



Quick Takes

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

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Queens

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CIDNY March 2022 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Hello! Thanks for taking the time to read our March 2022 newsletter.

If you know someone who would like to receive our email newsletter, please 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: 347-474-7076). We'll be sure to let you know when anything changes.

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

Please Like/Follow CIDNY on social media if you haven't already.

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/

TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@cid_ny

YouTube:

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

New York State Office of the Chief Disability Officer

On February 14, 2022, with CIDNY in attendance, Governor Hochul signed the bill to reestablish the Office of the Advocate for People with Disabilities. The office will now be known as the Office of the Chief Disability Officer. CIDNY's executive director Dr. Sharon McLennon-Wier said, "Thanks to the Governor's implementation of the Office of the Chief Disability Officer, the three million New Yorkers with disabilities, including over one million in the New York City area alone, will finally have a direct voice and representation within the State government. This office will allow for people with disabilities to participate in gainful employment, high-quality health and mental health services, education, transportation, and the ability to vote. We look forward to working with the administration to ensure equality and equity for people with disabilities in New York."



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You can find out more about the announcement at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-establishes-office-chief-disability-officer>.

CIDNY's Action Network Meeting

Join us on March 16, 2022, for the monthly CAN meeting. We want to hear your stories about Access-A-Ride, Homecare, Transportation and Housing. We will also celebrate Women's History Month with a discussion highlighting the contributions of women with disabilities to the advancement of disability rights. **REMEMBER:** Your experiences help our advocacy efforts.

Please RSVP by calling Matthew 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 at 646-442-1520 or by sending an email to jlmera@cidny.org.

For Mandarin or Cantonese please RSVP by calling Ying at 646-442-4149 or by sending an email to ywu@cidny.org.

CAN call in number +1 929 436 2866 Meeting ID: 822 4354 9762 Password: 090870



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Closed captioning will be provided. If you need accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by March 9, 2022.

Use Your Care Story to Fight for Fair Pay!

Do you currently need long-term care? Have you needed long-term care in the past? Have you helped support family members and loved ones who need long-term care? Are you or have you been a care worker hired to provide this kind of support? NY's Caring Majority is looking for New Yorkers who are willing to share their stories publicly, including with legislators and the press, as part of the #FairPay4HomeCare campaign to raise wages for home care workers and end NY's home care shortage.

If you are interested, you can share your story here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePEiRVzW_Z40iGelUAv1Hzbea2X5xCd-T62Iq4sg4ZTrGCCA/viewform

EN ESPAÑOL AQUI:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflw8shX6iIw8C-c5udBsQGz6V3BH88qDTaK0F_geiZWwliDw/viewform



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Event Invitation: Independent Living Services for Minority Youth with Disabilities: Strategies and Success

Below is a message from our partners.

Please join us on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 from 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. for the first Minority Youth and Centers for Independent Living (MY-CIL) project webinar. This event is free and open to everyone. After [registering](#), you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar.

This MY-CIL webinar will focus on promising CIL outreach, collaborations, and practice strategies to engage transition-age youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, including out-of-school youth. CILs are community-based organizations for people with disabilities. The main objective of CILs is to empower people with disabilities, giving them more control over the decisions that affect their lives. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, requires CILs to provide five core services:

1. Information and referral
2. Independent living skills training
3. Peer support and mentoring
4. Individual and systems advocacy
5. Transition



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The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires CILs to provide services to youth with disabilities who are transitioning to adult life after completing or ending high school. CIL services could be beneficial for minority youth with disabilities who face multiple barriers to living independently as they transition.

Our webinar guest panelists will include the CIL director, youth transition director, and two youth consumers from the Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living (SCRS-IL). SCRS-IL staff will discuss their employment and STEM educational initiatives. Youth panelists will describe their experiences as CIL consumers. We will also provide audiences with information about future MY-CIL learning opportunities.

Webinar speakers and panelists:

- Edgar Cantero, SCRS-IL youth consumer
- Rudy A. Contreras, M.A., chief executive officer of SCRS-IL
- Brooke Curtis, associate director for training and publications for the IL-NET National Training and Technical Assistance Center at Independent Living Research Utilization
- Dave Estrella, director of college transitions with SCRS-IL



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- Sharonlyn Harrison, Ph.D., MY-CIL consultant to the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York and leading scholar on CIL services to racial and ethnic minorities
- Frank Martin, Ph.D., health researcher at Mathematica
- Samantha Mendoza, SCRS-IL youth consumer

Please join us to share your questions and listen. We believe exchanging promising practices is a fundamental approach for accelerating progress among CILs, and we hope you can attend.

If you need assistance before the webinar, please contact us at events@mathematica-mpr.com. We will make every effort to accommodate your participation in this event including the provision of closed captioning, an ASL interpreter, and accessible materials.

MY-CIL is a partnership between Hunter College School of Education; Mathematica and its Center for Studying Disability Policy; the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York; and Independent Living Research Utilization to generate and share knowledge that empowers CILs to better serve out-of-school youth and young adults (ages 14 to 24) from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds. Discover additional details about the MY-CIL project by visiting the project [website](#).



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Register at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OKerOCxhQgO23JXz5PXIOQ

Get Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

If you need help with any COVID-19 related issues such as scheduling a vaccine or booster appointment, questions about the vaccine, transportation needs, or other benefits you can reach out to our COVID-19 Liaison at 917-810-2565. You can also request free at-home tests at <https://www.covidtests.gov/> or by calling 1-800-232-0233.

Online Education Workshops and Events

For the month of March 2022, 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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Banking Basics

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

CIDNY will host a guest speaker from the Financial Planning Association (FPA) who will help us learn more about the basics of banking. Topics will include different types of banks as well as different types of accounts you can open with them; overdraft, service fees, and interest rates that can be associated with different types of accounts; what to keep in mind to select a bank and account that will meet your needs; and more.

You can register for this meeting by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErfuqoqDkthdbCsKVuNiaBG731FMtjMSeq>

CIDNY Writers' Group, facilitated by Avra Wing

Thursdays, March 10, 2022 and March 24, 2022 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.



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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).

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.

Health Care Enrollment

Did you know you may still be able to enroll in a health care plan even if you missed the Open Enrollment deadline?? If you missed Open Enrollment, you may still qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) on the marketplace. Whether it's a move, a job change, or aging out of your parents' insurance, you can qualify for an SEP in the 60 day period after that major life change. Learn more about whether you qualify for special enrollment at HealthCare.gov.



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Support CIDNY Just By Shopping With Amazon Smile

If you use Amazon, you can support CIDNY's work at no cost to you! All you have to do is go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-2984549> to select the Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York as your Amazon Smile beneficiary, then use smile.amazon.com when you shop, and a portion of the sale will benefit CIDNY!

CIDNY In The News

Take a look at recent media coverage linked below.

- [CHIEF OFFICER Gov. Creates Disability Office, Appoints Hill](#) (Able News)
- [It's Time For Platform Barriers In Subway System](#) (Able News)
- [Gobernadora de Nueva York designa nueva Directora de Discapacidad](#) (El Correo NY)



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- As Disabilities Commissioner Exits, Constituents Want More Access to City Hall (THE CITY)
- NY Governor Appoints New Chief Disability Officer (En Español) (Public News Service)
- NY officials, advocates argue over wage increase to avert home care worker crisis (Gothamist)
- Snow cleanup in Queens leaves disabled residents in the cold (Queens Daily Eagle)
- CIDNY also took part in a press conference announcing the Office of the Chief Disability Officer on February 14 that was covered by media across the state.