

The Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York (CIDNY) is the leading organization serving and representing people with disabilities in New York City. CIDNY's mission is the removal of barriers to full integration of people with disabilities. CIDNY helps people with disabilities to gain the skills and obtain the services they need to live independently in the community and advocates for fair and effective policies that improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. CIDNY is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Summary: The Independent Living (IL) Specialist will report to the Director of Services and will work collaboratively with the Rapid Transition Housing Program (RHTP) Housing Specialist, as well as other programs at CIDNY. The IL Specialist's key role is to assist individuals with disabilities live independently in their communities, with adequate and continuous support in place.

Reports to: Director of Services (Queens)

Location: CIDNY-Queens

Responsibility:

- Develop Independent Living Plans (ILPs) for people with disabilities with a focus on person-centered planning to meet the needs of the consumers, including but not limited to community support services, budgeting, transportation, and healthcare referrals.
- Conduct home visits for assessment, implementation, and revision of the ILPs and following placement monthly visits to check on the individual's status.
- Establish referral systems with service providers, hospitals, nursing homes, etc.
- Collaborate with Housing Specialist, Transition Specialist, Benefits Counselor, Healthcare Advocates, Nursing Home Discharge Planner, Care Manager (CM), or peer advocate to ensure a support services plan is in place for program admission and transition to independent living.
- Track and report on all activities using the statewide project database.
- Perform other duties and attend trainings as requested by the Program Director.

Qualifications:

- Minimum of a Bachelor's degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience to successfully perform the essential duties of the position may be substituted.
- Experience with the concepts of independent living, person centered planning, and a strong commitment to promoting and advocating for the full integration of individuals with disabilities.
- Experience transitioning individuals from institutions to the community including familiarity with finding affordable, accessible, integrated housing and the development of individualized service plans.
- Knowledge of state and local housing policies, practices, laws, and issues impacting people with disabilities strongly preferred.
- Knowledge of the State's Medicaid program and community resources which can assist people with disabilities in living independently.
- Bilingual preferred.
- Meticulous documentation and timely follow-up required.
- Computer savvy, especially with data entry.
- Ability to travel across all boroughs.
- Ability to work as a member of a team.

We conform to all laws, statutes, and regulations concerning equal employment opportunities and affirmative action. We strongly encourage women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans to

apply to all of our job openings. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, genetic information and testing, family and medical leave, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. We prohibit retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint or otherwise oppose discrimination.

HOW TO APPLY

How to apply:

Please send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to Don Rickenbaugh, Director of Services (Queens), drickenbaugh@cidny.org. Do not send by fax.

Please use the job title as email header. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.