



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

April 2018

New Financial Workshops

Building a Better Budget—making the best of a small income



[Image description: The word "budget" surrounded by pie charts and graphs.]

Participants may attend in person in Manhattan or online. To find out more about online attendance, contact Margi Trapani at mtrapani@cidny.org by April 11th. Please RSVP by Friday April 13 at 212-674-2300, seating is limited. Let us know if you need an ASL or other language interpreter or large print formats for handouts.

Coming in May – Debt Management on Monday May 21 at 3pm and **Estate Planning – Wednesday, May 30** at 12 noon.

Whether you think you have an 'estate' or not, learn about planning to make sure your assets go to the people or person you want them to.

New York State Budget Fails People with Disabilities

It was a tough budget year in Albany. Independent living centers did not get a funding increase even though both houses proposed one. Neither did Access to Home. And the Office for the Advocate for People with Disabilities was not included. The Child Victims Act wasn't included, either.

While none of these proposals were included in the final budget, we did get a lot of support from the legislature, especially from Assemblyman James Skoufis, who really fought for us throughout the process. In addition, our consumers and participants helped us generate hundreds of phone calls and made dozens of visits with legislators who supported these proposals. We thank you all so much for all of your advocacy!

The budget adopted a number of measures to address long term care, which has been identified as the second large cost driver in the Medicaid program after

prescription drugs. Managed Long Term Care Plans will no longer have to pay for people who have been "permanently placed" in a nursing facility after three consecutive months incentivizing MLTC plans to push any disabled people they deem unprofitable into nursing facilities and off of their books. After 90 days of enrollment, people will not be able to switch plans more than once a year, except for good cause. Good cause is defined as including poor quality of care, lack of access to covered services, lack of access to providers experienced in dealing with the enrollee's care needs, or as otherwise determined by the commissioner.

Community Health Advocates (CHA) funding was increased from the Governor's \$2.5 million by the Assembly, which added \$1.4 million, for a total of \$3.9 million.

We were able to maintain spousal refusal and current levels for spousal impoverishment and "prescriber prevails" as we have in past years and NHTD and TBI waivers will continue to be carved out of managed care until at least January 1, 2022.

CIDNY consumers have lobbied for five years to remove the 20-visit limit for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy in Medicaid. The budget raises the cap on physical therapy (PT) visits from 20 to 40, but leaves 20 limit cap on occupational therapy and speech therapy.



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

Federal Budget Update

After months of negotiations, uncertainties, a shutdown, and multiple stopgap spending measures, Congress finally passed a \$1.3 trillion FY18 spending package to fund the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year through September 30th. President Trump signed the measure into law just hours before the latest deadline averting another shutdown.

As Coalition for Human Needs noted, "After years of shrinking services, Congress approved final spending levels that will reduce the erosion that has occurred in many human needs programs since 2010."



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The Bill provides funding for services and supports on which people with disabilities rely. Fortunately, many misguided proposals that would have significantly reduced funding for these critical programs were rejected.

Social Security: A proposed budget increase of \$388 million for the Social Security administrative fund. \$280 million is set aside specifically for modernizing the agency's IT infrastructure, and \$100 million for reducing the backlog of appeal hearings. While this funding will provide some relief to the agency, SSA must continue to focus on reducing field office wait times, which have dramatically increased between 2010 and 2016 despite fewer total visitors.

Housing: It expands rental assistance for Section 202 Housing for the Elderly communities, provides funding for new construction for housing for people with disabilities, and increases funding for Housing Choice Vouchers, public housing, and homeless assistance.

Health: While the bill did not include any funding to shore up Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance marketplaces that have been rocked by GOP sabotage, it included critical increases in funding for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—\$10 billion over last year—with new funding for substance use disorders and mental health.

Energy Assistance: \$250 million increase for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), for a total of \$3.6 billion.

Nutrition: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding at \$74 billion, a \$4.5 billion cut (nearly 6%) from FY 2017. The bill also allows for work requirements.

Community Services: Level funding for the Community Services Block Grant and the Social Services Block Grant. The Community Development Block Grant received a \$300 million (10%) boost to \$3.3 billion.

Changes to Medicaid Managed Care Appeals Coming Soon

Medicaid Managed Care Appeals and Fair Hearing Rights are changing on May 1st, 2018.

Beginning May 1st, if you ask for a service or treatment from your Health Plan and they approve something less than your request or if they propose to reduce or stop a service you are receiving and you think the plan is wrong, you must first ask for a Plan Appeal before asking for a Fair Hearing. In the past, you could request a Fair Hearing right away. This change applies to all Medicaid plans, including regular Medicaid and managed long-term care (MLTC).

If you request a service and the Health Plan wholly or partially denies it, the Plan is supposed to send you an Initial Adverse Determination that will explain the specific reasons for the Plan decision and how and when to request a Plan Appeal, which includes an Appeal form. You then have 60 days to ask for the Plan Appeal, but if you want to keep your services the same, called "aid continuing," you must you must ask for this Plan Appeal within 10 days or by the date the decision would take effect, whichever is later. If you disagree with a reduction or ending of your services and request the plan appeal within 10 days or before the effective date, your services will continue unchanged ("aid continuing") unless you tell them not to.

If your Plan Appeal is denied in whole or in part, you should receive a "Final Adverse Determination." At that point, you can request a Fair Hearing. Again, if you request the Fair Hearing within 10 days, your services will continue unchanged pending the results of the hearing.

If you have questions, please contact CIDNY at 646/442-4186 and ask to speak with an Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) counselor.



[Image description: Scales of justice.]



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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 April

April 1 – Easter

April 7 – World Health Day

April 17 – Tax Day

April 22 – Earth Day

April 23 – NYAIL's Spring Legislative Day

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting NYAIL's Spring Legislative Day is April 23rd, 2018!

To prepare for the trip, you must attend one of the following training sessions:

April 11th, 1-3pm Manhattan office

April 18th, 1-3pm Queens office

NYAIL's Spring Legislative Day is on Monday, April 23rd, 2018. This is when CIDNY Action Network (CAN) participants and advocates travel to Albany to talk to policymakers about issues that are important to us. It's a chance to get your voices heard!

You must attend the training to go to Albany. Training will be held from 1-3 pm on April 11th, at the Manhattan Office, and 1-3pm on April 18th, at the Queens Office.

Please RSVP (details on right side). Refreshments will be served.

Housing Workshop - Queens

Wednesday, April 25th, 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, April 18, MANCHESTER BY THE SEA, 3:30 pm to 5:30pm

Academy Award Winner for Best Actor (Casey Affleck) and Best Original Screenplay (Kenneth Lonergan). Casey Affleck leads an all-star cast in this acclaimed and poignant film about a solitary janitor whose life is transformed after he becomes the guardian of his 16-year-old nephew.



Starring: Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Kyle Chandler

The screening will start promptly at 3:30pm. 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.

APRIL 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	6	7
8	9  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	10  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	11 CAN advocacy training for Albany – Manhattan 1-3pm	12  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	13	14
15	16  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	17  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	18 CAN advocacy training for Albany – Queens 1-3pm	19  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	20	21
22	23  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm NYAIL's Spring Legislative Day – Albany – all day Building a Better Budget – making the best of a small income – 3-4pm	24  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	25 Movie Night 3:30-5:30pm Queens Housing Workshop 10 am-12 pm	26  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	27	28
29	30  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm				 CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY	