



**Quick Takes**

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

**Manhattan**

841 Broadway, #301  
New York, NY 10003  
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**Queens**

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## **CIDNY June 2021 Newsletter**

### **Hello from CIDNY**

Hello! Thanks for taking the time to read our June 2021 newsletter.

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 (through 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](mailto:info@cidny.org) or phone (Manhattan: 212-674-2300 or Video Phone: 646-350-2681 | Queens: 646-442-1520 or Video Phone: 646-846-6875). 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/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/CID\\_NY](https://twitter.com/CID_NY)

Join the conversation: online at [www.cidny.org](http://www.cidny.org); on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc](http://www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc)), on Twitter (@CID\_NY) and IG (@cid\_ny)



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Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/cid\\_ny/](https://www.instagram.com/cid_ny/)

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI0eMkvGCPLfI3hzyYXZCVg>

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## COVID-19 At Home Vaccinations

NYC's homebound COVID-19 vaccine program is opening up to New Yorkers that are 75 years or older as well as New Yorkers with disabilities. You can register at <https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/home> or call 877-829-4692. As always, if you need any assistance, please reach out to us.

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## Scholarship Opportunity

Do you know someone with a disability who is going to college this Fall? They may be eligible for a \$1,000 Disability Scholarship! For full details and eligibility requirements visit

<https://brossfrankel.com/resources/2021-disability-scholarship/>.

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## Emergency Broadband Benefit

The [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) was launched on May 12, 2021. This benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband services for eligible households. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. Call our benefits counselors (212-674-2300) for more information and for assistance applying.

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## CIDNY's Action Network Meeting – Virtual Roundtable

Join us on June 16, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly CAN meeting. We want to hear your experiences on health and voting rights. With your input we will develop a disability platform in which candidates running for office would have to address. We want to hear how we can hold our state and city officials accountable to ensure accessibility for all people with disabilities.

**REMEMBER:** Your experiences help our advocacy efforts.



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Please RSVP by calling Monica Bartley or by sending an email to [mbartley@cidny.org](mailto:mbartley@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](mailto:jlmera@cidny.org).

CAN call in number: 1-929-436-2866  
Meeting ID: 875 1463 5512  
Password: 986956

Closed captioning will be provided. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by June 9, 2021.

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## Outcome of 2021-2022 Governor's Budget

We'd like to share with you the results of some items from the Governor's Budget for the upcoming year.

### Housing

- Moratorium on opening of courts: Courts closed until August 1, 2021.



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- Moratorium on payment of rent by completing [hardship declaration form](#) – retroactive to May 1.

## Health Care

- The final budget restored the Governor's proposed 1% across the board Medicaid cuts, the 25% cut to homecare workforce recruitment funds, the cuts to adult home advocacy and EQUAL funds, and preserved "prescriber prevails" which ensures that Medicaid recipients can get the medications their provider wants them to have.
- It did very little to improve health care for consumers other than to eliminate premiums for people with incomes below 200% of the poverty level who use the Essential Plan and add vision and dental to their coverage.
- The Medicaid Global Cap which has driven Medicaid cuts for the last 10 years was extended for another year and the restrictions on eligibility for home care which were adopted last year were not repealed. Fair Pay for Home Care got some traction but wages were not increased.



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## Other

- The Straw Bill passed, meaning straws will be available upon request and signage will be posted, though only in English at this time.
- Upon release parolees must be notified that they can now vote. A right they lose upon sentencing and while serving time.
- Internet Service Providers cannot charge more than \$15 a month to low-income households.

## Right to Counsel

- Funding for outreach and education on the NYC Right to Counsel Program.
- Eligibility increase to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.

## **Items We Still Need To Advocate Hard For**

Below are some items that we still are working hard towards. We'll share more information about how it's going and how you can help as we go along. You may also be interested in joining our CIDNY Action Network (CAN) meetings to learn more about the items below.

- The Health Equity Impact Assessment Act passed the in the State Senate and the Assembly cannot go



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home without passing it also so that hospitals, nursing homes, and home care agencies who are proposing to close, eliminate services, change ownership, or expand must outline how their actions will impact people with disabilities and other underserved groups.

- Adult Survivors Act.
- NYS Straw Bill.
- Expand and fund the MTA's Access-A-Ride On-Demand Pilot.
- Amendment of the Public Authorities Law that allows eligibility based on licensed healthcare providers' letters.
- The waiver of State's Sovereign Immunity. The waiver allows State to be sued for violations under Title II of the ADA, and other Federal Laws.
- The State create a requirement that State contractors achieve a disability hiring goal of 7 percent.



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## **Online Education Workshops and Events**

For the month of June 2021, CIDNY will be presenting the workshops and events below. All workshops for the time being will be presented online, with captioning, as well as other accommodations upon request. The workshops may also be recorded for future use in communications materials, websites, and for other purposes by CIDNY.

### **Housing Overview and Tenants' Rights During COVID-19**

Thursday, June 3, 2021 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

A guest speaker from the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) will provide an overview of housing and tenants' rights in New York City during the COVID-19 pandemic; topics will include the current state of the eviction moratorium and rental

assistance, and how people with disabilities can maintain housing security during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our presenter will also give an introduction to housing rights,

benefits, and processes; as well as an intro to common housing issues and problems, and the referral process for resolving these issues.





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You can register for this meeting by clicking here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctdeyhrz0qEtPQRA7YHRvQMwthhDLj\\_-K9](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctdeyhrz0qEtPQRA7YHRvQMwthhDLj_-K9)

### **CIDNY Writers' Group, facilitated by Avra Wing**

Thursdays, June 3, 2021 and June 17, 2021 from 3:30pm to 5:30pm

Since 2009, CIDNY and the [New York Writers Coalition \(NYWC\)](#) have teamed to produce a Writers' Workshop for people with disabilities. The workshop provides a safe space for people with disabilities to express their thoughts and stretch their creativity through writing.

### **Learn to Tell Your Story with The Moth**

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm

CIDNY and [The Moth](#) are offering a special workshop on effective storytelling. The Moth Community Program provides the space, tools, and expertise for people to practice the art and craft of personal storytelling. Through this workshop, participants will learn to shape selected life experiences into well-crafted stories and share them with members of their communities and beyond.



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## Dealing with Housing-Related Administrative Agencies (HPD, HUD, DHCR, and more)

Thursday, June 17, 2021 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

A guest speaker from the Legal Aid Society will give an overview of on how to deal with different housing related administrative agencies (the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development [HPD], the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal [DHCR], and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]). You'll learn about what housing services and protections these agencies provide, such as: taking ones complaints, helping get services and repairs, inquiring about subsidies, and enforcing ones rights. We'll also discuss how to find out if you qualify for different services, and what the application and complaint processes are.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsdOGvqDIoEtfIRVIRUQuKKLpWKE6uOpw0>

## Mitchell-Lama Housing in New York City

Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

A presenter from the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) will join us for a presentation on the Mitchell-Lama Program in New



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York City. Our guests will help us learn more about what the Mitchell-Lama Program is; how to figure out if you are eligible to apply for a unit in a Mitchell-Lama development, what the application process looks like for such a unit; how to register and set up your account in the Mitchell-Lama Connect system; and what to expect after submitting an application.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldegrqTktHtZrThAvmEh4\\_5yhHsT0oC06](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldegrqTktHtZrThAvmEh4_5yhHsT0oC06)

### **RSVP:**

If you are unable to use the registration links provided above, you can still register for a workshop by sending your email address and phone number to Angela Bruen at [RSVP@cidny.org](mailto:RSVP@cidny.org), or calling (347) 241-2150 at least two (2) days before the day of the event(s).

If you need an accommodation like large print, American Sign Language (ASL), or materials in other languages, please let us know at least two (2) weeks before the date of the event(s).

The link to the meeting will be sent to you via email the day before the event.



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## **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

Applications for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program will open on June 1, 2021 for those who have struggled to pay their rent due to COVID-19. You can find full details at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/Emergency-Rental-Assistance/>.

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## **Navigator Network: Get Affordable Health Care Plan Help**

Good news! Open enrollment for health care coverage has been extended through the end of 2021.

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/>.

Join the conversation: online at [www.cidny.org](http://www.cidny.org); on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc](http://www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc)), on Twitter (@CID\_NY) and IG (@cid\_ny)



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## 2021 Primary Election Update

This is a reminder that there is a Primary Election on June 22, 2021. Make sure your voice is heard and your vote counts. Early voting begins on Saturday, June 12. The deadline to request an absentee ballot online or through email is June 15 and the in-person deadline is June 21.

For more information on how to register to vote for future elections, visit <https://vote.nyc/page/register-vote>. If you need any help registering to vote, with absentee ballots, or anything else, just let us know!

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## Able Newspaper: We Must Make Our Votes Count

Our latest column for Able Newspaper – a column about how we must use our right to vote and make it count - is now available. To read our monthly column, you can sign up for free online access at <http://ablenews.com/new-york-city-edition/>.



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## CIDNY in the News

Take a look at recent media coverage below.

- [City Council Votes To Severely Restrict Plastic Straw Use In NYC Restaurants/Bars/Food Stores](#) (Harlem World)
- [Advocates: Cuomo has ignored people with disabilities too](#) often (City and State)
- [Tackling the MTA's accessibility problems](#) (City and State)
- [State Budget Mixed Bag For PWD](#) (Able News)
- [Carr Massi, Activist & Leader, Turns 90](#) (Able News)
- [CIDNY Says: Access to COVID-19 Vaccines MUST Be Accessible To Everyone](#) (Able News)