



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
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May 2018

Advocacy Works!



[Image description: A big fish eating a school of little fish. The word organize! An even bigger school of little fish working together to chase the big fish.]

Last year, CIDNY Action Network members joined advocates from other groups in rallies at the Astoria Blvd station, where renovation plans did not include subway elevators.

On Tuesday, April 17, the MTA announced that four elevators are going to be installed at the Astoria Blvd station on the N and W lines in Queens, with work beginning this summer alongside other station improvement projects in the area. Read the full press release here: <http://www.mta.info/press-release/nyc-transit/mta-new-york-city-transit-bring-elevators-astoria-blvd-station>.

We're still advocating for better Access-A-Ride service and more subway accessibility. Join us at the next MTA board meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd at 2 Broadway between Beaver and Stone Streets in Manhattan. Please arrive at 9am and RSVP. Please RSVP to Laurette at 212/674-2300 or lhamilton@cidny.org if you're in Manhattan. If you're in Queens or are a Spanish speaker, RSVP to Jose at 646/442-1520 or jmera@cidny.org. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know two weeks in advance.

Need Input on Long-Term Care Survey

We're helping the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Office for the Aging to study long-term care. Specifically, to:

- Analyze, evaluate, and identify the existing service gaps in New York's long-term care system;
- Determine the most cost-effective evidence-based interventions; and
- Prepare a strategic plan to meet the emerging needs of New York's aging population over the next decade.

Please help us by completing this survey and share with anyone who comes into contact with the long-term care system (for themselves, a friend or family member, through work or a volunteer position).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HM9DM97>

Financial Literacy Workshops

Join us for a financial literacy workshop - Dealing with Debt on Monday, May 21, at 3pm

This presentation helps you understand:

- How to prioritize debt,
- How the debt avalanche works,
- What protections you have as a consumer,
- What protections you have as a recipient of disability benefits,
- What to know about consolidation loans, debt settlement plans, debt management plans and hardship plans.

You can come in to the Manhattan office for this workshop or join online. You must RSVP by calling 212/674-2300.

If you want to join online, please tell the receptionist who will take your email information. You will be sent a link for the webinar the Friday before the workshop.

Coming in June: Taxes and How to Prepare for Them

- When Social Security benefits are taxed,
- When you need to (or may want to) file taxes,
- What tax laws are geared towards helping people with disabilities,
- How the Tax Cut and Job Act (TCJA) may affect you,
- Where you can get free help filing their taxes,
- What documents you should bring to your tax preparer, and
- What tax records from prior years you should keep.





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[Image description: Person at desk with coffee, paperwork, and calculator.]

New Yorkers with Disabilities Give State Budget Failing Grade

ALBANY, N.Y. – People with disabilities [including staff and advocates from CIDNY] were in Albany on Monday to tell legislators that New York is failing to fund vital programs for independent living.

Five years ago, Gov. Andrew Cuomo released a plan for ensuring that people with disabilities would be able to get the supports and services they need to live at home – plans that could actually save the state money. But according to Lindsay Miller, executive director, New York Association on Independent Living, funding to make that plan a reality has been left out of every budget since, and this year was no different.

The group has issued [a report card giving the state failing grades in five of eight areas](#), including passing a final budget that has not increased funding for independent living centers in 13 years.

This article originally appeared at Public News Service and is reprinted in part with permission. It is also available in Spanish at:
<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2018-04-24/disabilities/neoyorquinos-discapitados-dan-al-presupuesto-estatal-calificacion-reprobatoria/a62298-1>

Ban Income Bias New York

On April 24th, CIDNY joined with a statewide coalition of advocates in Albany led by Enterprise Community Partners, ERASE Racism, the Fair Housing Justice Center and the New York Housing Conference on [#BanIncomeBiasNY](#). This campaign seeks to amend New York State human rights law to include a lawful source of income (SOI) provision that protects individuals using government assistance or other forms of non-wage income to pay their rent from housing discrimination.

Teams of advocates met with legislators to seek support for Bill A10077 - to amend the executive law, in relation to discrimination based upon people's income, sponsored by Assemblyman Mosley. CIDNY's Community Outreach Organizer along with other advocates met with staff of Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte and Senator Betty Little. Our organizer shared stories from

CIDNY participants about being denied housing when they presented housing vouchers. The legislators were receptive to the Bill and will look into it further. A press conference hosted by Assemblyman Walter Mosley was held to promote the Bill.

