have the option to participate in the VCP as an alternative to treatment at the VA Hospital. Local veterans can participate if they have a service connected disability, or a related illness after discharge, and meet other criteria for eligibility. They must live outside 40 miles of a VAH or are unable to get to a medical appointment within 30 days. The VCP provides quality healthcare to veterans regardless of ability to pay-income is not relative. Veterans participating will not be billed for services and will not lose benefits. Must register with the VA.) <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact>
- **VA's Caregiver Support Line:** 1-855-260-3274 (Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can: Tell you about the assistance available from VA., Help you access services., Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you., Just listen, if that's what you need right now.)

Town of Fairfield

# BIGELOW CENTER

FOR SENIOR ACTIVITIES

## Staff list for Veterans Service Contact Persons

*Director of Human Services*  
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# Veterans Services

Please reach out to the Fairfield Social Services Department for more information and assistance with applying for the following programs. 203-256-3170

**New**

**Roll Call**

**Coffee and Informal Discussion  
Group For Veterans**

**203-256-3166**

<http://www.fairfieldct.org/humanservices>  
[www.fairfield.org/veterans](http://www.fairfield.org/veterans)

Town of Fairfield

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FOR SENIOR ACTIVITIES

- **Veterans Tax Credit:** Tax Assessor- Town of Fairfield (203)-256-3110  
[www.fairfieldct.org/content/10726/11012/13471.aspx](http://www.fairfieldct.org/content/10726/11012/13471.aspx)

### Employment

- **Feds Hire Vets:** [www.fedshirevets.gov](http://www.fedshirevets.gov) 202-606-7304
- **United States Department of Labor:** Veterans Employment and Training Service: (860)-263-6490 <https://www.dol.gov/vets>

### Housing Resources

- **Patriot's Landing** (formerly W.R.A.P.) Contact Maria Cheney at 860-616-3801 (Provide transitional housing services to returning service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan (OEF-OIF-OND). The five houses have now been renovated and updated for occupancy by qualified returning warriors. Located on West Street in Rocky Hill, CT across from the CT Department of Veterans' Affairs main campus, the houses can accommodate up to fifteen (15) residents, with one house reserved for women veterans. All houses are completely furnished, equipped with kitchen supplies, bedding, furniture, washers & dryers, and full kitchens. The Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for all maintenance and repairs.)
- **Homes for the Brave Veterans Service Center:** (203)338-0669 655 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06614 (Provides immediate basic needs and resources to Veterans in need. Assists individuals by offering referrals to emergency and permanent housing resources, vocational counseling, assistance with benefits, and other

supportive services. Drop-In Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM)  
<https://www.homesforthebrave.org>

- **The Workplace: Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF):** 203-610-8538 <https://www.workplace.org/supportive-services-for-veteran-families> (Assists veteran families at risk of becoming homeless to maintain their housing and to rapidly re-house veteran families who have recently become homeless in Southwest and South Central Connecticut. Supportive Services for Veteran Families is funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) was founded upon the principle that every veteran has a right to housing.)

### Legal

- **Connecticut Veterans Legal Center:** (203)-794-4291 114 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516 (The mission of Connecticut Veterans Legal Center is to help veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare and income.)

### Recreation

- **U.S. Veterans Rowing & Kayaking:** 1-844-838-7697 (The overall goal of U.S. Veterans' Rowing and Kayaking program is to improve the quality of life for disabled Veterans by engaging them in a physical wellness and fitness activity while creating a sense of unity and network using teamwork to reach a desired goal.)  
<http://www.veteransrowing.com/>

- **Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America: Vet Together:**  
<http://www.fairfieldct.org/humanservices> (VetTogether ensure that connections are forged whether you're a veteran transitioning home, a retiree looking for a way to give back or a student hoping to engage with your peers. See link above for events/meetups in your area or to post.)

### Temporary Financial Assistance

- **Soldiers Sailors and Marines Fund.** Through American Legion. Bridgeport office: 203-332-5648 [www.alctssmf.org](http://www.alctssmf.org)
- **The Connecticut National Guard Foundation: Temporary Financial Assistance Program.** 860-241-1550 (The Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc. is a private nonprofit corporation organized for the purpose of providing temporary, need based, financial assistance for the Connecticut National Guard and Organized Militia. The fund provides benefits such as clothing, food, medical and surgical aid, and general care and relief.)
- **American Legion Auxiliary:** The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency help to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have suffered a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis. AEF funds may not be used for medical expenses or debt such as that on credit cards. Members request an application by contacting their unit or department headquarters.

### Transportation

- **Beneficiary Travel (BT):** The Beneficiary Travel program provides eligible Veterans and other beneficiaries mileage reimbursement, common carrier (plane, train, bus, taxi, light rail etc.), or when medically indicated, "special mode" (ambulance, wheelchair van) transport for travel to and from VA health care, or VA authorized non-VA health care for which the Veteran is eligible. For more information please call 1-877-222-8387
- **Veterans Transportation Services:** 203-932-5711 ext. 3298 (The Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) provides safe and reliable transportation to Veterans who require assistance traveling to and from VA health care facilities and authorized non-VA health care appointments. VTS also partners with service providers in local communities to serve Veterans' transportation needs.)

### Veterans Service Organizations

- American Legion  
1443Stratfield Rd, Fairfield, CT 06825
- American Legion  
197 Reef Rd, Fairfield, CT 06824
- National Assoc. Naval Veterans  
Port 5, 69 Brewster St., Bridgeport, CT 06605
- Veterans of Foreign Wars  
465 Riverside Ave., Westport, CT 06880