

## February 2019

### NYC Subway Death Spotlights Lack of Accessibility

People with disabilities [rallied on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>] at the site where a young mother died when she fell down subway stairs.



[Image description: Flowers and signs at memorial for Malaysia Goodson in front of the subway station where she died.]

Malaysia Goodman fell in the subway station at 53rd Street and Seventh Avenue on Monday as she was carrying her year-old daughter down the steps in a stroller. The daughter survived, but her mother was taken to a hospital and did not survive the fall.

Susan Dooha, executive director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled New York, called the incident a tragic reminder that fewer than 25 percent of the city's 472 subway stations have elevators.

"We are really overwhelmed by her death," she said, "and it could have been anyone with a disability who tried to navigate that staircase."

In [a case filed in 2017](#), the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is being sued under state and federal law for its failure to make subway stations more accessible. Andy Byford, head of the MTA, has promised that by 2025, no rider would be more than two stops away from a fully accessible subway station. However, Dooha noted that a promise isn't binding, and added that even that accommodation would be inadequate.

"Every other station can mean a trek that is way too far for someone with difficulty walking, who uses a walker

or a cane, or for someone who uses a manual chair to get around," she said.

Even stations that are called "accessible" are plagued by maintenance issues, she said, including elevators often out of service.

Dooha pointed out that other major cities, such as Chicago and Boston, with older subway systems have achieved 60 percent accessibility or more, but progress in New York has been extremely slow.

"It is dead last among major cities in the United States for having elevators at subway stations so people with disabilities can ride," she said, "and no one has to die on the subway stairs trying to carry their child."

*This story by Andrea Sears originally appeared in Public News Service and is reprinted with permission. It is also [available in Spanish](#).*

### 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: Illustration of people of different races and ethnicities.]

### New York Transportation and Technology Survey

Adults living in New York State are invited to take a survey about transportation, employment, residential satisfaction, and use of communication technology for



**CID-NY**

# Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY  
[www.CIDNY.org](http://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

people with and without disabilities living in New York. Your participation may contribute to knowledge about inequalities in transportation and technology access for people with disabilities and how they affect employment, earnings, residential satisfaction, and well-being. The results of the survey may be used for advocacy purposes and policy recommendations for local, state, and federal government agencies.

The survey will take 20-30 minutes to complete and may take longer if you are using a screen reader. If you use the same device (computer or smartphone), your answers will be stored for up to one week so you don't have to complete the survey in one sitting. You can submit your answers anonymously, or if you would like to be part of a raffle prize drawing or be contacted for future paid research opportunities, you can submit your email address at the end of the survey. The raffle drawing will take place on March 31, 2019, and twenty (20) participants will be randomly chosen to receive a \$50 gift card. If you need an alternative format of the survey (like a print version or to take the survey by phone), please contact Jessica Murray at [jmurray@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:jmurray@gradcenter.cuny.edu) or by phone or text at 214-454-6298. Click here to take the online survey: <https://www.ourmobility.org/participant-survey/>.

## Looking for Work?

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CIDNY) is hiring for several positions. Check out our website for more details: <https://www.cidny.org/jobs/>. We also maintain a list of employers who are making good faith efforts to recruit, hire, and promote qualified people with disabilities: <https://www.cidny.org/findjobs/>. And we can help you navigate services like ACCES-VR to find employment and understand how employment will affect any benefits that you receive.

## Go Paperless



[Image description: Go paperless with an image of the earth.]

Join the conversation: online at [www.cidny.org](http://www.cidny.org); on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc](https://www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc)), or on Twitter (@CID\_NY)

If you're not getting our emails, you're missing out on links to other posts, action alerts, and other timely materials. If you'd like to switch to email, let us know at [info@cidny.org](mailto:info@cidny.org). You can help us save on postage, too.

## Child Victims Act Passes

The Child Victims Act, which CIDNY has lobbied on, has finally passed the state legislature. Children with disabilities are 2.9 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused. Children with intellectual or mental health disabilities appear to be more at risk, with 4.6 times the risk of sexual abuse as their peers without disabilities. Many survivors delay reporting and are less likely to be believed when they do report. This bill will extend the statute of limitations to file a claim against institutions that protect abusers.



[Image description: Woman with sign saying, protect victims, not criminals.]

The CVA has repeatedly been passed by the NYS Assembly and stalled by the Senate. With new changes in leadership, it finally passed and is awaiting signature by Governor Cuomo. Legislators apologized for taking a long time to pass this bill.

## Vote in the Special Election

A Special Election will be held on February 26th for New York City Public Advocate. Do go out and vote. Your vote is our voice!

If you need additional information, please call Monica Bartley at 646-442-4152.



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## NEED HELP?

Walk-in/drop-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

**February 11 – Albany Lobby Day - Office closed**

**February 18 – President's 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, February 13, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – Manhattan**

**Wednesday, February 27, 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.

There is no **CIDNY Action Network** this month due to **Lobby Day**.



### MTA Board Meeting

**Wednesday, February 27th 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.

**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](mailto:lhamilton@cidny.org). For events in Queens or if you speak Spanish, RSVP to Jose at 646/442-1520 or [jmera@cidny.org](mailto:jmera@cidny.org). If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, let us know by Wednesday, February 6.**

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 6 de febrero de 2019.



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### CIDNY's Benefits Check-Up

Eligibility for public benefits change frequently. Are you getting the benefits you need?

Find out if you are eligible for:

- \* Health Insurance Options
- \* Housing: DRIE/SCRIE, HEAP
- \* Transportation: Access-A-Ride, 1/2 Fare Card
- \* SNAP
- \* SSDI

And more....

For more information call CIDNY and ask to speak to a benefits counselor.

ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish-speaking counselors are available.

# FEBRUARY 2019 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	<b>4</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m.-2 p.m.   <b>Walk-in Day - Queens</b> 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>5</b> <b>Lunar New Year</b>   <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	6	<b>7</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m.-2 p.m.   <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30-5:30 p.m.	8	9
10	<b>11</b> <b>Albany Lobby Day – Office Closed</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	<b>13</b>  <b>Housing Workshop – Manhattan</b> 10 a.m.-12 p.m.	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m.-2 p.m.   <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30-5:30 p.m.	15	16
17	<b>18</b> <b>President's Day – Office Closed</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	20	<b>21</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30-5:30 p.m.	22	23
24	<b>25</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m.-2 p.m.   <b>Walk-in Day - Queens</b> 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>26</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	<b>27</b>  <b>MTA Board Meeting</b> 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.   <b>Housing Workshop – Queens</b> 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.	<b>28</b>  <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30-5:30 p.m.		 <b>CID-NY</b> Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY