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www.CIDNY.org

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

February 2017

Taking Action: ↓

We Won One! MetroCard base fare stays the same at \$2.75.

CIDNY joined with other disability groups, including BCID, DIA, 504 Democratic Club, HILC, MFY Legal Services, NYLPI, and SICIL, to tell the Governor and the Mayor to keep the base fare for subways and Access-a-Ride at \$2.75. The MTA Board voted on January 25 to do just that.



If you ever wonder if your advocacy matters—here's proof that it does. Thank you everyone who supported this advocacy.

Home Stability Support: Add your name

There are nearly 63,000 people – including more than 24,000 children – sleeping in New York City shelters to-night and thousands more enduring homelessness statewide. Many of these are people with disabilities.

It is time for us to take action to address this crisis. Home Stability Support (HSS) is a program proposed by State Assembly member Andrew Hevesi. It would establish a statewide rent subsidy for families on public assistance and people facing eviction, homelessness or loss of housing due to domestic violence or hazardous conditions. This proposal will allow them to stay in their homes.



The plan would not only save thousands of New Yorkers from enduring the trauma of homelessness, but would also save tax dollars by reducing reliance on costly emergency shelters.

The proposal already has been endorsed by City, State and Federal elected officials on both sides of the aisle,

but we still need the support of the Governor to take the steps to make sure Home Stability Support is a reality.

Add your name to Coalition for the Homeless' petition, and tell Governor Cuomo that HSS is the socially and financially responsible solution to combatting New York's homelessness crisis.

To add your name to the list, go to the following link:

<http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/the-latest/todays-action/>

If you do not have internet access, but would like to sign on to the petition, contact Monica Bartley at 646-442-4152.

CIDNY Testifies at City Council Hearings

DRIE Should Keep Pace with Inflation

On January 12, CIDNY Testified before New York City's Council Committee on Aging, Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services and the Committee on Finance to urge them to have the Disability Rent Increase Exemption keep pace with inflation so that people with disabilities who have the benefit do not get priced out of their homes.



City Council Should Monitor Remedies for Emergencies and Disasters

On January 19, CIDNY testified before the City Council Committee on Recovery and Resiliency. Chair Mark Treyger (D-Brooklyn) proposed a voluntary registry for people with disabilities caught in emergencies and disasters. CIDNY testified that we would encourage the City Council to monitor the court-ordered remedies from our E-prep lawsuit, which include accessible canvassing, transportation, communication and sheltering.

Committee members Treygor, Chin, Menchaca, Richards and Mendez told the City's emergency response agencies that they witnessed the response to Hurricane Sandy that left many people without appropriate assistance before, during and after the storm. The Council wants to ensure that people with disabilities and seniors can get the help they need to be safe going forward.

CIDNY testimony on this and other issues can be found on our website: www.cidny.org, publications tab, testimony.

Quick Takes

CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING

CAN members and CIDNY staff will be going to Albany on Monday, February 13. We'll be talking to New York State Senators and Assembly Members to make sure they know how their actions will affect people with disabilities. **You cannot go to Albany on the 13th with us unless you took training with CIDNY in January.** Make sure you have RSVP'd with Monica Bartley, mbartley@cidny.org, and have the information about where and when to meet. If you need an accommodation, like a wheelchair space or an interpreter, you must let Monica know by Tuesday, February 7.

Los miembros de la CAN y el personal de CIDNY irán a Albany el Lunes 13 de Febrero. Hablaremos con los Senadores y Miembros de la Asamblea del Estado de Nueva York para asegurarnos de que saben cómo sus acciones afectarán a las personas con discapacidades. **No puedes ir a Albany con nosotros el 13, a menos que tomes entrenamiento con CIDNY en Enero.** Por favor RSVP'd con Monica Bartley, mbartley@cidny.org, para recibir la información sobre dónde y cuándo debe reunirse. Si necesita un alojamiento,

Tracking Access-a-Ride Problems

CIDNY is working with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), Brooklyn Center for Independent Living (BCIL) and MFY Legal Services on a



special project tracking Access-a-Ride problems and providing training on riders' rights.

CIDNY has hired a community organizer specifically to track problems with AAR. We will be recruiting people with disabilities who are AAR users, have applied to the program, or have a history of using AAR.

Staff will also be meeting with AAR consumers to give them information on their rights and gather stories about their experiences. AAR consumers will learn about events that can affect how AAR operates. Riders can also learn about AAR procedures, including complaints and appeals and how to advocate for themselves.

This is a new CIDNY project and we are excited about. If you would like to participate and you are already working with a CIDNY benefits counselor, tell them you would like to be put on the project list. If you are not working with a counselor yet, please contact 646-442-4186 (Manhattan) or 646-442-1520 (Queens) and ask to be put on the AAR project list.

This project is partially funded by the New York Community Trust.

Fair Housing Act Project

CIDNY wants to know if you have been discriminated against in housing because of your disability. For example, did a realtor or landlord say they didn't have an apartment when you knew they did; did a landlord tell you you couldn't have an accommodation, like grab bars in the bathroom or a ramp to the building?



For people with disabilities who have vouchers that help with rent payment, they may find that realtors and landlords sometimes refuse to accept them. Landlords in buildings with at least 6 units cannot discriminate against you because you use Section 8 or any other voucher towards your rent. If you have been told that you can't use a voucher towards your rent payments, call the New York City Commission on Human Rights at 212-306-7450.

Three CIDNY staff members are ready to take your information and to help. They are conducting rights training, assisting with filing complaints about your housing discrimination experience, and are conducting surveys to find out about people's experiences with housing discrimination.

The Fair Housing Act staff are:

Sharon McKnight, smcknight@cidny.org
Ester Benjamin, ebenjamin@cidny.org
Zola Mendoza, zmendoza@cidny.org

Do not hesitate to contact any of them. If you don't have email, please call 212-674-2300 and ask for a Fair Housing Counselor.

If you are facing housing discrimination, CIDNY can help.