



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
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December 2018

Proposed MTA Fare Increase – Your Voice is Critical

On November 21st, CIDNY joined other organizations advocating for people with disabilities in sending a letter to Governor Cuomo about a proposed fare increase. We said:

"As organizations that advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, we urge you to direct your MTA Board Members to withdraw its proposal for an increase in the base fare to \$3 from \$2.75, which would negatively and disproportionately harm people with disabilities who use New York City's Access-A-Ride system.

In January 2017, you moved to prevent a similar disproportionate increase just before the MTA's vote. At the time, our groups praised you and the MTA board for making the right decision by not balancing its budget on the backs of people who can least afford it.

People with disabilities should pay only their fair share, and this fare hike will impose a disproportionate burden on them. In 2017, you stood up for the equal rights of people with disabilities as part of a vision for a fairer, more equitable New York City. We urge you to again stand up for people with disabilities, and reject this unfair increase."



[Image description: Photo of Access-A-Ride vehicle.]

Take Action

There are **hearings in progress** in each borough and the suburbs as well as opportunities to **submit comments** by video or online. Learn more here: <https://new.mta.info/fares-and-tolls/2019-fare-and-toll-changes/public-hearing-locations>.

It's also very important that we have a large disability presence at the **MTA board meeting on December 12th at 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, 2 Broadway (between Beaver and Stone streets) in Manhattan. The MTA might be presenting their budget at that meeting, which includes funding for on-demand and e-hail, so people with disabilities should attend and show support for those Access-A-Ride programs.

Speak Up for Immigrants with Disabilities

The disability community has fought long and hard for our rights in the United States, and we won't let anyone tell us that disabled people don't belong here. That's why we're speaking up against the administration's proposed "public charge" rule, which would let the government deny immigrants entry to the U.S. because of a disability. Submit a comment and tell the administration we say NO to this harmful rule at <https://bit.ly/2As0U0u>.

Under the proposed "public charge" rule, the U.S. could deny entry to immigrants if they or a family member use, or could ever need, services like:

- Medicaid – this includes Medicaid waiver services that help people with disabilities stay in our homes, work, go to school, and live in our communities
- SNAP (food stamps)
- Medicare Part D assistance
- Section 8 housing assistance

Anyone with a disability or who is sick could be defined as someone who might need these services in the future – meaning that the government could deny someone entry just because they are disabled. The government could also use this standard to deny visas or green cards to immigrants who are already living in the U.S.

We can fight back by sending written comments opposing the rule to the Department of Homeland Security. Our colleagues at the Arc created a comment tool at <https://bit.ly/2As0U0u> to make it quick and easy. Federal agencies are required to review every unique comment they receive about a proposed regulation – and that means that a flood of public comments could stop or delay this rule.



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No one should have to go without food, housing, or health care in order to live safely with their family, but the fears raised by the proposed rule are already preventing many people with disabilities from using needed benefits. If enacted, this discriminatory rule will do lasting harm to disabled immigrants and their families. Submit a public comment today to let the administration know: disabled immigrants are welcome here!

Urge Governor Cuomo to Enact the Small Business Tax Credit!

The bill (A.1369/S.3688) to create a tax credit for small businesses who hire people with disabilities was delivered to the Governor on Monday. He now has 10 days to take action. Call the Governor today to urge him to enact the small business tax credit!

This type of incentive, geared to small businesses, could go a long way to helping people with disabilities find employment in NYS. Small businesses are major employers in the State. The bill would help address the devastating rates of unemployment and poverty in our community. The NYS Employment First Commission's report included a recommendation to establish a cross-disability tax credit, which this does.

ACTION! Call Governor Cuomo TODAY at #518-474-8390. Press 2 to speak with someone.

Say: *I am calling to urge Governor Cuomo to sign the small business tax credit bill! The tax credit created by A.1369/S.3688 would create an incentive for small businesses to hire individuals with disabilities, increasing the opportunities for New Yorkers with disabilities to achieve gainful employment and self-sufficiency.*

All of Us Includes People with Disabilities

All of Us aims to include communities--including people with disabilities--that have been underrepresented in research to make it the largest, most diverse resource of its kind. The program seeks to enroll "one million or more" participants in a long-term study to improve the ability to prevent and treat disease based on individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biological makeup, including genetics. If you missed our special guest presentation on All of Us, you can still watch it on Facebook Live. People ages 18 and older, regardless

of health status, are eligible to enroll. Register at All of Us: <https://www.joinallofus.org/together>.



[Image description: The words "Join All of Us."]

Poll Site Survey Update

On Election Day, CIDNY surveyed 72 sites and our findings showed many of the same problems identified in the past. Broken Ballot Marking Devices, inadequate beveling on pathways making it difficult for people using wheelchairs, scooters or walkers to access the sidewalk, and other issues were identified. Our report with detailed findings will be available soon.



[Image description: Broken BMD at polling site in Manhattan.]

It's Time for Open Enrollment

Confused about your health care options? Contact us to help you with your enrollment, and remember, the deadline for New York State is January 31.

Give to CIDNY

We are able to help because of supporters like you. Go to <https://www.cidny.org/donation/> to make a donation this holiday season.

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.



Walk-In Days—Manhattan

Every Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Walk-In Day—Queens

Every Monday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Important Dates

December 25: Christmas Day – office closed

CIDNY's Writers' Group

Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

A facilitated, non-judgmental writing group that promotes individual expression and creativity in a supportive atmosphere.

Housing Workshops

Wednesday, December 12, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Manhattan

CIDNY's 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. 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.



Movie Night

Ragtime, Wednesday, December 19, 3 - 5 p.m.

A young black pianist becomes embroiled in the lives of an upper class white family set among the racial tensions, infidelity, violence, and other nostalgic events in early 1900s NYC.

Director: Milos Forman. Stars: James Cagney, Elizabeth McGovern, Howard E. Rollins, Jr.



MTA Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at MTA Headquarters, 2 Broadway.

Please arrive 45 minutes early and bring a photo ID. Upon arrival, people can choose to sign up to speak during the meeting. There is a two-minute limit for speakers. Join with us and other advocates as we make our voices heard. RSVP required.

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, December 19, 1-3:30 p.m.

Join us at our end of year party to celebrate our achievements through your lobbying work over the past year and plan our lobbying strategy for next year. It will be an afternoon of fun and celebration as we look back on what we did in 2018!

Reunión de CIDNY Network (CAN)

Miércoles, 19 de diciembre, 1-3:30 p.m.

Únase a nosotros en nuestra fiesta de fin de año. Celebren nuestros logros a través de su trabajo de cabildeo durante todo este año. Vamos planificar nuestra estrategia de cabildeo para el próximo año. ¡Será una tarde de diversión y celebración mientras recordamos lo que hicimos en 2018!

Access-A-Ride Clinic

CIDNY and Mobilization for Justice are having our first Queens' office Access-A-Ride Clinic in January. Do you want to make your voices heard, tell about your experiences, and join the fight for a better Access-A-Ride? Join us! Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, call 646/442-1520 to RSVP. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by December 21. Lunch will be served.

Save the Date

February 11, 2019 - NYAIL Budget-Advocacy Day

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) participants and advocates will travel to Albany to talk to policymakers about issues that are important to us. It's a chance to tell legislators how the budget will impact you.

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

Queens: January 16, 1 - 3 p.m.

Manhattan: January 30, 1 - 3 p.m.

All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003, unless otherwise noted. To RSVP, contact Laurette at 212/674-2300 or lhamilton@cidny.org. For events in Queens or if you 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, let us know by Wednesday, December 5.

DECEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 International Day of People with Disability  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	4  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	5	6  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	7	8
9	10  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	11  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	12  Housing Workshop – Manhattan 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  MTA Board Meeting 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	13  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	14	15
16	17  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	18  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	19 CIDNY Action Network Meeting 1-3:30 p.m. Movie Night 3:30 – 5:30 pm	20  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	21	22
23	24  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Christmas Day – Office closed	26	27  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	28	29
30	31  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.					 CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY