



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, #100
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
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CIDNY August 2020 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Hello! Thanks for taking the time to read our August 2020 newsletter. We hope you're doing well and staying safe.

If you know someone who would like to also receive our newsletter, please feel free to forward this or have them sign up here: <https://www.cidny.org/join-us/>.

As a reminder, due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) our offices are closed to in-person sessions until further notice. However, our programs remain available remotely (though phone and email). If you have a benefits counselor you can reach out to them directly or contact us through email at info@cidny.org or phone (Manhattan: 212-674-2300 or Video Phone: 646-350-2681 | Queens: 646-442-1520 or Video Phone: 347-905-5088). We'll be sure to let you know when anything changes.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to Like/Follow CIDNY on social media.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CID_NY

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cid_ny/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI0eMkvGCPLf3hzvYXZCVg>

Election and Voting Rights Update

With action by CIDNY, other disability organizations, and consumer advocates, several bills that will improve the absentee voting process passed both the New York State Senate and Assembly. These bills are now awaiting the Governor's signature. Those of you who participated in helping to educate the legislature on the need for these changes made a difference.

Bills on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature include the following:

- Voters can use "[Temporary illness](#)" as a valid excuse to request an absentee ballot through 2022 because this category now includes the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.
- Voters will be allowed to request absentee ballots [prior to 30 days](#) before an election.
- The Board Of Elections will be [required to count](#) absentee ballots missing a postmark as long as they are received the day after the election and have a valid timestamp.
- Voters will have an opportunity to [contest rejection](#) of their absentee ballots.

The legislature also passed [Automatic Voter Registration](#) after years of advocacy. This would not go into effect until 2023. This important legislation will ensure New York registers more people to vote as well as increasing the number of people who participate.

For those of you who joined us in this advocacy, thank you, and congratulations on a job well done. If you haven't yet joined our CIDNY Action Network (CAN) and would like to help educate legislators and advocate for our rights, contact Monica Bartley at mbartley@cidny.org or 347-922-1358.

Join the conversation: online at www.cidny.org; on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc), on Twitter (@CID_NY) and IG (@cid_ny)



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NY Connects and Health and Wellness Updates

We have a few important updates to share with you.

1. CIDNY is helping individuals enroll in NYC's Get Cool program. NYC's Get Cool program supplies a free AC to NYC residents in low-income households who have a household member who is at least 60 years old. ACs are provided by the city to qualified individuals on a first-come first-served basis so it's important to reach out to CIDNY as soon as possible if you think your household or you could qualify. The last day to reach out to CIDNY about the Get Cool program is August 30, 2020; however, there is no guarantee that ACs will still be available at this later date.
2. New York State of Health Marketplace is extending open enrollment through August 15th, 2020.
3. HRA was approved to increase the amount of the burial/funeral services allowance from \$900 to \$1,700 with a total funeral cost cap of \$3,400 through the Burial Assistance program by way of an emergency rule. If you are eligible for this financial assistance, you can also apply for this program up to 120 days after the date of the individual's death.
4. As of July 1, consumers who have SNAP cases expiring on August 31, 2020 have been receiving State recertification notices. The recertification period for cases expiring on August 31 began on July 1. All recertifications should be submitted through the ACCESS HRA website. If you have received these notices and/or know that your SNAP case will be expiring on August 31, please contact your CIDNY counselor if you have questions about next steps.
5. There has been a 12-month extension on Medicaid cases that expire in September. With this extension all cases due to expire in the months of March – September are automatically extended for 12 months. If you have questions or concerns about this, please contact your CIDNY counselor.
6. Under the federal CARES Act, individuals receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) have been able to receive an additional \$600 weekly Pandemic Unemployment Compensation payment, through July 31, 2020, if they are eligible. There is current legislation looking to extend the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation payment program past July 31st, but nothing has been finalized as of the printing of the newsletter.
7. The deadline to apply for assistance under the COVID Rent Relief Program has been extended to August 6, 2020 for online and paper applications. You can find more information here: <https://hcr.ny.gov/RRP>. If you need assistance, please let us know.

Census Update

This is a very challenging time for all of us. We're all struggling with isolation and making sure we can get our needs met. If you need support or help, please contact your benefits counselor or 212-674-2300 to get connected to the assistance you need.

One easy and positive thing you can do from home to ensure that our community recovers from this crisis with the support we need is to complete the 2020 Census.

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The more of us who fill out the census, the more money our communities can get from the government for hospitals, healthcare, schools, and housing over the next 10 years. Particularly in light of this crisis, our community needs these funds more than ever.

In just a few minutes, you can fill out the census at www.my2020census.gov or by calling **844-330-2020**. The website will ask you for a 12-digit code -- but you **don't need** that code to fill out the census. Just click where it says "if you do not have a census ID click here."

There are no questions about immigration, citizenship, your social security number or any financial information. And your responses are 100% confidential. By law, your information can't be shared with anyone -- not your landlord, not the police, not ICE, no one.

It takes less than ten minutes to answer the ten questions the census asks, yet it affects the next ten years of our city's future and will impact how our city will rebound from this crisis. If you'd like help getting the information together for filling out the Census or you need help with the form, contact Corinne Varela at cvarela@cidny.org.

Join us in helping people with disabilities get the resources and representation we deserve. Take our pledge here: <http://cidny.org/census>, and let us know you helped make disabilities count!

CIDNY Action Network (CAN)

Join us on August 19, 2020 from 1:00 PM to 3 PM. for our monthly CAN meeting. We will be showing the film Crip Camp. A discussion will follow afterward.

CRIP CAMP: A DISABILITY REVOLUTION (US, 2020, 106 min)
Directed and produced by Nicole Newnham and James LeBrecht
Barack and Michelle Obama serve as executive producers

Down the road from Woodstock, a revolution blossomed at Camp Jened, a summer camp for teens with disabilities, transforming their lives and igniting a movement.

Please RSVP by calling Shohana at 212-674-2300 or by sending an email to sjoati@cidny.org and we will send you a link to the Zoom meeting closer to the date. You may join the meeting by phone or email by using the link below for Zoom or call in using your phone.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82022855013?pwd=TGJ6NnVZZmppMIBjcCtTMI RmSzAyZz09>
CAN call-in number: 929-436-2866
Meeting ID: 820-2285-5013
Password: 767292

If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by August 12, 2020.



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Navigator Network

Our Navigator program helps people enroll in health insurance on the NY State of Health Marketplace. If you need help with NY State of Health insurance (the Marketplace), CIDNY has six Navigators in Manhattan and Queens who can help you. Please call us at 917-810-2566. CIDNY Navigators have been helping people get insurance since the Affordable Care Act began in 2014, so you have access to the best expertise available.

CIDNY in the News

Take a look at our most recent coverage in the news below, including an article by CIDNY's Executive Director Susan Dooha on the ADA at 30. Our story with the New York Times (Blame Spreads for Nursing Home Deaths Even as N.Y. Contains Virus) was also featured across the country in additional newspapers such as the Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun, Orlando Sentinel, Hartford Courant, and more.

[The Americans with Disabilities Act at 30: How Far We've Come and What's Next](#) (Gotham Gazette)

[NYC sidewalk curbs still behind on Americans with Disabilities Act requirements: report](#) (NY Daily News)

[MTA recognizes 30 years since the ADA law while station improvements elude riders](#) (amNY)

[Brewer Finds Few Pedestrian Curbs Near Accessible Subway Stations In Compliance With ADA Standards](#) (Harlem World Magazine)

[COVID-19 pandemic threatens the transit agencies that people with disabilities rely on](#) (WXXI)

[The ADA at 30: Progress and Continuing Obstacles](#) (Public News Service)

[COVID-19 Pandemic Exacerbates Employment Crisis For People With Disabilities](#) (Bronx.com)

[People with disabilities face employment crisis](#) (WKBW ABC Eyewitness News)

[Blame Spreads for Nursing Home Deaths Even as N.Y. Contains Virus](#) (NY Times)

[Patient advocates ask for greater consumer voice in health planning](#) (Crain's New York)

[Move to Include: New Yorkers with disabilities face transportation roadblocks](#) (WCNY: The Capitol Pressroom)

[30th Anniversary Of The Americans With Disabilities Act](#) (Bronx.com)

[NYC Holds Virtual Events In Honor Of The 30th Anniversary Of The Americans With Disabilities Act](#) (Harlem World Magazine)

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[State Study Says Covid Spread In Nursing Homes Was Driven By Employees, Not Readmitted Patients](#) (Gothamist)

[Amid deadly virus, a push for nursing home alternatives](#) (Salon)

[To Manage COVID-19, Nursing Homes Evict Less Profitable Residents](#) (Legal Reader)

[Census Essential for People with Disabilities](#) (Able Newspaper)