



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
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February 2020

Join CIDNY in Making 2020 Count for People with Disabilities

2020 is an important year for people with disabilities. This year is the 30th anniversary of our federal civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and we have a lot to celebrate: more rules are in place to make public places and organizations accessible, including polling sites, theaters, libraries, public housing, courtrooms, health care facilities, and government agencies and services. People living in institutions must be able to receive services in the most integrated settings. People with various disabilities have been able to access more community-based housing. Students with disabilities can get reasonable accommodations in school and when they are taking college entrance exams. And so much more.

Much of what has been achieved has happened because people with disabilities spoke up and spoke out. But, as we all know, there's still a way to go. This year, there are threats to the safety net programs that many of us rely on to stay independent and living in the community. There are also threats to weaken the ADA. There are a couple of things we can all do right now to continue protecting our rights:

People with Disabilities Count – the 2020 Census



Many local, state and federal government programs and resources are decided based on the number of people in the population. These numbers come from the U.S. Census count. We know that for years people with disabilities have been undercounted in past censuses. We have a right to our fair share of resources for affordable and accessible housing, health care coverage, food programs like SNAP, safety net programs that ensure we can live independently, accessible public transportation, and political representation. But an undercount of our population can mean we are not considered. We need to make sure that our representatives know they must include our concerns and needs as they make policies that affect us.

By law, your personal information is kept confidential. Your responses can be used only to produce statistics. They cannot be used for law enforcement or to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

Contact Margi Trapani at mtrapani@cidny.org or call our Manhattan number at 212-674-2300 to find out more and to fill out a pledge form to be counted. CIDNY is a grantee of the NYC Complete Count Fund – we urge you to join us in making sure we all count.

All elections matter - register to vote



Voting is one way to make sure that the government pays attention to our concerns. Voting in local elections helps ensure that our elected officials work in our neighborhoods to safeguard and enhance accessible transportation, safe sidewalks and streets, important safety net programs, affordable and accessible housing, and accessibility at government agencies for all of us.

Make sure that you are registered to vote and if you are, make sure that your registration is up to date. You need to change your registration if you moved since the last election or if you would like to change or add a party affiliation so you can vote in the primaries.

Contact Monica Bartley at mbartley@cidny.org or 646-442-4152 if you have questions.

You can also register to vote online by going to: <https://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>

"Public Charge" Ruling May Affect Some Immigrants

In January, the Supreme Court allowed the Department of Homeland Security's "public charge" ruling to go into effect for now. The ruling means that some immigrants will be prevented from getting legal permanent resident status or a green card or visa, if they use certain public benefits or if the federal government believes they are likely to depend on public benefits in the future. New



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York City is fighting the rule in court, but for now, the rule is in effect. This rule will not affect everyone.

Some things to know:

- New Yorkers should not stop using public benefits unnecessarily. Many immigrants do not face a “public charge” test in their immigration applications.
- There is no “public charge” test for green card holders applying for citizenship.
- Immigrants who are sponsoring a family member abroad, or will be traveling abroad to apply for a green card or visa, should know there is a different “public charge” policy at U.S. consulates.

According to Commissioner Bitta Mostofi, Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Affairs: “...The City will do everything in its power to connect people to the resources they need and to help dispel the confusion the Rule has created. It’s important to know that eligibility for public benefits has not changed and many immigrants are not affected by public charge. It is also important to know that the case is still being fought in court. Don’t stop using public benefits unnecessarily...”

You can get more information from [Public Charge Rule - MOIA](#)

If you have questions about “public charge” you can consult with a free, safe immigration legal services provider. Call ActionNYC from 9-6 Monday through Friday at 1-800-354-0365 and say “public charge.”

Fair Fares – Reduced Fare MetroCards

Fair Fares allows you to have a half-fare MetroCard if you meet the eligibility requirements. The requirements are listed below and there is a link to the website where you can get more information and apply. If you need help, you can call CIDNY and ask to speak to a benefits counselor for help. You can also ask for a benefits counselor to talk to in person on walk-in days. If you already have a benefits counselor, you can ask them to help you with an application for Fair Fares.

Fair Fares NYC Eligibility Checklist

You may qualify if you:

- are between 18 and 64 years old
- live in New York City

- are not receiving or eligible for a discounted MetroCard from another program AND
- your household income is at or below the Federal Poverty Level for your household size.

Go to nyc.gov/fairfares to learn more about income levels and apply. The Fair Fares NYC MetroCard works on NYC subways and eligible buses. You can add time or value just like a regular MetroCard—but you get half-off fares.

CIDNY’s Financial Workshops Continue

Join us for:

“Putting Tax Laws to Work for You” with Jeff Birnbaum

Wednesday February 26, 1:00-2:30

Jeff Birnbaum from the Financial Planning Association (FPA) will help you understand tax laws and help you understand how to plan for filing.

Mr. Birnbaum will focus on:

- It’s not just about taxes
- The basics of tax laws that affect you
- Federal tax laws protecting people with disabilities
- NYS and NYC tax laws that may affect people with disabilities.

See the calendar for more information on events at CIDNY in February.

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY – FEBRUARY 14.



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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, Tuesday and Thursday
10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 pm.



Walk-In Day—Queens

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

Important Dates

February 5 The Moth Storytelling Workshop 1-4pm

February 19 CAN Meeting

February 26 Putting Tax Laws to Work for You

February 26 Housing Workshop-Queens 10-12

The Moth Storytelling Workshop

The Moth will work with CIDNY consumers to help them learn to tell their stories effectively. This workshop is now filled, but we may repeat it in future if there is interest. To register your interest in another Moth Workshop, contact Margi Trapani mtrapani@cidny.org or call and leave a message at 212-674-2300.

Putting Tax Laws to Work for You with Jeff Birnbaum

Wednesday, February 26, 1:00-2:30 Manhattan

Jeff Birnbaum from the Financial Planning Association (FPA) will help you understand tax laws and how to plan for filing. Mr. Birnbaum will focus on: The basics of tax laws that affect you - Federal tax laws protecting people with disabilities - NYS and NYC tax laws that may affect people with disabilities.

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 212-674-2300 and asking to be

placed on the list. Please let the receptionist 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

February 26, 10:00 a.m. -12 noon

Learn about housing searches, eligibility for housing subsidies, and more. RSVP for the workshop or if you at 646/442-1520.

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Queens Office

Legislative Advocacy Wrap Up

Feedback and updates on Legislative Advocacy Days in Albany including our next steps are. Learn about the 2020 Census.














Please RSVP to Jose Luis Mera at (646) 442-1520. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Friday, February 7. 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 lhamilton@cidny.org. For events in Queens or if you speak Spanish, RSVP 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.

February 2020 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	The Moth Story Telling Workshop 1:00-4:00 pm	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	7	8
9	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	12	13	14	15
16	President's Day CIDNY OFFICES ARE CLOSED	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	 CAN Meeting-Queens 1:00-4:00 pm.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	Happy Valentine's Day 	22
23	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	26	27	28	
			Housing Workshop – Queens 10:00-12:00 Putting Tax Laws to Work for You 1:00-2:30			