



Quick Takes

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

CID-NY

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

March 2018

Oral Arguments on Subway Elevator Case

Our case [<https://www.cidny.org/litigation-updates/>] is scheduled for oral argument on March 5th at 10am at the New York Supreme Court located at 60 Center Street. The MTA wants to dismiss our case against them that would require them to install new elevators. Judge Shlomo Hagler set a time for all the parties to appear and argue why or why not the case should be dismissed. A large presence in court will convey to the Judge the importance of this issue to the disability community.

What to expect: state court can be quite unpredictable. Our case could be heard very briefly (or not at all) or we could have the floor for well over an hour. Please note that no signs or disruptions are permitted. Cell phones are not allowed and will be returned when you exit the court. Please join us if you can and spread the word!



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

Lobby Day 2018

Forty people from CIDNY including board members, staff, and participants traveled to Albany on February 12th to join Centers for Independent Living from around the state to talk about the issues in the State budget that affect them.

At 27 appointments with legislators or their staff, we discussed funding increases for Independent Living Centers (ILCs), the Community Health Advocates (CHA) Program, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Participants also shared their stories about how they were affected by the 20-visit limit on Medicaid Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy. We discussed the need for more elevators at subway stations and more seats on the station platforms. Attendees were very pleased to meet with their District representative as well as other legislators and used the opportunity to remind them that they are voters.

Elizabeth Melas, one of the CIDNY participants, had this to say: "Although I have spoken to crowds of thousands [at rallies] before, I realized how different it is, to talk directly to the staffer of someone specific... Our group visited Katherine Nolan's staffer. Assembly member Nolan focuses on education. I was in my groove!... Liz

Krueger's staffer was next. By then, I became so completely comfortable, that I spoke about making the MTA accessible, making NY accessible, education, and voting rights. Thank you to everyone I met."

Pass the Child Victims Act

Each year, 40,000 children are sexually abused in New York State—1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men—yet New York is one of the worst states in the nation for survivors of childhood sexual abuse who wish to seek justice in court. The vast majority of childhood sex abuse survivors only have until the relatively young age of 23 to bring criminal charges or to seek civil relief. Once that age is reached, the doors to justice are closed forever.

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.

Please join us in thanking Governor Cuomo for including the Child Victims Act in his State budget and urge our State Senators to support the Governor's bill on CVA. If you have a story about how you have been affected by this issue, please contact Jess Powers, Director of Communications & Education, at jpowers@cidny.org or 646/428-4481.

Creative Writing Workshops

Please join us for writing and sharing work in a supportive and respectful environment. Writers of all genres and levels of experience are welcome. No prior writing experience is necessary. Participants should sign up in advance.

We partner with NY Writers Coalition, a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for people who have been historically deprived of voice in our society to be heard through the art of writing, to host the workshop. Avra Wing, the facilitator for CIDNY's workshop, said she was, "amazed and astounded and fascinated by the directions people's creativity takes them." Avra is a poet, essayist, and novelist and is also a person with a disability.



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Samaris Ayalis, a long time CIDNY participant and volunteer for our newsletter, shared this poem on our blog:

the community
may help
people with
benefits

the community
heals itself
by helping
the most
unfortunate

nothing
wrong
with helping
those who
receive
benefits

Read more here: [<https://www.cidny.org/writers-workshop/>]

New SNAP Application Procedure



Beginning Thursday, March 1, 2018, new SNAP (formerly food stamps) clients will no longer have to wait for HRA to call them at a scheduled time to complete their interview. After they submit their application, clients will be able to call HRA at 718-SNAP-NOW (718-762-7669) anytime between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday, for an "on-demand" interview. If you have an emergency need for SNAP you should call right after you submit your application. Clients have up to 30 days to make this call to fulfill the interview requirement.

For help with your SNAP application or benefits, contact us at [212/674-2300](tel:2126742300).

CIDNY's Benefits Check-Up



CID-NY

Eligibility for public benefits change frequently. Are you getting the benefits you need?

Find out if you are eligible for:

- * Health Insurance Options
- * Housing: DRIE/SCRIE, HEAP
- * Transportation: Access-A-Ride, 1/2 Fare Card
- * SNAP
- * SSDI

And more....

For more information call CIDNY and ask to speak to a benefits counselor.

ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish-speaking counselors are available.

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[Image description: Dice spelling out the word "give."]

Support CIDNY

Help us level the playing field for people with disabilities in New York. We are working for accessible transit, polling places, housing, inclusive health care, deinstitutionalization, and many more.

Please support if you can: www.cidny.org/donation/



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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 March

March 1st – Purim

March 2nd – Holi

March 8th – International Women’s Day

March 11th – Daylight Savings Time begins

March 17th – St. Patrick’s Day

March 20th – Spring begins

March 25th – Palm Sunday

March 30th – Passover

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, March 21st, 2018

1-3pm

Come Join Us to Hear from CIDNY and your peers about:

- our trip to Albany;
- the legislators we met; and
- the issues we presented to them.

If you weren’t able to join us in Albany, you have a chance to participate in local visits. Let’s discuss our next steps and how to prepare for our visits to the District offices.



Housing Workshop - Queens

Wednesday, March 28th, 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, March 21st, BOO2, 3 pm to 5:30pm

Madea, Bam, and Hattie venture to a haunted campground and the group must run for their lives when monsters, goblins, and the boogeyman are unleashed.

Director & Writer: Tyler Perry

Stars: Tyler Perry, Cassi Davis, Patrice Lovely



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.

MARCH 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 Daylight savings Time  	12  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	13  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	14	15  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	16	17 
18	19  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	20  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	21 Movie Night 3-5pm BOO2	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	29	30  CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY	31