



**Manhattan**  
841 Broadway  
Suite 301  
New York, NY 10003  
212/674-2300 Tel  
212/254-5953 Fax  
646/350-2681 VP

**Queens**  
80-02 Kew Gardens Rd  
Suite 107  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415  
646/442-1520 Tel  
718/886-0428 Fax  
866/948-1064 VP

www.CIDNY.org

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

March 2017

## Protecting Our Rights—Albany Trip

On February 13th, CIDNY consumers and staff went to Albany to speak with our elected officials. We helped legislators understand the importance of funding to address the needs of people with disabilities.



Tashia, a CIDNY consumer, said: "I am glad I went to Albany. It was my first time and I plan on participating as often as I can in the future. Because of my experience today I am inspired to become more involved in advocacy work, especially for the disabled community. I appreciated being heard today. I felt like the assembly members were really listening and giving us hope that they were working alongside us to move our very vital agenda."

You can learn more about our policy agenda [here](#) or at [www.cidny.org](http://www.cidny.org). We asked our legislators to support:

- increased funding for Independent Living Centers.
- additional funding for the Community Health Advocates (CHA) Program.
- a living wage for home care workers, who help many people with disabilities to remain independent in their communities.
- Home Stability Support (HSS), which provides rent supplements to people with disabilities at risk of eviction.
- a proposal by Assembly Member Weprin to make discrimination by landlords based on a tenant's source of income illegal under state law.
- We were opposed to granting the Governor broad authority to make budget changes mid fiscal year.

If you'd like to learn more or get involved, join CIDNY's Consumer Action Network (see next article).

## Peer Advocates

CIDNY recently hired peer advocates for our Consumer Action Network (CAN) to organize people with disabilities in each borough. The advocate for Staten Island will join the team later.

As we face changes to health care and other benefits, we need to become involved and take action. Join our Consumer Action Network to make sure your voice is heard as the federal government and New York State and City consider changes in benefits and disability rights. You can contact our advocates by email to participate or call 212/674-2300 to have an advocate call you back.

Athena Savides ([asavides@cidny.org](mailto:asavides@cidny.org)) - Brooklyn  
Liliete Lopez ([llopez@cidny.org](mailto:llopez@cidny.org)) - Queens  
Tashia Lerebours ([tlerebours@cidny.org](mailto:tlerebours@cidny.org)) - Bronx  
Michelle Reyes ([mreyes@cidny.org](mailto:mreyes@cidny.org)) - Manhattan

## Medicare Changes for the New Year

If you have Medicare, changes can happen to your coverage each January 1. Some of these are:

If you have Medicare Part B, you will have a new \$183 deductible for doctor visits and other outpatient services. So you may have to pay more to see the doctor during the early part of the year. If you also have Medicaid, you won't have to worry about a deductible.

The monthly premium for Part B increased from \$121.80 to \$134. This premium is usually taken out of your monthly Social Security check. This premium increase may be greater than your small Social Security cost of living increase, which could cause you to get less money each month. However, if this premium was already being taken out of your Social Security check last year, you will **not** receive any less money. Talk to a CIDNY counselor if you have questions.

Some consumers do not enroll in Medicare Part B when first eligible for Medicare so they don't have to pay the monthly premium. If you want to enroll in Part B later, you may have to do so between January 1 and March 31, with Part B starting on July 1. If you do this, you may have to pay a higher premium due to your late enrollment. See a CIDNY benefits counselor for more details.

If you have Medicare Part D drug coverage, you may have had low copays (\$8.25 per prescription) through a program called Extra Help. Some people lose the Extra Help at the beginning of the year and experience significantly higher drug copays. If your copays are higher and you think you lost Extra Help in error, contact us for help. You qualify for Extra Help if you have limited income/resources, have Medicaid, or a Medicare Savings Program that pays your Part B premium.

## CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING Wednesday, March 15

**Come join us to hear about:** our trip to Albany; the legislators we met; and their responses to our issues. We'll also be talking about next steps and how we'll prepare to meet with State legislators at their district offices. Our new peer-advocates, who will be helping us organize for different legislative events, will also join us. Please RSVP to Eva Eason at (646) 442-4156. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, March 9, 2017. Refreshments will be served.

## REUNIÓN DE LA RED DE ACCIÓN DEL CONSUMIDOR DE CIDNY Miércoles 15 de Marzo

**Ven y únete a nosotros para aprender sobre:** nuestro viaje a Albany; los legisladores que conocimos; y sus respuestas a nuestras preguntas. También hablaremos sobre los pasos a seguir y cómo prepararnos para reunirnos con los legisladores del estado en sus oficinas del distrito. Nuestros nuevos compañeros defensores nos ayudarán a organizarnos para diferentes actos legislativos, también se unirán a nosotros. Por favor llamen a Eva Burgess para confirmar su asistencia al número: (646) 442-4156. Déjele saber a Eva si usted necesita acomodamientos como letras de tamaño grande o servicios de interpretación antes del miércoles, 9 de marzo del 2017.

### Protecting Our Health Care

CIDNY joined Health Care for All New York (HCFANY) advocates in Washington D.C. to visit the offices of our elected officials. We shared how important the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and the Medicaid and Medicare programs are to people with disabilities.



As legislators are saying they want to "Repeal and Replace" or "Repeal and Repair," we want to make sure that they understand that the Affordable Care Act provides stable health coverage to people with disabilities. It also protects against discrimination.

We want them to know that Medicaid is the largest source of federal dollars coming into New York State. Half to two-thirds of that money is spent on people with disabilities and seniors for health care, long term care services, and supports that help people maintain independence and quality of life. Cutting the Medicaid program would hurt people with disabilities and seniors. Elected officials tell us that they will protect people, but unless they understand how their policies may affect us, they may not know that they are cutting off our care. It is important to keep telling our stories.

Join us in telling our important stories. If you need help putting your story together, contact Jess Powers at [jpowers@cidny.org](mailto:jpowers@cidny.org). Let us know why the Affordable Act and Medicaid are important to you.

### Tracking Access-a-Ride Problems

We're tracking your issues with Access-a-Ride, taking your stories and running a workshop on Access-a-Ride. If you'd like to be involved, if you have a story to tell, or if you'd like to join us for a workshop, contact Shain Anderson at [sanderson@cidny.org](mailto:sanderson@cidny.org) or 646-368-8031. 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 that you couldn't have an accommodation, like grab bars in the bathroom or a ramp to the building?

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](mailto:smcknight@cidny.org)  
Ester Benjamin, [ebenjamin@cidny.org](mailto:ebenjamin@cidny.org)  
Zola Mendoza, [zmendoza@cidny.org](mailto: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.

# March 2017 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	3	4
5	6 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	7 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	8	9 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	10	11 <b>Spring forward!</b> Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead for tomorrow
12 <b>Daylight Savings Time Starts</b> 	13 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	14 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	15 <b>CAN Meeting</b> 1:00-3:00	16 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3pm  <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	17 <b>Movie Night: Loving</b> 3:00 to 5:00 pm	18
19	20 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	21 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	22	23 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	24	25
26	27 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	28 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm <b>Signature Theatre Presentation</b> 2:00—3:00 pm	29 <b>Housing Workshop — Queens</b> 10:00 am-12:00	30	31	

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If you need an accommodation, please let Eva know. For ASL interpreters, let us know one week in advance. We cannot guarantee accommodations like ASL interpreters if we do not have advanced notice.



**CID-NY**

# March 2017 Events



Join CIDNY for Education and Fun

**Need help?** Walk in to get the help you need. Staff will be available during these times for housing and benefits-related help.

## Walk-In Days—Manhattan

Every Monday and Tuesday, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  
Every Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

## Walk-In Day—Queens

Every Monday  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Daylight Savings Time**—Sunday March 12—turn your clocks ahead one hour!



**Consumer Action Network (CAN)** Wednesday, March 15, 1:00-3:00

Come join us to hear about: our trip to Albany; the legislators we met; and their responses to our issues. We'll also be talking about next steps and how we'll prepare to meet with State legislators at their district offices. Our new peer-advocates, who will be helping us organize for different legislative events, will also join us. Please RSVP to Eva Eason at (646) 442-4156. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, March 9, 2017. Refreshments will be served.

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**Housing Workshop - Queens** Wednesday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.  
CIDNY's 2-hour housing workshop covers: housing options: NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and other programs; what you qualify for; income and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report.

Space is limited: 646-442-1520 to reserve your spot. Also, let us know if you need an accommodation like American Sign Language or large print.

## Our Popular Writer's Workshop—Manhattan

Every Thursday from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

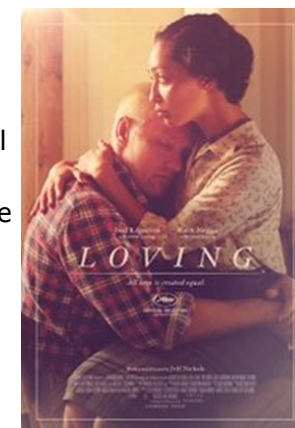
**Signature Theatre:** Representatives from Signature Theatre will join us on Tuesday, March 28 at 2pm to talk about the theatre, its playwrights, accessibility and other events and resources you can take advantage of. Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 21 by calling 212-674-2300 and letting the receptionist know you want to join the Theatre workshop. If you need an accommodation like ASL interpretation or large print, please let us know when you RSVP. Refreshments will be served.

**Movie Night** Friday, March 17, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

## Loving

Ruth Negga, Joel Edgerton, Will Dalton

The story of Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, whose challenge of their anti-miscegenation arrest for their marriage in Virginia led to a legal battle that would end at the US Supreme Court.



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