



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
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January 2019

It's Not Too Late to Give

As the year draws to a close, we ask for your continued support of our work.

CIDNY helped 52,310 people with disabilities meet their goals in 2018. We saved the state \$7.5 million by helping people return home from nursing facilities and another \$19 million by connecting people to supports in their own neighborhoods. Peer advocates fought with us for policy victories including better access to medications and protections for tenants with disabilities. Our lawsuits defend our civil rights on issues including accessible public transportation and voting rights. We raised public awareness about topics that impact our community through education and storytelling.

We couldn't do any of this without YOU! Please consider a gift that keeps on giving—help us continue to assist people with disabilities to live the lives we choose for ourselves and protect our civil rights. Every bit makes a difference! Donate here:
<https://www.cidny.org/donation/>.



[Image description: The word "give."]

Legislative Policy and Advocacy WINS

We see the need for improvements to laws and policies every day in our work. People with disabilities come to us with stories of barriers in their way, of getting lost or forgotten in complicated systems, and of the hard won successes that they achieve. We learn from these lived experiences and bring people together to help find solutions.

For people with disabilities in particular, there is more than one way to be an advocate. Our digital efforts help people contribute by raising awareness through social media and action alerts, texting elected officials, sending emails, and amplifying key issues. We educate the public and government officials, report on trends, and help them understand the policy solutions that are within our reach. We testify at hearings and comment on how people with disabilities will be affected by proposed changes to law, regulation, and policy. We bring groups together around common concerns and work to create

lasting change. When education and negotiation fail and civil rights are violated, we seek remedies in court.

Many of these efforts are years in the making. But our persistence and hard work ultimately pays off.

Here are some of our advocacy wins over the past fiscal year, July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

HEALTH CARE

Advocates won an increase in funding for the Community Health Advocates Program, which helps people understand, use, and keep their health insurance.

Parents want to stay with their kids and married couples want to stay together. We helped pass a budget that preserves parental and spousal refusal provisions and current spousal impoverishment protections of Medicaid law so families don't lose their benefits if they stay together.

Some people with disabilities want to stay at home but need nursing home level of care to do so. We helped preserve the current Uniform Assessment Score for Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) in Medicaid law to protect the additional benefits of care coordination and person centered service plans.

Physical therapy helps people properly recover from surgery or injury and saves money in the long term, but Medicaid users weren't given enough visits in a year to comply with treatment needs. We won an increase in the 20 visit annual limit on physical therapy for Medicaid to 40 visits a year.

Advocates advised the New York State Legislature to pass a budget that preserves "prescriber prevails" provisions of Medicaid law, which allows doctors to make changes to medications preferred by a health plan when it is necessary to protect the patient's best interest.

We worked in coalition to fight for a new law making it easier for New Yorkers with disabilities to access their own health records, which could cost hundreds of dollars in per page printing fees. The law prohibits providers and facilities from charging fees for copies of or access to records needed by a patient for an application, claim, or appeal for a government benefit or program.

People don't always know if they qualify for programs that will save them money. We fought for a law requiring written notice explaining to people who might be eligible for Medicaid with a "spend down" how they



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could qualify by participating in a pooled trust. This helps people maintain eligibility while protecting their savings.

People who take cutting edge biologic drugs were not able to save money by substituting biosimilar products, much like conventional medications can be cheaper as generic drugs. We advocated for an update to New York pharmacy substitution laws to allow for the substitution.

HOUSING

People with disabilities comprise 60% of the homeless shelter population. We heard from many people who were on the edge of eviction (a leading cause of homelessness) and who couldn't afford to defend themselves against wealthy landlords and management companies. The Right to Counsel requires access to legal representation to tenants whose incomes are under 200 percent of the poverty line, including people with disabilities. The bill extends the right to tenants who would otherwise not be eligible for legal representation based on income, to be represented in housing court and it will be citywide by 2022.

Affordable, accessible, and integrated housing is hard to come by in NYC. The state legislature passed a law giving people with mobility disabilities priority for first floor apartments in vacant NYCHA housing, known as the Right of First Option.

TRANSPORTATION

Our ongoing campaign for fully accessible and on demand transit for people with disabilities in NYC includes work on curb cuts, subway elevator access, improvements to Access-A-Ride (or paratransit) service, and accessible taxis. Our efforts resulted in two pilot programs for Access-A-Ride that allow users to book real time rides with accessible cabs.

JOIN US

Come to a CIDNY Action Network meeting (see calendar) and join us for Lobby Day in February. Or sign up on our website: <https://www.cidny.org/join-us/>.

Speak Out for the Child Victims Act

The new year may finally bring the passage of a bill to allow more time for victims of child sexual abuse to file suits against their abusers in New York state – legislation that is especially important for people with disabilities.

Children with disabilities are disproportionately targeted for sexual abuse, but New York has some of the most restrictive laws in the country for holding perpetrators accountable. Currently, victims have until their 23rd birthday to bring civil or criminal cases.

According to Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo, advocacy director at CIDNY, the [Child Victims Act](#) would greatly extend the statute of limitations for filing civil suits.

"If passed, it will be 50 years," Rosa-Carrasquillo said; "which makes sense, because most children who have been sexually abused have to go through a whole process to get past that, and it's been found that it takes 40 years or so."

It would also raise the age for filing criminal charges to 28. The bill, first introduced in 2006, has passed in the Assembly but never has had a vote in the State Senate.

Senate Republicans want the bill to allow only a year for victims to bring legal actions for abuse that may have occurred decades ago, and to protect the identity of abusers, provisions Rosa-Carrasquillo and other advocates object to.

A "look back" provision in the Assembly bill, allowing more time to bring legal action for past abuse, has been opposed by the Boy Scouts and the Catholic Church, which fear that unlimited lawsuits would threaten their ability to serve the community.

The stakes are high for people with disabilities. On average, children with disabilities are almost three-times more likely to be victims of sexual abuse. And Rosa-Carrasquillo pointed out that some face even more risk.

"Children with mental health or intellectual disabilities are 4.6 times more likely to get sexually abused and not believed because they're either cognitively impaired or people think they're psychotic," she explained.

Supporters of the legislation are hopeful that with Democrats taking control of the state Senate in January, the bill finally will become law.

This story by Andrea Sears originally appeared on Public News Service and is reprinted with permission.



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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

January 1 – New Year’s Day - Office closed

January 21 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 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, January 9, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – Manhattan

Wednesday, January 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Queens
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 Will resume in the spring.



MTA Board Meeting

Thursday, December 24 from 9 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, January 16, 1-3 p.m. – Queens

Wednesday, January 23, 1-3 p.m. - Manhattan

Mark your calendars! Lobby Day 2019 is Monday, February 11. Let’s prepare to go to Albany to meet with our legislators, discuss our issues and share our stories.

Training will be held from at 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at the Queens Office and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at the Manhattan Office. **You must attend one of these trainings to go to Albany.**

Reunión de CIDNY Red de Acción del Consumidor

Miércoles, 16 de enero, 1-3 p.m. – Queens

Miércoles, 23 de enero, 1-3 p.m. – Manhattan

¡Marquen sus calendarios! El día de Cabildeo 2019 es el lunes 11 de febrero. Preparémonos para ir a Albany para reunirnos con nuestros legisladores, discutir nuestros problemas y compartir nuestras historias. El entrenamiento se llevará a cabo de 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. del miércoles 16 de enero de 2019 en la oficina de Queens, y 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., miércoles 23 de enero de 2019 en la oficina de Manhattan. **Debes asistir a uno de estos entrenamientos para ir a Albany.**

Access-A-Ride Clinic

Wednesday, January 9, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. - Queens

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.

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, January 2.

Por favor confirme su asistencia a Jose Luis Mera (646) 442-1520. Si necesita una acomodación, como servicios de interpretación o letra grande, avísenos antes del miércoles 2 de enero de 2019.

JANUARY 2019 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day – Office Closed 	2	3  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	4	5
6	7  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	8  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	9  Housing Workshop – Manhattan 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Access-A-Ride clinic – Queens 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	10  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	11	12
13	14  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	15  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	16 CIDNY Action Network Meeting - Queens 1-3 p.m.	17  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	18	19
20	21 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day – Office Closed 	22  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	23 CIDNY Action Network Meeting - Manhattan 1-3 p.m.	24  MTA Board Meeting 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	25	26
27	28  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	29  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	30  Housing Workshop – Queens 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.	31  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.		 CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY