



CID-NY

841 Broadway #301
New York, NY 10003

212/674-2300 Tel
212/674-5619 TTY

212/254-5953 Fax
www.CIDNY.org

CIDNY-Queens
137-02A Northern Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11354

646/442-1520 Tel
718/886-0427 TTY

718/886-0428 Fax
www.CIDNY.org

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

Tales of the ADA: *Everyday Stories* Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

A co-worker and I had decided to go out after work for drinks. When we got there they were informed that I had a guide dog. We were told that there were no dogs allowed in the restaurant. I tried to explain to the person that this is a guide dog and not a pet and that I was blind (in case it wasn't obvious!). We decided to leave because truly after being refused, I would not have felt comfortable eating there anyway. Unfortunately in this day and time there is still some ignorance to the law as well as some prejudices when it comes to guide/service dogs being allowed in public places. We still have a ways to go.



CIDNY is launching a new blog to celebrate the twenty year anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We're sharing our everyday experiences of the ADA. We hope you will take the time to join us and let us know what you think about the ADA: How far we've come, where are we today because of the ADA, and what's left to be done.

Please submit written stories to Bianca Neumann at bneumann@cidny.org, or by standard mail to Bianca at CIDNY, 841 Broadway Suite 301 New York, NY 10003. You may also call 646-747-1788, if you would like some help capturing your experience.

Disability Literacy for Poll Workers

Some New Yorkers are worried that poll workers will not be prepared when the time comes to help us use the new voting system during the fall elections. CIDNY is doing its part by working with the LaGuardia Community College (LAGCC) student poll worker recruitment program. One benefit of encouraging college students to become poll workers is they won't be intimidated by the new technology.

CIDNY is training recruited LAGCC students to respectfully and legally assist voters with disabilities at the poll site. The students are also learning how to look for and eliminate physical poll site barriers. Two trainings took place in April, three are scheduled for May and one for September. After participating in the April trainings, several students said they were eager to learn more about the Ballot Marking Devices that help voters with disabilities mark a paper ballot without relying on anyone else.

As a voter, if you are interested in becoming more familiar with the new voting system before the fall election, please attend CIDNY's May 19th event: [Hands-On Practice Voting the New Way](#).



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Health Reform and Medicare: *Closing the Doughnut Hole*

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act were signed into law just over a month ago. For Medicare Part D beneficiaries it will close the "doughnut hole", the gap in drug coverage during which people must pay the full cost of their prescriptions out of pocket by 2020. All consumers who reach donut hole in 2010 will receive a \$250 rebate. This will be automatically sent to you when you reach the doughnut hole. You don't need to do anything to receive it.



You may not be chosen this summer, but you won't know unless you try. Download the application, fill it out and submit it online or in person to:

NYC Dept of Placement and Referral
Division of Students with Disabilities & English Language Learners
Placement and Referral Center 145 Stanton Street, Room 253B
New York, NY 10002

Please keep in mind that SYEP will accept applications only for students with disabilities. The deadline to submit your application is May 21, 2010. Good Luck! And remember, if you

can't work this summer, you can always try again next summer.

Possible Summer Employment for Students with Disabilities

As the summer approaches, STEP UP wants to remind students with disabilities of the *Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)*. If you are a student with a disability and would like to work this summer, you can be entered in a lottery and possibly be called to work this summer. Please contact your teacher or guidance counselor and ask them for help. You could also ask your parent for help when filling out an application. To learn more about the SYEP program and for help in filling visit the SYEP website at www.nyc.gov/dycd.

On the website, check for the nearest community-based provider closest to where you live. Your application will then go into a lottery along with other students' applications.

If You Had a Section 8 Voucher Withdrawn Contact CIDNY

New funding may be available to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) for Section 8 Vouchers. With this funding 200 vouchers could be available for non-elderly persons with disabilities and for non-elderly persons with disabilities in a nursing home and/or other institution. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has until July 7, 2010 to apply for this funding. CIDNY would like to help NYCHA with the process by getting names of non-elderly people with disabilities in the community who recently had a Section 8 voucher withdrawn or are on the waiting list. If you have had a Section 8 voucher withdrawn or are on a waiting list, please contact Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo at 646-442-4148.