



CID-NY

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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

Section 8 Vouchers Lost to 2,300 Households

In December 2009, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) withdrew over 2,300 Section 8 vouchers that people were counting on to pay rent. About 1,800 of the affected households live in apartments where rent is now being paid by "Advantage" subsidies that are about to expire. In addition, many homeless people were told that they had vouchers, but did not sign a lease on an apartment before the vouchers were withdrawn.



People who are already living in apartments where the rent is paid by Section 8 are not affected by this problem.

CIDNY testified at a City Council hearing in February about how this loss affects people with disabilities. Section 8 vouchers are the only way that a person living on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can qualify to apply for new subsidized housing. This housing is the best source of accessible apartments.

Many politicians have called for a solution that will restore funding for the vouchers, including Congress members, State legislators, City Council members, and the Manhattan Borough President. Advocates are calling for the city and state to continue funding Advantage subsidies, to use federal stimulus money for subsidies, and for people who lost the vouchers to be placed in NYCHA apartments.

If you are interested in helping to get funding restored for these vouchers, please contact Linda Ostreicher at lostreicher@cidny.org.

Around Town:

One of the best small museums in New York City is [The Museum of the Moving Image](#). It is a gem that can entertain and educate.

Manageable in size, fun, and fully accessible with interactive exhibits, it's a perfect destination for a couple of hours. CIDNY will be taking a group trip there on March 10th, and if you would like to join us, please RSVP to Bianca Neumann at 646-442-1788 or bneumann@cidny.org. We will be meeting at CIDNY Manhattan at noon to travel

into Queens together or you can meet us at the museum at 1pm. Please let us know if you need an accommodation.

The museum is located at 35 Avenue at 36 Street in Astoria Queens. For full directions to the museum visit www.cidny.org or www.hopstop.com. For those who can't join us on that date, the museum is always free and open Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 3pm.

A Parents' Conversation Learn more about advocating for your child.



If you are the parent or caregiver of a child with a disability who attends a New York City school, join with us for *A Parents' Conversation*. Share your concerns about your child's education, learn about things you can do to advocate effectively and learn about community referrals that can help.



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You'll also meet other parents who are working to get their children the best education possible. STEP Up and The ARISE Coalition, two non-profits working to expand opportunities for youth with disabilities will host the event at Grand Street Settlement in the Lower East Side February 25, 2010, 6:00-8:00 pm. All conversations will be kept confidential. Light refreshments will be provided.



Help Bring Funding to Your Community

In March, every household across the country will receive a short, 10-question form from the federal government. This form is part of the effort to count all people living in the United States, regardless of whether they are citizens. It is important that everyone be counted by completing and mailing back the form because the federal government gives billions of dollars to communities each year based on the number of people living in them. These funds help communities pay for services such as hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, emergency services and public works projects such as bridges and tunnels. For more information about [Census 2010](http://2010.census.gov/2010census/), call 1-800-923-8282 or go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

Census 2010 also provides part-time job opportunities. When you work for the Census, you stay close to home and are sent to households to explain the purpose of the census and help your neighbors complete the form. For information about [Census jobs](http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/), call

1-866-861-2010 or go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>.

TTY users can call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339

Writers Workshop



Everyone has a story to tell and they are telling them at CIDNY's Writer's Workshop.

The workshops take place every Thursday through the end of March and are led by a professional from the New York Writer's Coalition. It is a fun, safe environment to express your creativity. If this is something you think you might be interested in, contact us at access@cidny.org or call 212-674-2300.

Interested in Trying the New Voting System?

In the fall 2010 elections, New Yorkers will vote by marking paper ballots and inserting their ballots into a scanner. Paper ballots can be marked by hand or with a Ballot Marking Device, which is designed to assist voters with disabilities to mark ballots privately and independently.

CIDNY will make arrangements for people to test out this new method for voting at our Manhattan office. If you are interested in giving it a try, please contact Rima McCoy at 646-442-4146 or rmccoy@cidny.org