LONG ISLAND BUSINESSNEWS

CN Guidance, UJA launch support program for older veterans on Long Island

ADINA GENN//November 5, 2026//



Courtesy of CN Guidance & Counseling Services

THE BLUEPRINT:

- CN Guidance partners with UJA for veterans support
- Program targets veterans age 60 and older on Long Island

- Provides trauma-sensitive support and emergency financial aid

Ahead of Veterans Day, Hicksville-based CN Guidance & Counseling Services is partnering with United Jewish Appeal (UJA) for a new initiative to provide trauma-sensitive support and emergency financial assistance to veterans facing hardship who are age 60 and older throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties.

In this program, which is funded by UJA, a veteran peer specialist with firsthand military experience and expertise will guide veterans as they navigate benefits, behavioral health services and community resources. In addition to helping participants through financial hardships, the program is designed to assist those encountering behavioral health challenges, barriers to accessing services and other life stressors that can negatively impact health, stability and overall well-being.

The program is intended to support a broad range of veterans, including retirees, working adults, individuals living with PTSD, immigrants who served in the U.S. military, Holocaust survivors, and those with disabilities or chronic health conditions.

“Veterans often face significant barriers and stigmas that prevent them from getting the care and support they need,” Lindsay Ragona, program director at CN Guidance, said in a news release.

“By engaging the community through the skills of a staff member who is also a veteran, we can build trusted relationships and connect individuals to critical resources and ensure those who served our country receive the support they deserve,” Ragona said.

The program is launching at a time when nearly 600,000 veterans age 65 and older across the country are living below the poverty line, according to UJA. Economic challenges are exacerbated on Long Island, where the higher cost of living makes it more to meet basic needs.

And although there is a strong network of resources for veterans, according to CN Guidance, many older adults continue to face significant obstacles in accessing support. Stigma surrounding help-seeking, complex benefit systems, technology barriers and unmet financial needs can all delay access to care and services.

The program is designed to provide financial assistance for essential needs such as housing, utilities, transportation, medical and dental care, legal expenses and household necessities. It will also provide assistance in navigating benefits and connecting with veteran-serving organizations. Additionally, it will offer referrals to mental health and substance use treatment when appropriate.

CN Guidance has developed extensive experience supporting veterans and military-connected individuals through its Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic in Hicksville. The organization regularly participates in veterans stand-down events, collaborates with veteran-serving organizations across the region, and provides training and support to community partners.

“UJA-Federation of New York is proud to support CN Guidance’s peer-delivered work with U.S. veterans,” Kayleh Levy-Weller, UJA strategic planning and grants lead, said in the news release. “Their trauma-informed care and emergency financial assistance meet veterans where they are, and the trust they have built in the veteran community makes this support possible.”

“This investment allows us to bring critical services directly to those who deserve only the best,” Jeffrey Friedman, CEO of CN Guidance, said in the news release. “We are grateful to UJA for supporting this important initiative and helping us strengthen Long Island’s Veteran community. In honoring our Veterans and expressing our gratitude for their service, we must also ensure they have access to the support and resources they need as they age. Together, we can help older Veterans thrive with practical assistance, compassionate support, and meaningful connections to care.”