

As part of F·E·G·S's 70th Anniversary, we will be sharing a series of historical perspectives that relate to the development, achievements and growth of the Agency.



1941-45 THE WAR YEARS

*For its efforts, FES was designated an
“essential war-time organization.”*

U.S. War Manpower Commission



F·E·G·S actively recruited workers needed for defense manufacturing needs at shipyards, arsenals and aircraft assembly plants.

Federation Employment Service aided the victory effort by demonstrating that women, older workers and those with handicaps were vital to our country's defense manufacturing needs. FES's 1941 publication, *Trade Unions in New York City*, was a milestone and received wide praise from government, industry, and union leadership.

We worked the New York City Board of Education to create the *Guidance for Victory Program*, which helped high school students select required “war courses.”

As the war intensified, discharged servicemen and wives of draftees needed jobs. German refugees needed assistance. FES worked with the Selective Service, the Army Emergency Placement Bureau and the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA) to find solutions.

As early as 1942, there were returning veterans with special problems, and the War Manpower Commission turned to Federation Employment Service. By 1945, FES provided vocational guidance to thousands of servicemen. Many of its innovative approaches were replicated by other agencies throughout the country.

Looking to the future, FES formally established a Veterans Unit to deal with the readjustment problems our soldiers would face – for everyone knew that when the war was over, our society and our world would never be the same again.

By 1945, FES's annual budget was \$160,000.



Men and women returning from war receive vocational guidance at FES's Veteran's Unit.