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CIDNY September 2021 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Hello! Thanks for taking the time to read our September 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 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 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/UCl0eMkvGCPLfl3hzvYXZCVq

COVID-19 Vaccine Incentives

NYC residents receiving their first COVID-19 vaccine are now eligible for a \$100 bonus while the program lasts! That means if you get the vaccine, you can also get \$100. Even better, if you mention you were referred by the Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York (be sure to use our full name), we'll also get \$100 to put towards helping people with disabilities! You can select our name when making your appointment at https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/s/.

If you cannot leave your home, you can make a homebound vaccine appointment at https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/home or call 877-829-4692.

If you need help scheduling an appointment or have nay questions or needs related to COVID-19, please call us at 917-810-2565.



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A Statement on the Supreme Court's Eviction Moratorium Ruling

CIDNY was disheartened to hear the United States Supreme Court's decision to end the federal eviction moratorium during a pandemic. The pandemic is not over. The housing crisis is not over. People with disabilities are disproportionately affected by housing issues, income equality, and employment. As the Delta variant spreads and we move into the fall season, ending the eviction moratorium is cruel and a potential disaster. We urge you to contact your local representatives (you can find how to do that at http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials) and make your voice heard.

For those seeking rental assistance, you can apply online at https://nysrenthelp.otda.ny.gov/en/ or by calling 1-844-691-7368. Please reach out to CIDNY if you need help.

This statement can be viewed on our website at https://www.cidny.org/a-statement-on-the-supreme-courts-eviction-moratorium-ruling/.

A Statement on the John Lewis Voting Rights Act

CIDNY applauds the United States House of Representatives on passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. For far too long, people with disabilities, along with other groups, have been discriminated against and faced barriers to voting. Every eligible voter should have the ability to easily cast their votes and have the confidence that their vote will be counted. It is a right and one that has trampled for far too long. CIDNY urges the Senate to pass this key initiative and ensure protections for all voters.

This statement can be viewed on our website at https://www.cidny.org/a-statement-on-the-john-lewis-voting-rights-act/.

CIDNY's Action Network Meeting – Virtual Roundtable

Join us on September 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly CAN to hear about your voting rights as we prepare for National Disability Voter Registration Week and why it is important to vote in the upcoming elections. We want to hear about your voting experience and how we can work towards removing the barriers. REMEMBER: Your experiences help our advocacy efforts.

Please RSVP by calling Myat Suu Yi at 212 674-2300 or by sending an email to msyi@cidny.org and we will send you a link to the Zoom meeting closer to the date.



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For Spanish please RSVP by calling Jose at 646-442-1520 or by sending an email to <u>ilmera@cidny.org</u>.

For Mandarin or Cantonese please RSVP by calling Ying at (646) 442-4149 or by sending an email to yyu@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 September 8, 2021.

Online Education Workshops and Events

For the month of September 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.

Accessibility Initiatives within the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC)

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Guests from the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), the city agency that oversees yellow and green taxis, black cars, apps such as Uber and Lyft, and the drivers who drive these vehicles, will come talk to us about their new accessibility initiatives and Office of Inclusion. Topics will include new accessibility rules which require car services to provide wheelchair-accessible vehicles, the Accessible Dispatch program, and what to do if you are refused service in New York City.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkdu-gqDstHdxrppejYN8a UWCyDQIm-6W

The Disability and Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Programs (DRIE and SCRIE)

Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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A guest speaker from the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) will join us to explain more about the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) and Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) programs. Topics will include how the programs work overall; what the eligibility for each of the programs is, and how to apply; what it means to have your rent "frozen"; and common issues, appeals, and resolutions.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpfu6grzovGtGMoZZ5BIaAKr2 eZPB2M1e

Voting Rights and Access During National Disability Voter Registration Week Wednesday, September 15, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Instead of our usual CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting this month, we will be holding a workshop on voting rights and access in honor of National Disability Voter Registration Week. Topics will include a brief history of voting rights and legislation in the United States, why it is so important to vote in upcoming elections, and how to register to vote.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZElduigrj0gHtYaaFdTR6KsnI10vJ0wOee4

The Right to Counsel (RTC): Fighting Eviction in New York City Thursday, September 23, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Guest speakers will join us to give us an overview of the Right to Counsel (RTC) for tenants facing eviction in New York City. We will discuss the history of the RTC movement, who is eligible for legal representation in housing court under the law, and how to get a lawyer who can represent you. Our presenters will also provide an update on the status and implications of the eviction moratorium in New York State.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArd-2uqD4rGdUqG6QhRyf33HuqXbJluKdM

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, or calling (347) 241-2150 at least two (2) days before the day 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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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).

Voter Registration Deadlines

Below is a reminder of some important voting dates coming up before the election in November.

Mail Registration: Applications must be postmarked no later than October 8, 2021 and received by a board of elections no later than October 18, 2021 to be eligible to vote in the General Election.

In-Person Registration: You may register at your local board of elections or any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act, on any business day throughout the year but, to be eligible to vote in the General Election, your application must be received no later than October 23, 2021.

Change of Address: Notices of change of address from registered voters received by October 13, 2021 by a county board of elections must be processed and entered in the records in time for the General Election.

As usual you can register to vote online at https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter/.

Emergency Preparedness Update from FEMA

With hurricane season upon us, FEMA has shared a few resources to help people with disabilities prepare and make a plan for what to do in emergency situations. This includes how to stay informed about an emergency situation, how to make a plan, and how to make an emergency kit. You can find all of this information online at https://www.ready.gov/disability. Please take a moment to look at and share this information.

CIDNY In The News

Take a look at recent media coverage linked below.

<u>ADA suit over MTA elevator-outages back on track – 2nd Circuit</u> (Reuters)



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<u>Disability Advocates Call on MTA to Resume Solo 'Access-A-Ride' Trips</u> (<u>En español</u>) (Public News Service)

MTA Looks to Ramp Up Subway Accessibility With Fewer Costly Elevators (THE CITY)

Access-A-Ride Users Plead With MTA To Stop Shared Rides (Gothamist)

NY Disability Rights Advocates Seek Federal Dollars for Home Care (Public News Service)