



CID-NY

Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
www.CIDNY.org

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646/350-2681 VP

Queens

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CIDNY October 2020 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

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

If you know someone who would like to also receive our email 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 meetings 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.

Information in this newsletter can always change so if you have any questions please call or email us.

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/UCI0eMkvGCPLfI3hzyYXZCVg>

A Statement on the Passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

On September 18, 2020, we lost a true pioneer of justice and equality with the passing of fellow New Yorker, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. RBG, as she had come to affectionately be known, was well known for fighting against sexism, fighting for gender equality, and was a strong ally for disability rights.

As a Supreme Court Justice, Ginsburg authored the majority opinion in the Olmstead v. L. C. (1999) case, affirming the right of individuals with disabilities to live in the community stating:

“Recognition that unjustified institutional isolation of persons with disabilities is a form of discrimination reflects two evident judgments. First, institutional placement of persons who can handle and benefit from community settings perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life... Second, confinement in



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an institution severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment.”

CIDNY along with countless others across the nation and indeed the world, mourns the loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

You can read this statement online here:

<https://www.cidny.org/a-statement-on-the-passing-of-justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg/>.

Vote! 2020 Election Update

You have three options to make sure your vote counts:

Vote by Mail: All registered voters have the option to vote by mail by requesting an absentee ballot. The deadline is Tuesday, October 27th, but we recommend that you request your ballot as soon as you can.

<https://vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting>. If you need the Accessible Absentee Ballot click on the accessibility link. Postage is required and you must provide your own stamps.



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If you request an accessible ballot, the county BOE will email the accessible absentee ballot to you as soon as possible after it receives your request form. Follow the instructions to mark and print out the ballot and sign the oath envelope.

As an Absentee voter, you can mark the reason as "Temporary illness or disability," which includes the risk of contracting the coronavirus. When you send in your ballot, make sure to sign and date the back of your absentee ballot envelope. Ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3. You can track your absentee ballot at <https://nycabsentee.com/tracking>.

If you are voting absentee, be sure to check your ballot. Some ballots were mailed with an incorrect name on the return envelope (this is the envelope you place your ballot in before placing it in the mail return envelope). If this has happened to you or if there is some other kind of error, please contact the city Board of Elections immediately by email at Apply4Absentee@boe.nyc or phone at 1-866-VOTE-NYC. The NYC Board of Elections has said they will be sending new ballots automatically to people who received ones with an error.

Voting In Person: If you plan to vote in person, remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing.



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Early Voting: Vote in person from October 24 to November 1. Your Early Voting site may be different from your Election Day poll site, and the hours may vary so make sure to check before you go at <https://vote.nyc/>.

Election Day: All registered voters can vote in person on November 3. We anticipate high turnout this year, so lines may be long at some poll sites. If you're worried about crowds, you may want to consider voting early. Find your Election Day poll site <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/>.

If you have questions or need help requesting an Absentee Ballot or finding your early voting or Election Day polling site, contact Delva at dsomers@cidny.org.

The deadline to send in a completed application for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

COVID-19 Testing & Tracing

As many of you have heard, we are seeing some increases in the virus. Neighborhoods experiencing the uptick include Midwood, Borough Park, Bensonhurst, Edgemere-Far Rockaway, Williamsburg, and Kew Gardens. While the uptick right now is relatively small, it's important for all of us to stay vigilant. If you are in any of those neighborhoods, we encourage you to get tested for the



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virus. And we encourage everyone to continue to use safety precautions – wearing masks when you go out of your home, washing your hands frequently, not touching your face with unwashed hands, and keeping social distance when you are around others. This is the best way to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.

If you want to see the list of places to get tested, you can go to nyc.gov/covidtest. This site will give you a list of testing sites by borough and will also provide information on where mobile testing sites will be each week. You can also text 'COVID TEST' to 855-48.

If you would like to talk to someone about testing and tracing, you can reach out to us at T2@cidny.org and one of our CIDNY Testing and Tracing Education team members will get back to you. All information is confidential.

If you would like to receive our weekly updates on testing and tracing, including a list of mobile testing locations, please send an email to T2@cidny.org saying you would like to be added to the list.



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After Nearly Ten Years of Advocacy, Medicaid Visit Limits Removed

Since 2011 CIDNY Action Network (CAN) members have traveled to Albany to urge the New York State legislature to repeal visit limits on Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy which were recommended by the Medicaid Redesign Team 1 and adopted by the legislature in 2010. They shared their stories of how this misguided attempt to seek savings at the expense of individuals' ability to avoid pain, recover from surgery, and prevent physical decline is harming Medicaid enrollees and can result in the need for more expensive treatments like surgery and prescription medications that do not have arbitrary limits.

CIDNY is pleased to report that the Department of Health has given notice that effective on and after October 1, 2020, Medicaid will remove the annual physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy visit caps and replace with authorization based on medical necessity. Revision of the physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech annual cap will provide members an opportunity to obtain additional rehabilitation therapy as a pathway to nonpharmacologic treatment alternative for pain management. Perseverance pays off!



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Share Your Experience About The 2020 – 2021 NYC Public School Year

We'd like to know more about your experience with remote and blended learning in the NYC Public School system during the 2020 - 2021 School Year.

What has been your child's or your experience this school year with:

1. Remote learning devices and/or assistive technology for your child(ren)?
2. Communication with your child's school personnel (teachers, paraprofessionals, related service providers)?
3. Related services during remote learning time?
4. Meals on in-person school days?
5. Busing / Transportation?

What worked? What has not worked? We want to hear about the good and the not so good.

CONTACT Shireen Khan with CIDNY Youth Services at 646-442-1521 or skhan@cidny.org, especially if you have questions or concerns about your son/daughter's education.



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CIDNY Action Network (CAN)

Join us on October 21, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for our monthly CAN meeting.

So much has been happening with Remote Learning. Some parents opted to have their son/daughter go back to school. Others have opted to continue remote learning. Come hear what we have been doing. Tell us what you have been hearing. Invite parents you know to join us. Our Youth Counselor will be present to participate in the discussions.

REMEMBER: Your experiences help our advocacy efforts.

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.

For Spanish please RSVP by calling Jose at 646-442-1520 or by sending an email to jlmera@cidny.org

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 October 14, 2020.



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Reunión del CIDNY Network: ¡¿QUÉ ESTÁ SUCEDIENDO ALLÍ?!

Úñase con nosotros el 21 de octubre de 2020 a las 1:00 p.m. hasta las 3:00 p.m. para nuestra reunión CAN mensual.

Han sucedido muchas cosas con las instrucciones remoto. Algunos padres eligieron que sus jóvenes regresen a la escuela. Otros han eligieron continuar con las instrucciones remoto. Ven a escuchar lo que hemos estado haciendo. Cuéntenos lo que ha oído. Invite los padres que conoces a unirse con nosotros. Nuestro Consejera Juvenil estará presente para participar en las discusiones.

RECUERDE: Sus experiencias nos ayudan en apoyar nuestros esfuerzos.

Confirme su asistencia llamando a Shohana al 212 674-2300 o enviando un correo electrónico a sjoati@cidny.org. Le mandaremos el enlace a la reunión de Zoom más cerca de la fecha.

Para español, confirme su asistencia llamando a José al 646-442-1520 o enviando un correo electrónico a jlmera@cidny.org



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Para llamar a la cita de CAN marque el número: +1929 436 2866. El ID de la reunión: es 820 2285 5013. Después marque: 767292

Si necesita una acomodación, como letra grande o servicios de interpretación, háganos saber antes del 14 de octubre de 2020.

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.

You can also fill out our form below with your name and phone number and someone will call you with information.

<https://www.cidny.org/navigator-network-request-form/>



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Other News

CIDNY recently hosted a panel discussion titled “Health Care in 2020: A Discussion on Access and Discrimination” with friends from the Commission on the Public's Health System and The New York Immigration Coalition. You can watch it online at youtu.be/wMjdz_aXKtc (or go to www.youtube.com and search for “Center for the Independence of the Disabled, NY” to find our page and see all of our videos).

CIDNY in the News

Take a look at our most recent news coverage below.

[Power Outage Causes Problems For PWD](#) (Able News)

[Recommendations on Curb Ramp Accessibility](#) (Able News)

[Fifty Years of DIA Civil Rights Force Continues the Fight](#) (Able News)