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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

CIDNY's Poll Site Accessibility Summary for the 2010 General Election

Visit www.cidny.org to see photos and a summary of findings from the poll site accessibility surveys CIDNY conducted during the 2010 General Election. Of the 53 sites surveyed on November 2nd, 40 (or 75%) had at least one physical access barrier having to do with ramps, signage, entryways, pathways and lack of space in the voting area for wheelchair users. The most common barriers were lack of

space provided to access the Ballot Marking Device (BMD). For example, at Hamilton Heights Terrace at 1833 Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan, the BMD was placed 18 inches away from the wall, making it impossible for a wheelchair user to get to it (see photo).



Many thanks to the many people who completed CIDNY's survey training and worked hard gathering information at poll sites on Election Day. Survey volunteers included staff from the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Cerebral Palsy Association, students from Hunter College School of Social Work and CIDNY consumers.

To receive a copy of the poll site accessibility summary in an accessible format, please

contact Rima McCoy at 646-442-4146 or rmccoy@cidny.org.

Head Start for Your Job Search

If you are trying to get back to work, don't miss CIDNY's Back to Work Series. This month CIDNY will host three workshops to give to your job search a head start.:
Resume Strategies for Career Transition January 11th from 11am to 1pm, Job Search Strategies January 19th from 11am to 1pm, and Interview Preparation February 1st from 11am to 1pm. All workshop will be held at CIDNY, 841 Broadway Suite 301 New York, NY 10003.

Each of the workshops will be lead by a career counseling professional. There will also be time after each workshop to put what you've learned to use. CIDNY will have a

computer lab open so you can write your resume and begin your job search. Don't miss this exciting and informative series.

Space is limited so register early for one or all three workshops, by contacting Eva Eason at eeason@cidny.org or call 212-674-2300. If you need an accommodation, please let us know when you register for the workshops.

Important Notice: Housing Protection at Risk

New York is considering cutting the Rent Regulated and Stabilized Apartments Program



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next year on June 15. This program affects people who receive the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) and Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE). If we are going to stop the loss of this important housing program, we must start planning now. Contact Eva Eason at 646-442-4156 to get involved and help save our housing subsidy!

New Coverage for 2011

Beginning January 1, 2011 cost sharing is eliminated for Medicare-covered preventive services recommended by the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force and coverage through Medicare is available for a personalized preventive plan, including a comprehensive health risk assessment. Drug manufacturers will be providing a 50% discount on brand-name prescriptions filled in the Medicare Part D coverage gap (donut hole) and federal subsidies for generic prescriptions filled during the coverage gap begin to phase in so that there will be a 7% discount for generics. For new private insurance policies beginning on January 1, young adults can be covered up to age 26 on their parents plan and co-pays are eliminated for preventive services in private insurance too. HHS is setting up a new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test new payment and delivery system models to improve quality and reduce costs. So here's to your health in 2011!

New Programs in Queens

In 2011, CIDNY-Queens will introduce two programs for young adults with disabilities and for seniors. Our focus will be on those consumers who speak primarily Spanish or Chinese. Working in collaboration with schools, senior centers and community-based organizations, CIDNY will expand our outreach to underserved populations throughout the borough. The primary goal is to educate youth, seniors and their families about transition services, benefits information and assistance, and an array of other services CIDNY provides.

The new programming will include: informational workshops and benefits clinics for the families of young adults with intellectual disabilities, ages 18-26; screening for benefits; and assistance with applications and recertifications. CIDNY

will also create a job club for young adults with disabilities who are looking for employment or post-secondary education.

For seniors in Queens, CIDNY-Queens will help people determine their eligibility for public benefits and hold workshops on senior-related benefits such as SCRIE, Medicare Part D plans, EPIC, Reduced Fare Transportation and Medicare Savings Plans. If you are a consumer, family member or service provider and would like to learn more about these new programs, please contact Alida Rodriguez and Federico Peña at 646-442-1520.