April Lobby Day

On April 23, 2018 11 CIDNY participants and 8 staff went to Albany to participate in New York Association on Independent Living's (NYAIL's) Spring Legislative Day to advance our policy priorities. CIDNY consumers shared their stories and discussed policy issues with staff of Assembly members Kevin Cahill, Andrew Hevesi, Helene Weinstein, David Gottfried, Catherine Nolan, Jeffrion Aubry, Edward Ra and Senators Neil Breslin, David Carlucci, Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., Leroy Comrie, and Steven Cymbrowitz.

Our participants helped legislators understand the importance of our issues. These include supporting:

The requirement that all people applying for a teaching certificate, school administrators, and other school staff complete enhanced coursework or training in the area of trauma as it relates to children and its impact on children's development and learning. Many schools lack de-escalation plans or crisis intervention teams to address what is considered "disruptive behavior," leading to excessive use of EMS or police.

The Child Victims Act which will increase the statute of limitation, will allow for a child victim of sexual abuse to file a civil claim until the victim reaches age 50 and increase the time to file a criminal claim until the victim turns 28. Children with disabilities are 2.9 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused. The percentage rises dramatically to 4.6 times more likely for children with intellectual disabilities or mental health disabilities.

Access to medication. This legislation is necessary to ensure that consumers can have the choice of accessing their covered medications from a local pharmacy or by mail order.

A proposal to make discrimination by landlords based on a Tenant's Source of Income Illegal under State Law. More than one third of people with disabilities are severely rent burdened, spending more than 50 percent of their income on housing.

Join the conversation: online at www.cidny.org; on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc), or on Twitter (@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.

Important Dates in May

May 28 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

These has been a very intense year. CIDNY, with your help, was able to advance our policy agenda. Come to our next meeting to hear how your efforts paid off. Changing policy is a long and hard struggle. Your long term commitment is what creates success.

Now, we ask you to mark your calendars for Legislative Disability Awareness Day. It will be on Wednesday, May 30th, 2018.

As always, we want to be prepared to meet with our legislators, to discuss our issues, and to share our stories.

You must attend one of these trainings to go to Albany.

Training will be held from at 1:00pm-3:00pm on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at the Manhattan Office or 1:00pm -3:00pm, Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at the Queens Office.

Even if you cannot go to Albany, come and hear about our trips this year and to share the issues you want represented.

Please RSVP to Laurette Hamilton at 212/674-2300 or lhamilton@cidny.org. Or if you only speak Spanish, RSVP to Jose at 646/442-1520 or jmera@cidny.org. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, May 9, 2018. Refreshments will be served.

Dealing with Debt

Monday, May 21, at 3pm

See full description in the newsletter.

Housing Workshop - Queens

Wednesday, May 30th, 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.

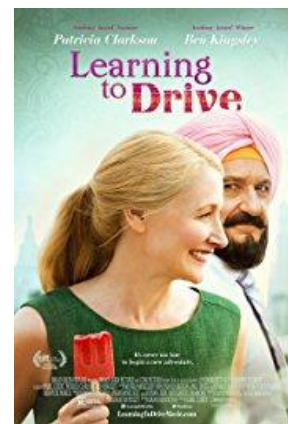
Space is limited. You must call John Rivera at 646/442-1520 to reserve a spot and to let us know if you need an accommodation.

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!

Wednesday, May 23rd, LEARNING TO DRIVE, 3:30 pm to 5:30pm



As her marriage dissolves, a Manhattan writer takes driving lessons from a Sikh instructor with marriage troubles of his own. In each other's company they find the courage to get back on the road and the strength to take the wheel.

Starring: Patricia Clarkson, Ben Kingsley, Grace Gummer

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.

MAY 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	4	5 
6	7  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	8  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	9	10  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	11	12
13 	14  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	15  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	16 CAN— Manhattan 1-3pm	17  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	18	19
20	21  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	22  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	23 Movie Night 3:30-5:30pm CAN— Queens 1-3pm	24  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day – Office Closed 	29  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	30 Queens Housing Workshop 10 am-12 pm	31  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	 CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY	