



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
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

February 2018

Help Us Urge the State to Increase Necessary Funding

Groups that help people with disabilities improve their lives have been shortchanged. Funding is not keeping pace with growing demand for help, much less inflation.

Independent living centers, like CIDNY, have few choices when there are more people at the door and less to offer because of stagnant funding. The biggest irony when the State ignores our critical programs is that these programs actually save money and help people with disabilities live better and we make communities more inclusive. For example, since 2001 independent living centers have saved the State \$2 billion by preventing people with disabilities from being institutionalized and helping them come back home. For every dollar the State invests in ILCs, it saves more than \$9 in costs.



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

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) makes sure that people in institutions know their rights and can help them solve problems. We have the largest local program nationwide with twice as many nursing facility residents to help, yet our funding is the 5th lowest in the U.S. Failure to provide adequate funding undermines the program's strength and independence. It means that we are able to help fewer people. Yet the need for this program only grows as nursing homes close and residents are transferred, new federal requirements increase the workload without additional funding, and as there are increased numbers of people being dumped into homeless shelters.

The Community Health Advocates (CHA) program funding is slated for cuts. CHA helps people find and understand their health coverage, and get help when things go wrong. As the health care landscape changes, with fewer dollars from Washington and proposed changes to health coverage in New York, this program is more critical than ever.

- Tell us why independent living centers (ILCs) like CIDNY are important to you.
- Have you been helped by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP)?

- Have you called Community Health Advocates (CHA) to solve a health coverage problems?

We want you to share your story so that we can help lawmakers understand what is at risk when funding for these programs lags dangerously behind.

You can reach Jess Powers, Director of Communications & Education, at jpowers@cidny.org or 646/442-4154.

If you would like to join us to visit elected officials, let Monica Bartley, Community Outreach Organizer, know at mbartley@cidny.org or 646/442-4152.

Your support helps to ensure that this help is there when you need it or that it's available to help other people. Statistics and dollar amounts only tell part of the story. That's why your comments are so important! Support an investment in critical programs that change the lives of people with disabilities, starving these programs is penny wise and pound foolish.

Helen Ha to Retire

Helen Ha, a Benefits Counselor at CIDNY for 10 years, is retiring in February. She plans to babysit her first granddaughter, to travel (including a visit to her native China), and to be more active physically. She looks forward to bringing the knowledge and skills she's acquired to help her peers navigate applications as they also reach retirement.

"Helen brought first-hand knowledge of the Asian community to CIDNY and some of the issues these consumers face as new Americans transitioning to the complex, diverse cultural life of NYC," says Paula Wolff, Senior Benefits Counselor. "With her strong knowledge of health care benefits, she enabled consumers to enter and navigate the complicated health care services web to achieve their goals of optimum wellness. She did all of this with a calm, even [demeanor]. She'll be missed."

Read more on our blog and leave a comment for her in the comments: <https://www.cidny.org/helen-ha-to-retire/>.

Take Action

It's getting even easier to keep up with our advocacy campaigns! You can now check our website for Action Alerts, different events where you can participate and share your story, learn about the issues we're working



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
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

on, and share with other people:
<https://www.cidny.org/category/take-action/>.

You can still receive Action Alerts by email (email info@cidny.org if you'd like to be added to the list).

NY Connects Can Help People with Disabilities

Do you need help:

- Remaining independent?
- Understanding your care options?
- Finding transportation?
- Learning about supports in caregiving?
- Getting answers about Medicaid, Medicare, and health insurance?
- Applying for benefits?
- Finding housing?



[Image description: Two women signing.]

Our NY Connects counselors can help! Call 1-844/862-7930. Learn more at: www.nyconnects.ny.gov/about.

Lavern's Law Signed into Law

Advocacy works! CIDNY joined more than 60 patient's rights and other groups urging the passage of Lavern's Law in New York State, which was just signed into law by the Governor.

The law extends the statute of limitations for medical malpractice cases involving cancer, starting the clock when an error is discovered by the patient, rather than when the mistake is made.

The law is named for Laverne Wilkinson, a 41-year-old Brooklyn mom who died in 2013 from a curable form of lung cancer after a misdiagnosis.

Heidi Siegfried, Director of Health Advocacy, says: "Early detection and treatment are often critical for cancer patients. Without such prompt action, cancer can grow and spread. In some cases, delayed action is fatal. In others, a patient may lose an organ or body part, which can result in a challenging disability. Lavern's Law reasonably establishes that the statute of limitations for medical malpractice in a case of undisclosed negligent failure to diagnose cancer or a malignant tumor runs from the date the patient discovers the existence of the cancer and the negligent conduct that harmed the patient."

New York Must Pass the Child Victims Act

Lourdes I. Rosa-Carrasquillo, Director of Advocacy at CIDNY, gave testimony to the New York State Joint Budget Committee in support of the Child Victims Act. The Act would extend the statute of limitations against perpetrators and institutions by victims of sexual abuse. We are part of a coalition of advocates working to get the CVA passed. Here's an excerpt from her powerful testimony:

"Sexual abuse of children is not a new phenomenon. One can look back at Willowbrook where many children with disabilities were abused in unmentionable ways. Today's society is under the misunderstanding that such atrocities no longer occur."

A 2012 study states that children with disabilities are 2.9 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused. The percentage rises dramatically for children with intellectual disabilities or mental health disabilities. These children face more than 4.6 times the risk of sexual abuse as their peers without disabilities. (Lund, Emily M., and Vaughn-Jensen, J. "Victimization of Children with Disabilities").

Extending the statute of limitations for civil claims to 50 years from the date of the act shows an understanding of a victim's processing from such a trauma.

In the case of an intellectually disabled child or mentally ill child, even if they could express what happened, it is very likely they will not be believed.

CIDNY supports the prospect of the extension of the civil cases' statute of limitations against perpetrators and the institutions that supported and enabled them."



CID-NY

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
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

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 February

February 12th – Lobby Day – Manhattan office closed

February 13th – Mardi Gras

February 14th – Ash Wednesday

February 16th – Chinese New Year

February 19th – Presidents' Day – **Office Closed**

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Lobby Day is February 12th, 2018!

There is no CAN meeting in February.

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.

Movie Night is Back!

Wednesday, February 21st, FENCES, 3 pm to 5:30pm

Set in 1950s Pittsburgh, the film adaptation of August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play takes a passionate look at former baseball player Troy Maxson as he fights to provide for those he loves in a world that threatens to push him down.



Starring:

Denzel Washington, Viola Davis,
Stephen McKinley Henderson

Runtime:

2 hours, 18 minutes

The screening will start promptly at 3pm. Snacks will be served.

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.

FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	2	3
4	5  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	6  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	7	8  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	9	10
11	12 Manhattan office closed  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	13 Mardi Gras   Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	14 Ash Wednesday	15  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	16 Chinese New Year 	17
18	19 Office Closed - President's Day 	20  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	21 Movie Night 3-5pm Fences	22  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	23	24
25	26  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	27  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	28 Queens Housing Workshop 10 am-12 pm		 CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY	