



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

CIDNY July 2020 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Hello! Thanks for taking the time to read our July 2020 newsletter. We hope you're doing well and want to ensure you that we are here to help and as a resource for you.

Happy Birthday ADA! In July of 1990 the Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA was signed into law. We've come a long way in 30 years but we still have a lot of work to do. We will not stop working for a more accessible world for people with disabilities and to see that the promises of the ADA become real for everyone with a disability and we appreciate your support.

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) our offices are closed until further notice. However, we are still here to support you! Our programs remain available remotely (online/phone). If you have a benefits counselor you can reach out to them directly or contact through email (info@cidny.org) or phone (Manhattan: 212-674-2300 Queens: 646-442-1520). 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/>



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Twitter: https://twitter.com/CID_NY

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

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI0eMkvGCPLfI3hzvYXZCVg>

VOTER SURVEY

You can help us spot problems that need to be resolved before the November Election.

If you voted in the primary election on Tuesday, June 23, please complete CIDNY's Voter Survey. Your help in identifying problems means that we can work to get them resolved. Every voter experience that we hear about – including the good ones – makes a difference in our efforts to improve our election process!

This is especially important as we look forward to the presidential election in November.

We know, for example, that some people did not get their ballot by mail and that some polling sites were changed at the last minute. So, if something like that happened to you, you can let us know through the survey. We're also interested in any difficulties with the online ballot.



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Please take a minute to fill out our short four question survey: <https://forms.gle/Dynu3xDSeceNocVV8>.

If you cannot complete our survey online, or have concerns that were not covered by the survey, call [Monica Bartley](tel:347-922-1358) at 347-922-1358. Monica can help you complete the survey over the phone or take any complaints that are not covered in the survey.

SUMMER IS THE TIME TO BE COUNTED

Join CIDNY's 2020 Census count, it's fast and easy – and if you need help doing it, we're here to work with you.

If you are concerned about accessible, affordable housing, accessible streets and transportation, better education and employment opportunities, and maintaining the benefits and services available to you, take the 2020 Census. The 2020 Census will determine who gets represented for the next 10 years.



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In fact, this is one of our opportunities to make sure our voices are heard and that we get the representation in Congress, in budget discussions and locally for the next decade.

Go to www.CIDNY.org/Census or contact CIDNY's Census Manager, Corinne Varela at cvarela@cidny.org. If you've already filled out your census form and sent it in, we'd like to know. You can let us know that at www.CIDNY.org/Census.

Don't forget to take a look at your peers' videos on why they think the Census is important. You can watch them on our website here: <https://www.cidny.org/2020-census-get-counted-nyc/>, with more coming soon!

Employment Stories

We're working with other organizations and supporters to help talk about employment for people with disabilities. Unemployment has disproportionately affected people with disabilities and it is far past time that this changed. We're looking for some people who are willing to share their stories with publicly. We may share these stories with the general public and even with members of the government who may help shape policy around employment issues.



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Do you have an employment story that you would like to share? Good or bad, we want to hear it all. If the Coronavirus/COVID-19 has had an impact on your employment status, we want to hear that too.

Your responses will be used to help tell a larger story about the employment challenges people with disabilities face.

You can respond by emailing info@cidny.org (or replying to this email) with your story. Thank you.

Navigator Network and Benefits Updates

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.

UPDATE: The New York State of Health Marketplace is extending open enrollment an additional 30 days - through July 15, 2020.



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Housing

On June 17, the NYC Rent Guidelines Board voted to freeze rents for rent-stabilized apartments and lofts for one-year lease renewals and the for the first year of a two-year renewal (with a 1% hike in the second year). Rents were also frozen for single-room occupancy (SRO) hotels. The freeze will go into effect October 1, 2020.

CIDNY's Action Network Meeting – Tell us how the June Primary Elections was for You

Join us on July 15, 2020 from 1:00 PM to 3 PM. for our monthly CAN meeting.

The Coronavirus has affected all of our lives. It also let us see what legislators thought of its effect on our community.

How did you feel about all the last-minute notices, or non-notices, about voting?

How do you feel about the process in getting an absent ballot?

Tell us all you felt and learned.

REMEMBER: Your experiences help our advocacy efforts.



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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.

CAN call in number 1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 820 2285 5013

Password: 767292

If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by July 8, 2020.

NY Connects

NY Connects at CIDNY is committed to serving you during the coronavirus outbreak. We are working hard to help people with disabilities and older adults access benefits, proper information about city and state changes, food and peer support resources, and more. Our counselors are available 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, by calling 1-844-862-7930. You can also request to be contacted by a counselor by filling out this form:

<https://www.cidny.org/getnyconnects>.

Our 5 borough offices are closed to walk-ins at this time because we are serving our community remotely. Stay safe and reach out! We are here to help.



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CIDNY in the News

Take a look at our most recent coverage in the news below. Some headlines might seem like they're not so great, but they're opportunities for us to make our voices heard!

Look for an article from CIDNY in July's edition of Able Newspaper (<http://ablenews.com/>) about the 2020 Census.

[US: COVID-19 prompts push to abolish aged care homes after 54,000 resident and staff deaths \(The Weekly Source\)](#)



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[It's Time to Rethink the Institutional Model for Elder Care. Is That Even Possible? \(Mother Jones\)](#)
[Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Massively Underfunded: Report \(The Forum News Group\)](#)

[New York's New Accessible Absentee Ballots Aren't Accessible Enough, Voters Say \(City Limits\)](#)

[Coronavirus is renewing a call to abolish nursing homes \(Quartz\)](#)

['It's Time': Area Nursing Homes Prepare to Welcome Visitors \(The City\)](#)

['They Just Dumped Him Like Trash': Nursing Homes Evict Vulnerable Residents \(NY Times\)](#)

[Amid Deadly Virus, Advocates Push for Nursing Home Alternatives \(The Rockwall Times\)](#)

[Amid Deadly Virus, Advocates Push for Nursing Home Alternatives \(UNDARK\)](#)

[Surging Absentee Ballot Demand Across New York Causes Delays, Plus Early Voting Begins \(Gothamist\)](#)



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[How To Vote Absentee or Vote Early in New York's June Primary \(WNYC\)](#)

[ADA subway suit to continue after ruling \(Queens Chronicle\)](#)

[Western New York Independent Living congratulates fellow advocates in expanding options for voters with disabilities in New York \(Niagara Frontier Publications\)](#)

[Census Critical for NYers with Disabilities \(Public News Service\)](#)

[Opinion: Invest in Human Services, Not Over-Policing Our Communities \(City Limits\)](#)

[New York will email some absentee ballots following lawsuit from disability rights group \(Queens Daily Eagle\)](#)

[Officials and Advocates Agree on Plan to Make June 23 Voting More Accessible \(City Limits\)](#)

[Disabled New Yorkers Can Vote – For Now \(Forbes\)](#)

[New York State Board of Elections Unveils Accessible Absentee Ballot Application \(Cortland Voice\)](#)