



Quick Takes

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

Manhattan

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

Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, #400
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January 2018

Medicaid Pooled Trusts Notification: A Victory for Consumers

Governor Cuomo has signed into law a bill we supported that will explain to people who appear to be eligible for Medicaid with a "spend down" how they could qualify for Medicaid by participating in a pooled trust. Currently, the Medicaid program uses a notice to tell people (minors, parents of minor children, people over 65, or people with disabilities) who have income above Medicaid levels that they will be eligible for Medicaid if they pay the excess income amount to the local department of Social Services or if they apply incurred medical expenses to the excess income amount. They are not told of the availability of pooled trusts as an option for dealing with excess income.

Many people are simply not able to afford to pay their excess income to Medicaid, or do not have monthly medical bills totaling the amount of the overage. This new law will require that the Medicaid program provide applicants and current recipients with information regarding eligibility for a pooled trust. By placing their excess income into a pooled trust, Medicaid recipients can use what little excess income they have to pay for living expenses, instead of surrendering the funds every month to Medicaid. Including information about the trust option would help ensure that more individuals with disabilities could maintain their independence in the community rather than being forced to get institutional care in a nursing facility.

Happy New Year 2018

Celebrate... then join us to protect our rights. We wish all of you a very happy New Year. This year we'll be working hard together to make sure that the rights of people with disabilities and the laws that protect us remain solid and intact.

PROGRAMS PROTECTING US ARE THREATENED

Because of the new tax scam bill which will drive huge budget deficits, we know that Congress and the President are looking at ways to cut money from and change the rules of programs like Medicaid, Medicare, housing, and SNAP benefits, among others. One of the ways they may do this is to give states a set amount of money for these programs. This would be less than what the State gets now and could force deep cuts. Congress and the President may also try to change civil rights laws and cut back on enforcement.

CIDNY WILL BE TELLING NY STATE TO PROTECT US

We will work to ensure that New York State doesn't reduce benefits to people with disabilities. We'll also look at other groups we can join with to make sure that New Yorkers who are low income are not made to suffer because of changes at the federal level. We'll fight for our rights.

YOU CAN HELP—TELL YOUR STORY!

We're in this for the long haul and you can help. You can tell your story about what would happen to your life if your benefits are cut. For example: "If my Medicaid is cut, it means that I will not be able to get the therapy I need to maintain my independence..." We need to show legislators what their actions mean to our community. If you can help, we'll help you tell your story. We can work with you to write up your story for testimony, videotape your story, or have you join us as we visit legislators. Please contact Jess Powers, Director of Communications & Education, at jpowers@cidny.org or 646/442-4154.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF CIDNY ADVOCATES



[Image description: Drawing of different people with disabilities, a wheelchair user, a person with a service dog, etc.]

A good New Year's resolution would be to join CIDNY's Action Network (CAN) to make sure your voice is heard as the federal government, the State, and City consider changes to benefits and disability rights. You can also help by working on mailings, phone calls, alerts, joining rallies, and performing other tasks to make sure our advocacy works.

To join us or find out more about what you can do, contact Monica Bartley, Community Outreach Organizer, at mbartley@cidny.org or 646/442-4142.

TOGETHER WE CAN PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

Join CIDNY. Together, we can protect our rights and make a difference for New Yorkers with disabilities!



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Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse Call on Governor to put the Child Victims Act in NYS Budget

On Tuesday, January 2nd at 11am, in front of the Fearless Girl statue at 8 Broadway, CIDNY will join with other survivors of child sex abuse, disability advocates, law enforcement, religious leaders, and elected officials to push for the Child Victims Act (CVA). This legislation would bring meaningful statute of limitation (SOL) reform for survivors of childhood sex abuse—and we are urging inclusion in Cuomo's 2018 budget.

Children with disabilities are 2.9 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused. Children with intellectual or mental health disabilities appear to be more at risk, with 4.6 times the risk of sexual abuse as their peers without disabilities. Many survivors delay reporting and are less likely to be believed when they do report.

The CVA would:

- Increase the criminal statute of limitations on felonies from the age of 23 to age 28;
- Increase the civil statute of limitations from the age of 23 to age 50;
- Remove special protections for public institutions that have acted as a shield against liability; and
- Create a one year look back window to allow survivors over the age of 23 to seek retrospective civil relief.

Please join us and let us know if you have a story that you're willing to share by contacting Jess Powers at jpowers@cidny.org or 646/442-4154.



[Image description: Fearless girl statue, girl with arms at her hips in defiant posture.]

