



Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
www.CIDNY.org

Manhattan

841 Broadway, #301
New York, NY 10003
212/674-2300 Tel
646/350-2681 VP

Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/905-5088 VP

AUGUST 2017

MTA "Summer of Hell": Access-A-Ride Organizing

Access-A-Ride users, their friends, family, and allies continue to demand better Access-A-Ride service. Seven CIDNY participants joined 65 others at the July meeting of the MTA Board. They came with a message: on the 27th anniversary of the ADA, the third-class service common on Access-A-Ride must end.

Last month, Governor Cuomo declared a subway state of emergency. CIDNY and our partners wrote in an open letter to the governor that it is time to do the same for AAR:

"While deteriorating service at Penn Station and on the subways are relatively recent problems," we wrote, "the Access-A-Ride Crisis has been a permanent feature for the 150,000 New Yorkers with disabilities who use the service and who take millions of Access-A-Ride trips per year. Access-A-Ride is failing, and has been for decades. We now write to ask that you take immediate action to improve and reform Access-A-Ride by declaring an 'Access-A-Ride State of Emergency' as you have done with other services." Many applauded as newly appointed MTA President Joe Lohta looked on.

Are you an Access-A-Ride user or the family member of an AAR user? Do you want to apply for service or do you have questions about how to apply? Do you have concerns about the service you are receiving? Do you want to share your story or participate in trainings to understand your rights? Contact Shain Anderson, Access-A-Ride Community Organizer, at 646-368-8031.

A survey of Access-A-Ride service is also available online at bit.ly/2eQ2pi4 or by calling the number above for assistance.

Our work is partially funded by New York Community Trust.

Disability Pride Parade

On July 10th, approximately thirty CIDNY friends, participants, and staff joined with other disability advocates and marched from Union Square Park to Madison Square Park in the Disability Pride Parade. The event was colorful and despite the long wait before the march started, people with disabilities were in high spirits, some chanting and dancing along way. The parade culminated in Madison Square Park where there were exhibitions and a festival.



Check out CIDNY's Flickr

(https://www.flickr.com/people/cid_ny/) and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/cid_ny/) for more photos.

Access Denied: Making the MTA Subway System Accessible to All New Yorkers

TransitCenter recently launched an advocacy campaign by releasing a short report, "Access Denied: Making the MTA Subway System Accessible to All New Yorkers," outlining the problem of the system's lack of elevators and the poor reliability of existing elevators. CIDNY's community outreach manager, Monica Bartley, spoke about some of the challenges people with mobility and other disabilities face when using the subway.

She stated that travel in New York City can be very challenging for people who use wheelchairs. It requires a lot of planning beforehand and generally takes more time to complete a trip and get to a destination. People with mobility disabilities are not able to use a more efficient mode of travel because of the lack of elevators at subway stations or they are faced with broken elevators. There is no way for riders to know when an elevator is broken and the listings on the MTA website are unreliable as they are not done in real time.

Bartley called on the MTA to create a comprehensive plan to include the construction of elevators in all their renovation plans and to devise a strategy to build elevators at all subway stations. Also to set a timeline with clear goals, including a plan for handling elevator outages, repairs, and notifying customers of travel alternatives.

The report is available at:
<http://transitcenter.org/publications/access-denied/>.

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Did You Know the Fair Housing Act Protects Your Rights?

If you are being treated any differently from other tenants or applicants because someone thinks you have a disability, your rights are being violated. That's a Fair Housing Fact.

For more information on the Fair Housing Act and your rights, call us at 212/674-2300 and ask to speak to someone about your housing rights.

The Fair Housing Act Project

CIDNY conducts outreach to tenant groups and people with disabilities who are interested in understanding their rights under the Fair Housing Act. We are very excited about educating participants on such an important law.

CIDNY has also conducted workshops to landlords to educate them about the FHA. They are taught how to prevent actions that discriminate against people with disabilities in housing and learn their rights. We anticipate conducting more workshops to landlords, management companies, and other entities that offer housing.

We want to continue to hear from you if you experience housing discrimination. We would also like it if you would let us know of any landlord or management companies you hear about discriminating against people with disabilities. Often times, neighbors and friends talk to each other about landlord or management companies discriminating against them or know of someone else.

If you are interested in learning more, completing our survey, or need assistance with requesting a reasonable accommodation or modification, contact Chris Chalfant at cchalfant@cidny.org.

Health Care Saga Continues

Last month we reported on the Senate's "Repeal and Replace" Better Care Reconciliation Act. Due to the outpouring of opposition that the health care legislation produced, an amended version was voted down and after a repeal without replace bill was voted down, a "skinny repeal" was offered that would only repeal a few ACA provisions without replacement. Senator McCain (R-Arizona), who had come back from surgery to vote for an earlier Motion to Proceed, joined Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Senator Collins (R-Maine) in voting down this bill.

Much gratitude to all of you who shared your Medicaid stories, made phone calls, attended rallies and events, sent emails, raised awareness, and to all our friends in ADAPT who got arrested defending health care and the lives of people with disabilities. All of those efforts are critical to this victory and to our continued efforts to protect and expand Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

The President is still threatening to end Cost Sharing Reduction payments that reduce out of pocket costs for moderate income Americans and House Republicans have already unveiled a budget that will destroy our earned benefits. Their proposed budget will cut Social Security, turn Medicare into a voucher program, and cut billions of dollars from Medicaid.

CIDNY thanks you for all you have done, and urges you to stay connected for the work ahead!



“Without Medicaid, I couldn't have this walker. I wouldn't be able to pay my rent. I would have to pay co-pays for all these specialists and medication.”

Gloria



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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

The **CIDNY Action Network (CAN)** is not meeting in August. Meetings will continue in September.

The **Housing Workshop** in **Queens** is not happening in August. The workshop will occur again in September.

The **Writer's Workshop** will continue in September.









Movie night is on hiatus due to lack of space.

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 eeason@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.



AUGUST 2017 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3  Walk-in Day 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	4	5
6	7  Walk-in Day 10:00 am – 1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	8  Walk-in Day 10:00 am – 1:30 pm	9	10  Walk-in Day 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	11	12
13	14  Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	15  Walk-in Day 10:00 am – 1:30 pm	16	17  Walk-in Day 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	18	19
20	21  Walk-in Day 10:00 am – 1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	22  Walk-in Day 10:00 am – 1:30 pm	23	24  Walk-in Day 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	25	26
27	28  Walk-in Day 10:00 am – 1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	29  Walk-in Day 10:00 am – 1:30 pm	30	31  Walk-in Day 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	 CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY	

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