



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
646/350-2681 VP

Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/905-5088 VP

November 2017

It's Time for Open Enrollment

Open enrollment season is coming for the NY State of Health, the Marketplace where you can [sign up for health insurance](#) offered through the Affordable Care Act or ACA (also known as Obamacare).

Open enrollment starts November 1, 2017 for new enrollments and November 16, 2017 for renewals. Open enrollment runs through January 31, 2018.

You may have read news about a much shorter open enrollment period this year and other actions that the Trump administration has taken that are expected to destabilize insurance markets. New Yorkers should know that New York State has decided to keep this extended enrollment period the same as in the past and that New York is spending the same amount on advertising as in previous years. None of the changes will affect open enrollment for 2017.

Obamacare protects people with disabilities by requiring that insurance plans cover the elderly, people with pre-existing conditions, and people with complex medical needs. Creating [association health plans](#) and [short-term plans](#) would mean that insurance pools would only be available to healthy, less costly individuals and everyone else won't have consumer protections. This will [destabilize insurance markets](#) for many people by creating higher premiums and fewer choices. CIDNY will [continue to advocate](#) at the state level for protections for all New Yorkers.

During open enrollment, you can enroll in a Qualified Health Plan, which will have a premium and deductibles/copays. Most Marketplace consumers receive financial assistance to help them with premiums and some get help with co-pays. Costs have come down relative to last year, on average 5%.

Depending on your income, you may be eligible to enroll in Medicaid or Essential Plan, which have no or low out-of-pocket costs. Children under 19 can enroll in Child Health Plus. You can enroll in these programs at any time of the year.

You may receive confusing mail or online notices during open enrollment. CIDNY has navigators who can help you understand notices and enroll or renew coverage in the NY State of Health. Call the receptionist in Manhattan at 212/674-2300 or in Queens at 646/442-

1520 and ask to speak with a navigator for more information. We're here to help.



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

CIDNY Consumer Rights and Responsibilities

Did you know that you have certain rights and responsibilities as a CIDNY consumer?

Your Rights as a CIDNY Consumer

You have the right to receive services without regard to your disability, age, race, color, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, gender, national origin or sponsor.

You have the right to receive services in the language that you sign, speak, read and/or write.

You have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations.

Confidentiality

We understand that information about you is personal. We are committed to protecting the privacy of your confidential information.

Complaints and Appeals

You have the right to object to or disagree with a proposed plan of action to address your concerns.

You have the right to a timely investigation of your complaint without fear of reprisal.

Your Responsibilities as a CIDNY Consumer

Consumers are expected to treat staff, volunteers and other consumers with courtesy...Not using verbally threatening or abusive language and behavior.

Appropriate Office Etiquette



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You are expected to adhere to CIDNY's office etiquette, specifically as it relates to:

- Ensuring that all cellular telephones or electronic equipment that emit ringing or beeping noises are turned off or set to vibrate.
- Ensuring compliance to CIDNY's policy of maintaining a fragrance-free environment, by not wearing any fragrances or perfumes when coming onto CIDNY's premises.

This is just a short selection of the complete rights and responsibilities document. You can request another copy of the document from your benefits counselor or see it online here: <https://www.cidny.org/services/>

Individual Polling Survey

The General Election is being held on November 7, 2017. CIDNY staff and volunteers will be surveying more polling sites to see whether the Board of Elections has made more of them accessible. You can help.

After you vote please complete CIDNY's Individual Voter Survey online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9RV6JX3>

Your help in the past has identified problems at polling sites that we have not been able to get to. With your help this election, we can continue to let the City Council and the Board of Elections know about problems that still need to be fixed.

Every voter experience that we can document – including the good ones – makes a difference in our efforts to improve our election process!

If you need assistance completing the survey, please call Monica Bartley at 646/442-4152.

Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities 5 Years After Hurricane Sandy

Five years ago, emergency preparedness efforts failed people with disabilities during Hurricane Sandy.

Three years later, we won a court case against the City on disaster preparedness for people with disabilities. We're taking a look at what's changed.

In 2014, we negotiated with the City to improve emergency planning for people with disabilities. This was

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

based on the Judge's findings in the court order. These negotiated commitments include:

- making 60 City shelters accessible for people with disabilities;
- devising a better accessible transportation plan so people with disabilities can evacuate safely before or after an emergency;
- providing accessible communications both in messages about emergencies and for materials in the shelters so people with disabilities can understand what is going on and what their options are;
- providing better canvassing so people with disabilities stuck in high rise buildings or in their homes after an emergency can get help, including evacuation help if needed; and
- developing a high-rise evacuation plan for people with disabilities so that those who can't evacuate because of their disability can get help.

But if another major storm or emergency happened today, many in our community may still not be able to get the help they need that is required by law.

We are waiting to see a plan that includes how people with disabilities will get help evacuating safely before an emergency. We don't know what accessible transportation will be available for them. Or how they will leave with their equipment, service animals, and such. We also have not seen a plan for how they will get home after the emergency and power is returned to their buildings.

We agree that people should try to prepare for emergencies as they can. But many New Yorkers with disabilities also live in poverty. They are not able to prepare in the way the City suggests: they cannot stockpile extra equipment, food, water, or medication. They need the City to help them have an equal opportunity to survive an emergency, just like anyone else. The City has made some progress, but we still have a way to go. To read more, visit our blog: <https://www.cidny.org/hurricane-sandy-anniversary/>



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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, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm
Every Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm



Walk-In Day—Queens

Every Monday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Please RSVP to (646) 442-4156. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, November 8, 2017.



Housing Workshop - Queens

Wednesday, November 29th, 10:00 am to 12 noon.
CIDNY's 2 hour housing workshop covers housing options: NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and other programs; what you qualify for; income and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report.

Space is limited: 646-442-1520 to reserve your spot. Also, let us know if you need an accommodation like American Sign Language or large print.



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. No meeting on November 23rd due to Thanksgiving holiday.

All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003 unless otherwise stated. To RSVP for events, contact the receptionist at 646-442-4156 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.

IMPORTANT DATES in NOVEMBER

November 7 – Election Day – office closed



November 23 – Thanksgiving Day – office closed



November 24 – office closed

CIDNY CAN









Wednesday, November 15th, 2017, 1:00-3:00 PM in QUEENS

Join us for a film screening of "**Bottom Dollars**," an hour-long documentary that exposes the exploitation of people with disabilities through personal stories and expert interviews. Nearly 250,000 people are legally paid less than the minimum wage, on average, less than \$2 an hour.

It also presents clear employment alternatives with competitive wages and community inclusion. We will have a discussion on the film afterwards. Refreshments will be served.

NOVEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2  Walk-in Day 10:00 am-3:00  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	3	4
5	6  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	7 ELECTION DAY 	8	9  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	10	11
12	13  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	14  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	15 CIDNY CAN MEETING - QUEENS  1:00-3:00 pm	16  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30pm	17	18
19	20  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	21  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	22	23 THANKSGIVING DAY – OFFICE CLOSED 	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26	27  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	28  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	29  Queens Housing Workshop 10 am-12 pm	30  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30pm	 CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY	