



Quick Takes

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

Manhattan

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New York, NY 10003
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212/254-5953 Fax
646/350-2681 VP

Queens

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Kew Gardens, NY 11415
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CIDNY November 2021 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Hello! Thanks for taking the time to read our November 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

Join the conversation: online at www.cidny.org; on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc/), on Twitter (@CID_NY) and IG (@cid_ny)



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

YouTube:

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

CIDNY Post-Election Voting Survey

Whether you voted early, absentee, or on Election Day, we would like to hear about your voting experience.

After you vote please complete CIDNY's Post Vote Survey online here:

<https://forms.gle/mQbHieLiWQFwFfJx7>.

Your help in the past has identified problems at polling sites we have not been able to get to. With your help this election, we can continue to let the City Council and the Board of Elections know about problems that still need to be fixed. Every voter experience that we can document – including the good ones – makes a difference in our efforts to improve our election process!

If you need assistance completing the survey, please call Monica Bartley at 347-922-1358.



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Introducing CIDNY's New AAR Community Organizer

We'd like to introduce Alexandria La Flair, our new Access-A-Ride Community Organizer. Please see a message from Alexandria below.

"I am Alexandria La Flair, the new Access-A-Ride Community Organizer for The Center for the Independence of the Disabled of New York. I am here to assist with all things Access-A-Ride, including sign up and re-certifying, answering any general questions, and taking all concerns and complaints into serious account. I am here as an advocate for all users, so please do not hesitate to reach out. My number is (929) 604 – 9852 or email me at alaflair@CIDNY.org."

Online Education Workshops and Events

Join us and learn more! For the month of November 2021, the Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (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.

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CIDNY Writers' Group, facilitated by Avra Wing

Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 18, 2021 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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. Contact Angela Bruen directly at RSVP@cidny.org or (347) 241-2150 if you are interested in joining the Writers' Group.

The Basics of Accessible Housing and Housing Subsidies in New York City

Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Center for Independence for the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) will host a guest speaker from the New York City (NYC) Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) who will give an overview of their guide to accessing housing in NYC. Topics will include: what the laws are that provide protections to tenants in NYC; where you can find or request housing; disability-specific subsidy programs; how to request reasonable accommodations; and additional resources.



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You can register for this meeting using the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqde2hrz4uGNZpnzt5IFL3g39v49WfsH-U>

Tenant Resource Fair: Know Your Housing Rights in New York

Thursday, November 18, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) will be collaborating with the New York City (NYC) Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to provide a tenant resource fair focusing on various housing laws and housing protections in New York, as well as legal education and other resources. Speakers from the following organizations will be present: The Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC); The New York City Commission on Human Rights (CCHR); The New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (HCR); Housing Court Answers; and others, subject to availability.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvc-uvrDMoGtwR3Y7fHjYIDmr2ZgvH1trK>



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Essentials of Estate Planning

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A member of the Financial Planning Association will help us learn more about the process and importance of setting up certain essential documents such as a power of attorney, health care proxy, will, etc.; what happens if you die or become disabled without certain documents drafted in advance; how the law may or may not serve your personal wishes; and other elements of estate planning.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvf-qhqT8vHt3Uf15UVPA7JkfPzBhVb0fg>

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).

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).



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The link to the meeting will be sent to you via email the day before the event, or if you want to call in for the meeting, you will be provided with the dial-in information.

CIDNY's Action Network Meeting

Join us on November 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly CAN meeting for a training on Access-A-Ride Paratransit services such as:

- How to apply or recertify for the service:
- On-Demand
- Blue and Whites
- AAR Metrocard
- OMNY

We want to hear your AAR stories – Remember your experiences help our advocacy efforts.

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

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



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For Mandarin or Cantonese please RSVP by calling Ying Yu 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 November 10, 2021.

NYC Ferry Survey

Our friends at the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest are collecting information about the accessibility of the NYC Ferry system to help ensure that NYC Ferries are accessible for all! Would you spend a few minutes to complete their survey? You can complete the survey at this link: <https://forms.gle/LyfVe2raUH4RbcDa9>.



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COVID-19 Community Vaccine Navigators and COVID-19 Liaisons

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over. We know you may have some questions, concerns, and needs, and CIDNY is here to help. Please see below for some quick reminders and updates on how to stay safe and the COVID-19 vaccine. We have Community Vaccine Navigators available to answer any questions you might have.

How can I protect myself from getting COVID-19?

- The most important thing you can do to protect yourself against COVID-19 is to get vaccinated.
- In addition, wearing a mask over your nose and mouth, staying 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and washing your hands often can help protect you from getting COVID-19.
- Where can I get vaccinated?
- Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) and enter your zip code and search radius and whether you are interested in the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson and Johnson vaccine to find vaccine sites near you.
- Currently, if you get vaccinated at a NYC site, you can receive \$100 for your first dose. You can make an appointment at a city site by going to: <https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/s/>.



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- If you mention that you were referred by the Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York when registering online, CIDNY will also get \$100 to put towards helping people with disabilities.

If you have more questions regarding COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccination, you may call us at 646-442-4186 and ask to speak to a Community Vaccine Navigator. We can also help you schedule appointments.

For assistance with other COVID-19 related needs such as transportation to or from vaccine appointments or questions about benefits that may be available, you can contact a COVID-19 Liaison at 917-810-2565.

NYCID Card

The NYC ID card isn't only used for identification. You can also get discounts and other benefits at theaters, museums, gyms and more across the city. To get your free card visit

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/idnyc/index.page>. If you need help please contact us.



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Open Enrollment Health Care

Open enrollment for health care insurance begins on November 1. If you're looking for health insurance you can compare your options and eligibility at healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596.

CIDNY In The News

Take a look at recent media coverage linked below.

[Advocates Want State Legislators To Do More To Help People With Disabilities Gain Employment \(WAER\)](#)

[New York 41st in U.S. in lacking employment opportunities for disabled \(Big News Network\)](#)

[As Disability Employment Awareness Month Ends, NY Efforts Continue \(En español\) \(Public News Service\)](#)

[DRA To Honor Dooha With Prentiss Award at Gala \(Able News\)](#)

[Employment Can Be Path to Personal Well-Being \(Able News\)](#)