Latest Blog Posts

Check out our latest blog posts. In **Michael's Story** [<https://www.cidny.org/michaels-story/>], a long time CIDNY participant shares his personal story of trying to find housing and remain independent. He is now a CIDNY volunteer. In **Brightening the Holiday Blues** [<https://www.cidny.org/brightening-the-holiday-blues/>], we share some tips for staying positive during the holiday season.

If you don't have access to the internet and are interested in learning more about these topics, please contact Jess Powers at 646/442-4154.



Surprise!

Most New Yorkers who apply get help paying for their health plan.

See if you qualify:
nystateofhealth.ny.gov

Open Enrollment
is Nov. 1 - Jan. 31.

#GetCovered

[Image description: Male wheelchair user hugging his daughter. Text: Surprise! Most New Yorkers who apply get help paying for their health plan. See if you qualify: nystateofhealth.ny.gov Open Enrollment is Nov 1- Jan 31. #Get Covered. Icon of NY State.]

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Celebrates Volunteers

Congrats to LTCOP volunteers! Volunteer ombudsmen are at the heart of CIDNY's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP). These folks go through 42 hours of state certification training and are managed by CIDNY. Once trained, they go to nursing homes and other facilities to help people understand their rights and get the resources they need—whether for issues in the nursing home or for transitioning back into the community. This year, we celebrated our volunteers at an Appreciation Event that featured a breakfast, awards for service, and a general good time. CIDNY staff were there to congratulate our volunteers. If you would like to find out more about this program, contact Mary Jane Wolper at mwolper@cidny.org or 212/812-2913.



CID-NY

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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 am to 1:30 pm
Every Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm



Walk-In Day—Queens

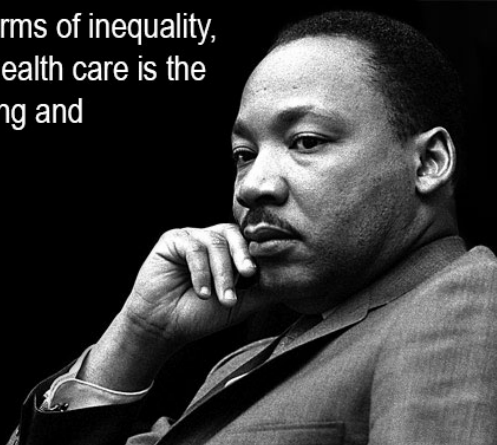
Every Monday 10 am to 3 pm

Important Dates in January

January 1st – New Year's Day – Office closed

January 15th – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Office closed

"Of all the forms of inequality,
injustice in health care is the
most shocking and
inhumane."



CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, January 17th, 2018, 1-3 pm in Queens

Wednesday, January 31st, 2018, 1-3 pm in Manhattan

Save the date! Lobby Day is February 12th, 2018!

The New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) and member groups like CIDNY are going to Albany on February 12th. CIDNY participants and CAN members travel to Albany to talk to lawmakers about the issues that are most important to us. It's a chance to get our voices heard!

You must attend the training to go to Albany. Training will be held from 1-3 pm on January 17th, at the Queens Office, and 1-3pm on January 31st, at the Manhattan Office.

Please RSVP (details below). Refreshments will be served.



Housing Workshop - Queens

Wednesday, December 31st, 10 am to 2 pm

CIDNY's housing workshop covers housing options: NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and other programs; what you qualify for; in-come and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report. CIDNY is a full-service center and other benefits will be discussed; we don't offer housing, but can provide information and assist with applications.

Space is limited. You must call John Rivera at 646/442-1520 to reserve a spot and to let us know if you need an accommodation.



CIDNY's Writers' Group

This group meets every Thursday at CIDNY's Manhattan office, 841 Broadway. The writers' group is a facilitated, non-judgmental writing group that promotes individual expression and creativity in a supportive atmosphere. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact CIDNY at 212/674-2300.

All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003 unless otherwise stated. To RSVP for events, contact Laurette Hamilton at 212/674-2300 or info@cidny.org.

If you need an accommodation, please let the receptionist 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.

JANUARY 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed - New Year's Day 	2  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	3	4  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	5	6
7	8  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	9  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	10	11  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	12	13
14	15 Office Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	16  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	17 CIDNY ACTION NETWORK MEETING - Queens 1 pm-3 pm	18  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	19	20
21	22  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	23  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	24	25  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	26	27
28	29  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	30  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	31 Queens Housing Workshop 10 am-12 pm CIDNY ACTION NETWORK MEETING - Manhattan 1 pm-3 pm		 CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY	