



CID•NY

**Center for Independence
of the Disabled, New York**

**Impact Report
2019-2020**

ABOUT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE OF THE DISABLED, NEW YORK

The Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) is a leader in advocating for disability rights and justice. We are a disability-led organization. We work with individuals to create a roadmap to meet the goals they set. Together we educate the public about people with disabilities and the impact of public policies on our lives. We learn about the experiences of people with disabilities by listening and researching. We advocate for implementation of civil rights laws, advocate to remove barriers through legislation, and litigate when no other option remains.

We serve individuals with all disabilities of every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and national origin. People come to us from all across New York City. The people we serve experience inequities in all areas of well-being. They are far more likely to be poor, have less education, and higher levels of unemployment. Even when working, they are often in low-level jobs that pay so little they are unable to afford housing and are often homeless and hungry. They experience health disparities and poor access to care. CIDNY works to create greater opportunities through one-on-one support, education, and advocacy so that they can live as well as their non-disabled neighbors.

This Impact Report provides an overview of our work with New Yorkers with disabilities during fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Our website provides comprehensive information about the history of the organization and the specific initiatives and activities undertaken during this time frame. Please visit cidny.org to learn more.

"I have asthma and am on an oxygen machine, plus take 10 medications. Now that I'm on the right health care plan, I don't have to choose which medications to refill, they're all covered."

"My mother was in a nursing home and it was so frustrating because the social workers didn't know how to arrange for her to live at home and receive care at home. CIDNY Queens helped me straighten out the confusion and now Mom is back home."

WHO WE ARE

We speak many different languages, including American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Edo, English, Farsi, French, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Loma, Mandarin, Nepali, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Tibetan, Urdu, Uzbeki, and Yiddish.

CIDNY staff with disabilities



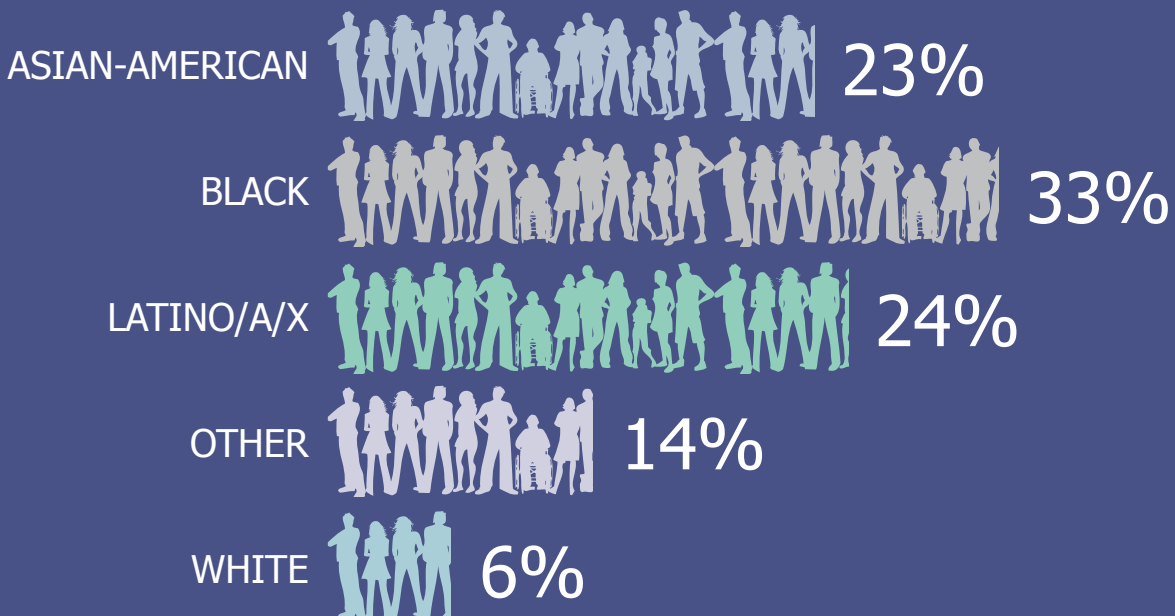
CIDNY staff that are bilingual



Languages spoken

27

Staff Ethnicity



HELPING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

"I was spending \$200 a month to pay for medical bills and pharmacy expenses that a hospital said would not be covered by insurance. My CIDNY counselor looked into it for me and discovered that I COULD submit them to be reimbursed and they were paid! Now I can use that \$200 to pay for other bills."

We help New Yorkers with disabilities to:

- Find income or other supports including health care, housing, transportation, education, and food.
- Understand how to look for housing and use the rental supports that can make renting possible.
- Transition from institutions to home.

We teach New Yorkers with disabilities:

- Life and work readiness skills, about their rights, and about how public and private housing, health care, and transportation programs work.
- To advocate for themselves and fight to remove barriers that keep them from participating fully in their community.
- Why civic engagement is important to their lives, how to register to vote, and how to ensure their voices are heard.

Alongside New Yorkers with disabilities, we:

- Organize a network of advocates who can respond quickly to policy developments that affect them, speaking out, demonstrating, educating policymakers, and sharing stories with the media to educate the public.
- Engage with lawmakers by providing relevant research and individual stories and sharing thoughts on how proposed policies will affect people with disabilities.
- Lead and participate in 36 broad-based coalitions to bring together disparate groups to improve law, regulation, and public policy.
- Utilize the legal process when our civil rights are being violated.

BY THE NUMBERS

Some accomplishments during this timeframe include the following:

51,317

people reached through educational programs and outreach

150

people with disabilities went home from nursing facilities with our help

\$17 million

savings for taxpayers by helping people with disabilities stay out of institutions

\$32 million

saved from benefits counseling

\$26.4 million

saved in government spending by helping people with disabilities enroll in programs that reduced their health care costs, put food on the table, and led to higher-paying employment

TOTAL SERVED

99,118

WHO WE SERVE:
CONSUMER ETHNICITY

18%

ASIAN-AMERICAN

32%

BLACK

24%

LATINO/A/X

8%

OTHER

18%

WHITE

BENEFITS

We conduct comprehensive screening for public and private resources and benefits including health care, SNAP (formerly food stamps), heating assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), tax benefits, veterans benefits, housing subsidies, Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), programs that support independent living, prescription assistance, unemployment insurance, and subsidized transit, among others. We provide information on these programs, help with applications, explain the appeals process, and make referrals to the appropriate agencies.

The top issues that we assist people with are housing, health care, food, transportation, and education. With a lack of accessible housing and high rent burdens, most of the people we work with are squeezed financially.



EMPLOYMENT

We help youth and adults of all ages with disabilities learn job readiness skills and direct people to resources for training, employment, and vocational rehabilitation services.



HEALTH CARE

We enroll people in all kinds of health coverage including private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). We help individuals select a health plan that best meets their needs, understand their health coverage and navigate their plans to get the care they need, and we help solve problems that arise.



INDEPENDENT LIVING

We help people develop their independent living skills, learn about their rights for reasonable accommodations, and teach them advocacy skills. We help youth transition into adulthood with job readiness skills or planning for further education, including college. We prevent institutionalization by helping people stabilize in the community and get access to additional resources and benefits.



FOOD ACCESS

We assist with enrollment in food assistance programs including SNAP, school breakfast, summer meal programs, and Meals on Wheels.



HOUSING

We help people learn how to search for housing, navigate the application process (including waiting lists, lotteries, and subsidies), and how to avoid eviction. We educate and assist people with their rights for reasonable accommodations and modifications under the Fair Housing Act.



LONG-TERM CARE

We educate, empower, and advocate for the rights of long-term care residents in nursing facilities and other institutions. We help people with disabilities leave institutions to live independently in the community, providing individualized support to transition home.

Click on icons for more information.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Identifying injustice and fighting for the removal of barriers have been central to our mission since our founding and have led to our being recognized as a national leader in the disability rights movement.

Some of our advocacy, legislative, and litigation victories resulted in:

- The expansion of NYC's Fair Fares program to include Access-A-Ride users ages 18-65 with income below the federal poverty line.
- Suspension of fare collection and shared rides during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A settlement agreement with the Department of Transportation making curb cuts comply with the ADA to improve street safety for people with disabilities.
- A court ruling that the MTA is subject to New York City Human Rights laws.
- Accessible absentee ballots for residents who are blind/low-vision for the June 2020 election.
- A ruling that the Division of Human Rights can help hear the cases of students experiencing discrimination, specifically related to Individual Education Plans.
- A defeat of the proposal that would have allowed school districts to determine what services will and will not be offered to students with disabilities.
- Text-to-911, which enables D/deaf and/or Hard of Hearing individuals to communicate seamlessly with the city's 911 operators.
- New York City's Emergency Management made more evacuation centers and emergency shelters accessible.
- Disability Literacy Training for NYC census 2020 managers and grantees.

"My son has intellectual disabilities. He was on a path to leave high school without a diploma, but CIDNY helped us find a GED preparation program. He earned his diploma and now we're talking about what he wants to do next."

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CIDNY experienced a dramatic increase in both our call volume and the types of problems we were asked to address as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our benefits counselors found solutions to food acquisition and delivery; fielded questions about stimulus payments; assisted with unemployment insurance; facilitated technology requests related to online-only applications and telehealth visits; coordinated deliveries of prescriptions and medical equipment; clarified COVID-related changes to rent payments and eviction proceedings; and provided support to consumers experiencing difficulty with social isolation, mental health, and tangible needs.

We supported the family members of individuals in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and adult group homes who were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Our counselors intervened on behalf of residents and family members when facilities did not comply with requirements about contact and visits or provided inadequate care. We took facilities to task for failing to provide discharge planning and post-discharge services and equipment. We helped family members who were being ignored as facilities made end-of-life care decisions.

We also helped parents with school-age children with disabilities navigate remote learning and fill the technology needs required for full participation. We assisted parents in establishing academic regression or failure to advance. We helped parents document missed therapeutic services and create plans for virtual therapy. We guided parents as they planned services and supports for young adults with disabilities transitioning from school to adult programs and/or continuing education. We ensured that school-provided meals continued to be available and supported parents as they juggled work and coordinating virtual learning for their children.

We worked with individuals who found themselves isolated, anxious, and depressed and also needing food and resources for housing. We initiated regular calls to check in with individuals with disabilities we have served to help meet their tangible and emotional needs. We connected individuals with the help that they needed.

People with disabilities who used personal health care assistants or home care were especially burdened by the pandemic. Many were forced to deny entry to aides because providers lacked proper personal protective equipment or evidence that they were uninfected; they thus reduced their risk of contracting COVID-19 but increased the possibility of other detrimental health conditions. Family members tried to fill these gaps and/or needed our assistance to apply for increased homecare benefits for their disabled family member.

CIDNY immediately began advocating for enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state and local human rights laws in health care settings. We advocated for reasonable accommodations and accessibility to testing and tracing, and the vaccine. We also advocated for continuation of the moratorium on eviction to try to prevent individuals from becoming homeless during the pandemic.

We already know that the pandemic has created “long-term survivors” who are experiencing disabilities acquired as a result of COVID-19. We anticipate community-wide, long-lasting health and economic consequences as a result of the pandemic. We are committed to documenting needs, assisting in every way possible, and helping to ensure New Yorkers with disabilities recover medically, economically, and emotionally.

Thank you for your continued support of our work.

We are accountable for ensuring that the funds we receive go to the benefit of people with disabilities. At CIDNY, 86 cents of every dollar received supports our programs. Only 14 cents of every dollar is spent on administration and development costs.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,977,151	375,170
Investments	527,665	513,847
Pledges receivable	19,757	134,568
Government grants receivable	1,932,055	1,417,004
Prepaid expenses and other assets	18,974	21,416
Total Current Assets	\$4,475,602	\$2,462,005
Non-current Assets		
Security deposits	108,506	108,506
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	174,329	233,325
Total non-current assets	282,835	341,831
Total Assets	\$4,758,437	\$2,803,836
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	445,345	346,839
Government grant advances	594,922	177,749
Paycheck Protection Program loan	982,434	0
Total Current Liabilities	\$2,022,701	\$524,588
Non-Current Liabilities		
Deferred rent	78,331	105,172
Total non-current liabilities	78,331	105,172
Total Liabilities	\$2,101,032	\$629,760
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	2,597,130	2,148,258
With donor restrictions	60,275	25,818
Total Net Assets	\$2,657,405	\$2,174,076
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,758,437	\$2,803,836

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

	Total June 30, 2020	Total June 30, 2019
Support and Revenue		
<u>Grants and Contributions</u>		
Government contracts	6,599,205	6,190,743
Foundation and institutional grants	119,712	144,044
Individual contributions	551,274	433,210
Fee income	41,675	173,750
In-kind contributions		
Interest income	11,752	9,408
Unrealized gain on investments	3,552	5,379
<u>Net assets released from restrictions</u>		
Satisfaction of program restrictions	0	0
Total Support and Revenue	\$7,327,170	\$6,956,534
Expenses		
Program services	5,904,392	5,807,413
Supporting Services		
Management and general	843,831	810,696
Fundraising	95,618	39,936
Total Supporting Services	\$939,449	\$850,632
Total Expenses	\$6,843,841	\$6,658,045
Change in Net Assets	483,329	298,489
Net assets – beginning of year	2,174,076	1,875,587
Net assets – End of Year	\$2,657,405	\$2,174,076

*For the year ended June 30, 2020 (with comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2019). Audited financial statements are available upon request.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020



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