Have You Faced Housing Discrimination Because of Your Disability? CIDNY Can Help.

Housing is a crucial problem for New Yorkers: how to get it, how to afford it, what benefits you qualify for, how to ask for accommodations, what are your rights.

For people with disabilities the situation is worse than for most. Accessible and affordable housing is hard to find—and landlords may be discriminating against people with disabilities.

In the next months, we'll be launching fact sheets and holding workshops to help you understand the laws that protect you, your rights, and what you can do if you believe you are being discriminated against because of your disability. If you want to talk to someone now because you believe you've been discriminated against, please call 212-674-2300.

Right now, CIDNY has resources for you on our website at http://www.cidny.org/fair-housing.php. Or click on the tab at the upper right side of the home page to access the Fair Housing Act resources page. Materials are available in English, Spanish and Chinese. If you don't have access to the Internet or need an alternate format and want more information, please contact us at 212-674-2300.

Special Session with HRA for People who are Deaf

If you are a person who is Deaf and have recently applied for benefits with HRA, we would like to invite you to join us at our Manhattan office, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, on Wednesday, November 9, at 12 p.m. to meet with HRA staff in person. This meeting will last for two hours, until 2 p.m.

We will discuss Medicaid, food stamps, public assistance (cash), and homeless shelters. Here is your chance to let HRA know how best to provide services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. There will be light lunch and Metro Cards provided! Seating is limited. You must RSVP at 646-442-1519.

We Welcome Visitors from Japan and South Korea!

In the last year, we have received visitors from all over the world. Our latest visitors in October were from Japan and South Korea. We enjoy learning about disability programs and rights in different countries and sharing our experiences in advocacy and program management with them. It is always interesting to see how alike we all are, as well as hearing about the work our colleagues and counterparts are doing!

VOTE on November 8! Then tell us if Your Poll Site was Accessible

The General Election is on November 8, 2016. We need your help to see what the Board of Elections has done to make the poll sites accessible.

After you vote, please complete our Individual Voter Survey. Your reporting in the past has helped us identify problems. Now, through this survey, we can work with policymakers to put more pressure on to get the problems resolved. Every voter experience that we hear about—including the good ones—makes a difference in our efforts to improve our election process.

Please go to www.cidny.org, find Quick Links at the center of the web page, and click on “Individual Voter Survey.” Or, you can go straight to the survey with this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5J9BH38. If you do not have internet access, you can complete the survey over the phone by calling Monica Bartley at 646-442-4152.
CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING
Wednesday, November 16 — 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 107, Kew Gardens, Queens

By Subway: Take the E or the F train to Union Turnpike/Kew Gardens – this station has an elevator.
By Bus: Take the Q10, Q37, Q46, Q60, Q74, x63, x68 and exit at Union Turnpike – Kew Gardens Station.

Come learn about changes in rent subsidies for seniors and people with disabilities. The Department of Finance will update you on SCRIE/DRIE and answer any questions you may have. Join us and bring your questions. This is an opportunity to be heard!

Ven a conocer los cambios que se producen en ayudas al alquiler para personas mayores y personas con discapacidad (SCRIE/DRIE). El Departamento de Hacienda le informará sobre SCRIE/DRIE y responderá a cualquier pregunta que pueda tener. Únase con nosotros y traiga sus preguntas. Esta es una oportunidad de ser escuchado!

Please RSVP to Eva Eason at (646) 442-4156. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services (ASL), please let us know by Wednesday, November 9.

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment: An Opportunity to Change Your Coverage

Fall Open Enrollment for Medicare is underway and runs through December 7. This is the time anyone with Medicare can make changes to their existing coverage.

You may have Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, either through a plan that just covers drugs, or through a Medicare Advantage plan that covers all services including drugs.

You should receive an Annual Notice of Change listing any 2017 changes to your plan. There may be different monthly premiums, out-of-pocket costs, and covered services. The plan may also change its list of covered drugs. Now is the time to find out if any of these changes affect you. For example, if your plan will no longer cover your drugs, you may want to switch to a plan that covers them.

If you have limited income/resources, you may be eligible for "Extra Help." You will have this automatically if you have Medicaid or a Medicare Savings Program that pays your Medicare Part B premium. You can also apply for "Extra Help" through Social Security.

With Extra Help you can get a Part D plan with no monthly premium and low drug copays. Extra Help also lets you switch drug plans at any time, effective the following month.

During Fall Open Enrollment you can change the type of coverage you have (Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage), join or switch drug plans, or simply stay with your current coverage. This is true even if you have Extra Help. Any changes you make become effective January 1, 2017.

It is always a good idea to review your coverage and decide whether you need to make any changes. If you have questions, contact Greg Otten at 646-442-4145 or gotten@cidny.org.

Are You or Someone You Know in a Nursing Home or In Danger of Being In One Because You Can’t Get Enough Home Care?

People with disabilities living in the community or nursing facilities who rely on Medicare and Medicaid, have been required by New York State to enroll in Managed Long Term Care Plans (MLTC). Some people are having trouble finding an MLTC plan that offers them enough hours of care to get out of an institution or to prevent them from entering one.

Last month Legal Aid filed a lawsuit against two MLTC Plans to try to solve this problem. The Empire Justice Center (EJC) sued New York State challenging their administration of mandatory MLTC enrollment and failures of MLTC plans to provide enough medically necessary community-based long term care services.

EJC is looking for anyone who needs homecare services but who can’t get them because none of their MLTC plans are willing to offer an adequate level of service. These stories can help the court understand the full scope of the problem. If you know people who might be interested in joining either of these lawsuits, please contact Heidi Siegfried by email at hsiegfried@cidny.org. or at 646-442-4147.
## November 2016 Calendar

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All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003 unless otherwise stated. To RSVP for events, contact Eva Burgess at 646-442-4156 or eason@cidny.org.

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.
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

**Our Popular Writer’s Workshop—Manhattan**
Every Thursday from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

**Presentation with HRA-Manhattan**
Wednesday, November 9, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

If you are a person who is Deaf and have recently applied for benefits with HRA, we would like to invite you to our office (301 Broadway, Suite 301) on Wednesday, November 9, at 12 p.m. to meet with HRA staff in person. This meeting will last for two hours—until 2 p.m. We will discuss Medicaid, food stamps, public assistance (cash), and homeless shelters. Here is your chance to let them know how best to provide service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. There will be light lunch and Metro Cards provided! You must RSVP with Don Rickenbaugh at 646-442-1519.

**Consumer Action Network (CAN) Meeting—Queens**
Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Come learn about changes occurring in rent subsidies for seniors and people with disabilities (SCRIE/DRIE). The Department of Finance will update you on SCRIE/DRIE. Join us with your questions.

**Movie Night—Central Intelligence**
Friday, November 18, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

A one-time bullied geek who is now a lethal CIA agent comes home for his high school reunion. Claiming to be on a top-secret case, he enlists the help of the former "big man on campus," now an accountant, who misses his glory days. But before the staid numbers-cruncher realizes what he's getting into, it's too late to get out, as his increasingly unpredictable new friend drags him through a world of shoot-outs, double-crosses and espionage that could get them both killed in more ways than he can count.

**Housing Workshop—Queens**
Wednesday, November 30, starts at 10 a.m.

Affordable housing is a priority for many New Yorkers. In response, CIDNY Queens will host a 2-hour housing workshop in October at our Queens offices. The presentation will cover: the housing options out there; NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and different housing programs; what you qualify for; income and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report.

Please call 646-442-1520 to reserve your spot. Space is limited so you must let us know if you’re coming; also, let us know if you need an accommodation like American Sign Language or large print.

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