



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
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

January 2020

Make Your Voice Heard: Register and Vote



Image description:
Register to Vote

2020 is an important election year. The elections will include people running for local, state and federal offices. The people we elect will be voting on health, education, infrastructure, housing and other issues that can affect our independence and well-being. Your vote is a powerful tool.

Legislators pay attention to how many voters care about issues they consider. In fact, when CIDNY goes to Albany, our ability to tell legislators that people with disabilities vote and to tell them the stories about how their actions affect us makes a huge difference in whether they support our issues. We will also be electing a president this year, a president who may influence legislation that affects our community.

New York City will hold the first of four elections in April. If you are not registered to vote or don't know if you are, CIDNY can help. You can pick up a registration form at CIDNY. If you need help filling it out or if you have other questions, our counselors will help you. Once you fill out the form and sign it, we can deliver your registration form to the NYC Board of Elections for you.

If you prefer, you can take the form to your local Board of Elections office yourself or you can mail it in. You can also register to vote online by going to:
<https://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/register.shtml>.

You can find out if your registration is active at <https://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>. You can also check to make sure you know your polling site; some sites may have been changed. If you do not have access to the internet but want to check your registration, register to vote online or check your polling site, a CIDNY counselor can help.

Here are the dates for the 2020 elections:

- Tuesday, April 28 - Presidential Primary for both republican and democratic parties (you must be registered in a party to vote in the primary);

- Tuesday, June 23 - Primaries for all other federal, state and local offices;
- Tuesday, November 3 - General Election for the presidency and all other federal, state and local offices.

On-Demand Pilot Program



Image description: NYC Taxi

The On-Demand pilot program run by MTA was largely successful for the test group of 1,200 people with disabilities. The program allowed people to order a yellow or green accessible cab for same day service.

In November, Alex Elegudin, MTA's Senior Advisor for Accessibility, presented a new plan for the program. Although the plan adds an additional 1,200 users to the On-Demand program, it also limits rides to 16 a month and will only pay \$15 per ride. This means that riders would have to figure out when they think it is important to use On-Demand and whether \$15 is enough to get to their destination. But how do you budget for a ride when you don't know what it will cost and how do you anticipate unexpected trips to the doctor or to pick up a sick child from school?

The City Council and several State legislators support our assessment that this new plan is unacceptable. People who use subways and buses don't have limits on the number of rides or where they can travel. They don't have to make a decision about going to an important appointment based on whether it will cost more than a regular fare.

The MTA board will be discussing the proposed plan. Watch for an action alert this month based on what the MTA board decides to do. For more information on this and other paratransit issues, please contact Tashia Lerebours at tlerebours@cidny.org.



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
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

Make Sure You're Counted This Year

The United States Census will take place starting in January.



Image description: United States Census 2020

Why should I take part?

The government makes decisions about all kinds of things based on the U.S. Census count. How many congressional representatives each state gets, how much money each state gets for health benefits, schools, hospitals, emergency response planning and roads is decided by the number of residents each state has. This is especially important for communities like ours – people with disabilities – who have been undercounted for years.

What will the Census ask?

You will **not be asked** if you are a citizen of the U.S. or about any immigration status.

You will be asked about:

- the number of people living or staying at your home;
- whether you own or rent;
- a phone number for someone living in the home (only to be used for official Census business like clarifying an answer or filling in a skipped answer);
- the name, sex, age, date of birth and race of each person in the home;
- whether the person is of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin; and
- the relationship of each person to a central person in the home.

If you'd like to know more about the Census and what it means to you, please contact Margi Trapani at mtrapani@cidny.org.

Get Involved in 2020

2020 will be an interesting year for the country and for people with disabilities. It's a good time to get involved. Join the CIDNY Action Network (CAN), the Writers Group, and take advantage of CIDNY workshops to gain skills and meet up with friends at cultural events. Join us for museum visits; learn about insurance coverage; policy development; housing search skills and more. Coming in February, CIDNY's workshops will include learning storytelling skills for advocacy run by the Moth (www.Moth.org).

If you need help understanding what benefits you are eligible for, come in on one of our walk-in days (see the calendar below) to see a benefits counselor or call to make an appointment.



Image description: Did you know that you can enroll in Medicaid any time of the year? Medicaid programs cover 1 in 5 Americans. In all states, Medicaid provides coverage for some low-income people, families and children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. If you qualify, you can enroll immediately. Visit healthcare.gov/screener to learn more.



CID-NY

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
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

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, Tuesday and Thursday
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 3 p.m.



Walk-In Day—Queens

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

Important Dates

January 1 – Happy New Year! CIDNY offices are closed

January 15 – CAN meeting in Manhattan

January 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – CIDNY offices are closed

January 29 – Queens Housing Workshop

CIDNY's Writers Group

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

Please join us for writing and sharing work in a supportive and respectful environment. Writers of all genres and levels of experience are welcome. No prior writing experience is necessary. Participants should sign up in advance by calling Laurette at 212/674-2300 and asking to be placed on the list. Please let her know if you need an accommodation like ASL interpretation or large print. Please bring pen/pencil and paper (CIDNY will supply if you don't have).

Housing Workshops – Queens

January 29 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Learn about searching for housing and lists. Meet with a CIDNY counselor after the presentation to discuss your individual needs.



CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting



Wednesday, January 15

1–3 pm

NYS Budget and Policy Agenda

The budget proposal will affect all of us. We want to hear from you on your issues and concerns. Your ideas will help us create our 2020 Budget and Legislative Agenda.

Please RSVP to Laurette at 212/674-2300. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, January 8. Refreshments 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 hamilton@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, please let us know as soon as possible. CIDNY has a hearing loop.



January 2020 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  CIDNY OFFICES CLOSED	2  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.  Writers Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	3	4
5	6  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	7  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.	8	9  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.  Writers Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	10	11
12	13  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	14  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.	15  CAN Meeting 1-3 pm.	16  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.  Writers Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	17	18
19	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY CIDNY OFFICES CLOSED	21  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.	22	23  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.  Writers Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	24	25
26	27  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	28  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.	29  Housing Workshop - Queens 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	30	31	