Hello from CIDNY

Thank you for taking the time to read our May 2024 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/.

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 have not already.
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If you would like to support CIDNY with a donation, you can do so here: https://www.cidny.org/donation/.

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CIDNY's Consumer Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. online via Zoom

Please join CIDNY’s Consumer Action Network (CAN) meeting for a discussion on mental health, Medicare, and Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) on Wednesday, May 15 at 1 pm online over Zoom. Featuring Dr. Sharon McLennon Wier, CIDNY’s Executive Director, Ann DeAngelis, CIDNY’s Program Coordinator of Mental Health Services, Sen. Samra Brouk, Chair of Committee on Mental Health and Council Member Linda Lee, Chair of Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addiction. We will also have a presentation on Medicare from Eric Hausman, Outreach Coordinator at NYC Department of Aging, and Meg Pipe, Outreach Coordinator at CD Choices.

Please RSVP in advance at: www.tinyurl.com/CIDNY4All or email Mbacke Thiam at mthiam@cidny.org. For more information, please call 212-674-2300. If you need accommodation like large print, American Sign Language (ASL), or materials in other languages, please let us know as soon as possible.

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CIDNY's Annual Mental Health Fundraiser on May 20, 2024

Since 1978, the Center for Independence of Disabled New York (CIDNY) has worked to ensure full integration, independence, and equal opportunity for all New Yorkers with disabilities, by removing barriers to the social, economic, cultural, and civic life of the community.

People with disabilities experience significant challenges trying to navigate an able-bodied society. CIDNY focuses on seven areas of advocacy: physical health, mental health, housing, education, employment, voting, and transportation. I’m reaching out today to invite you to our annual fundraiser to help us advance our mission, and because we have a great opportunity for you to join us.

Our annual fundraiser in May, Mental Health Awareness Month, will raise awareness and funds for crucial initiatives for our consumers. The event will take place on May 20, 2024, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Perelman Arts Center in the World Trade Center. The Perelman Arts Center is a new innovative theatre space crafted by a world-class team of award-winning architects and designers.

Please join us for an evening of performances by Broadway artists, raffles, cocktails, light bites, vendors, and a keynote address by NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams.

For tickets, please visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cidnys-annual-mental-health-fundraiser-tickets-852427432397?aff=odddtdtcreator

For sponsorship opportunities, please visit: https://www.cidny.org/2024-sponsorship-opportunities

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Makenzi Cooley at mcooley@cidny.org or 646-519-0339.


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Voting has started for The People’s Money, NYC’s citywide participatory budgeting (PB) process!

From May 1st through June 12th, New Yorkers age 11 and up, regardless of immigration status, can decide how to spend $3.5M of city funds on projects in their community. Last year, in the first People’s Money process, New Yorkers voted to fund
46 expense projects for a total of $5M. The projects address a wide range of community needs, including mental health, food safety, youth programming, skills building and arts.

_The People’s Money_ is the only _citywide_ process utilizing mayoral expense funding; from 2011, select NYC Council Members have opted into a similar process wherein their district residents can vote on how to spend their own discretionary funding. Expense funding can be used for projects and services, and the citywide process allows all New Yorkers to participate, regardless of the council district they live in. To learn more about the process, visit [participate.nyc.gov](http://participate.nyc.gov).

How to Vote by June 12th:
Online Ballot: Voting online is easy. The online ballot is available in English and 13 additional languages. Visit [on.nyc.gov/pb](http://on.nyc.gov/pb) and follow the instructions.

1. Visit [https://on.nyc.gov/pb](https://on.nyc.gov/pb)
2. Select your preferred language.
3. Enter your zip code to find your borough ballot.
4. Enter your cell phone number and receive a text message with a verification code (standard messaging rates apply).
5. Enter referral code: CIDNY
6. Enter your verification code when prompted.
7. Vote for the projects you like!
8. Complete the optional survey or click “Skip and submit my vote now”.

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**Accredited Continuing Education Courses For NYS Licensed Mental Health Professionals**

CIDNY is currently offering accredited Continuing Education (CE) courses for mental health professionals licensed in New York State. The courses, instructed by New York State licensed professionals, at CIDNY, will count towards satisfying the 36-credit-hour continuing education credits that are required by the New York State Licensure Board for triannual renewal for licensure. The program currently offers accredited courses to NYS licensed practitioners holding LMSW, LCSW, LMHC designations. The program is expected to expand offerings in the near future.

Our first course, Disability 101, will be on Wednesday, May 29. Disability 101 will provide you with an introduction and overview of disability literacy with an emphasis on statistics, language usage and terminology, impacts of labels, and accommodations. Participants will learn about disability literacy and gain a foundational impact on disability awareness and competency. At the end of this course, participants will have
gained introductory knowledge of disability literacy to gain more competency when working with clients with various disabilities. You can register for this course at https://www.cidny.org/classes/disability-101/

For more information and available courses, please visit: https://www.cidny.org/ce/

Upcoming Public Information Events

CIDNY staff will be at the public events below. Stop by and say hello to learn more about some of our programs.

**Parent Advocacy Meeting on NYC’s Education Budget**
Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 6:30-8:30pm

You’ve been following the news, attending our Borough Town Halls and teach-ins, coming to rallies, and signing our call-to-action. Ready to take the next steps to save education programs? Join the Emergency Coalition to Save Education Programs, in partnership with Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY, for a virtual meeting where we will offer a brief update on the Mayor’s budget and develop an action plan for the coming weeks to save the education programs still at risk of being cut!

Register here to get the Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QE00d1B3Qt-r9Vzi8Vo6vA#/registration

**SciAccess 2024 Conference**
Saturday, May 11, 2024, 1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

The SciAccess Initiative was founded in 2018 to inspire, develop, and promote innovative approaches to equitable science access. The SciAccess Conference brings together a diverse community of researchers, professionals, students, educators, employers, and disability rights advocates, whose shared knowledge and ideas are critical to increasing skills, knowledge, and opportunities in STEM fields for individuals with disabilities.

Free registration: https://sciaccess.org/sciaccess-2024-attendee-registration/

**Selfhelp NORC Resource Fair**
Monday, May 13, 2024, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
33-45 90th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372
Older Americans Celebration Fair: Powered by Connections
Friday, May 17, 2024, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Central Library’s Plaza, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238

I.S. 59Q Annual Community Health, Educational & Employment Resources Fair
Saturday, May 18, 2024, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
132-55 Ridgedale Street, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413

FIDA-IDD plan and Applying for Home Care for People with I/DD
Friday, May 17, 2024 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85765939499

CIDNY Benefits Open House – Queens
Friday, June 7, 2024, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Consumers can come in to the CIDNY Queens office (80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, Suite 400, Kew Gardens, NY 11415) for a Benefit Check-up and if eligible, CIDNY counselors can help submit benefit applications. We will be checking on the following benefits: SSI, SSDI, Medicare, Medicaid, Fair Fares, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Aid to Needy Families Program (TANF), and SNAP. No RSVP required. This is a CIDNY run event. You can view the flyer for this event HERE.

NYC Civic Engagement Commission’s The People’s Money Housing Workshops
CIDNY is hosting a series of Housing workshops each Tuesday and Thursday, now through August, supported with public funds through NYC Civic Engagement Commission’s The People’s Money participatory budgeting program.

Workshops may be closed once they reach a certain level of registrations. If a workshop you are interested in closed, you should be able to choose an upcoming date for the same workshop in June, July, or August. Events this month include:

Disability Literacy Workshop
Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
This presentation covers multiple disability related topics and explains how to navigate obligations for accommodating individuals with disabilities. This training will examine both what is mandated, by law, and best practices for creating an inclusive environment. This includes providing practical steps to help people choose inclusive actions, improve cultural competency, and address personal biases. Specifically, the training is designed to provide people with a greater understanding as to what constitutes as discrimination, proper etiquette, and awareness. This workshop occurs every first Tuesday on 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, and 8/6.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAkf6prjIoGNamBJipErzEOuE4_xpwEt2

**Housing Rights and Discrimination Workshop**
Thursday, May 9, 2024, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

This presentation covers an overview about fighting housing discrimination in New York (NY). You’ll learn the basics of the following: what types of general housing discrimination assistance are available, such as FHJC assists clients with filing housing discrimination complaints and investigates allegations of discrimination based on any protected characteristic (e.g., race, national origin, source of income, disability, etc.); what the Adele Friedman Housing Accessibility Fund, which FHJC provides targeted financial assistance to benefit low and moderate income persons with disabilities who need reasonable modifications made to the housing they occupy to make it accessible, is; who is eligible and what the qualifications for the Adele Friedman Housing Accessibility Fund are; how to report discrimination and/or request an application; and more. This workshop occurs every second Thursday on 5/9, 6/13, 7/8, and 8/8.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qdeGrrzkpHfKvQL0sNavGt7VSMVia-fo

**Affordable Housing Workshop**
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

This presentation covers an overview about NYC’s Affordable Housing Lottery. You’ll learn the basics of the following: what NYC Housing Connect is; how to read an affordable housing lottery’s advertisement; who is eligible and what the qualifications are; what the application process is; what documents and materials are needed; what set-aside units for people with disabilities are; where to indicate disability; how to indicate a reasonable accommodation(s) on your profile, if you need a reasonable accommodation(s); and more. This workshop occurs every second Tuesday on 5/14, 6/11, 7/9, and 8/13.
Rapid Transitional Housing Program Workshop
Thursday, May 16, 2024, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

This workshop covers Rapid Transition Housing Program (RTHP). The Rapid Transition Housing Program (RTHP) provides a rental subsidy and supportive housing services for high-need Medicaid beneficiaries. RTHP, previously known as Nursing Home to Independent Living (NHIL), is a Medicaid Redesign Team initiative funded by the Department of Health and administered by the New York Association on Independent Living. The program started in four areas of the state: Long Island, Syracuse, New York City and Rochester. The program is currently expanding to cover all of New York State. This workshop occurs every third Thursday on 5/16, 6/20, 7/18, and 8/15.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsc-mvqDouH90MbtqWeHa8_x_Q_U60oZWl

Olmstead Housing Subsidy Workshop
Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

This program covers the Olmstead Housing Subsidy (OHS). OHS is a rental housing subsidy program that provides transitional housing support to Medicaid beneficiaries with a disability that have lived, or currently live in a nursing home. The funding was made available as part of the Medicaid Redesign Team’s Supportive Housing Workgroup initiative to help address the needs of eligible Medicaid participants in transitioning from Skilled Nursing Facility settings. This workshop occurs every third Tuesday on 5/21, 6/18, 7/16, and 8/20.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqduiqqwoEtfGHu1MtfuZcqD2vtICvtt9

Emergency Housing Voucher Program Workshop
Thursday, May 23, 2024, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

The Emergency Housing Voucher Program helps families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness; at-risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or recently homeless and at high risk of housing instability to find housing by subsidizing a portion of rent based on their income. This workshop occurs every fourth Thursday on 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, and 8/22.
Homebase Workshop
Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

This workshop covers Homebase. Homebase provides New Yorkers experiencing housing instability in the community with various homeless prevention services and aftercare services to families and individuals exiting NYC DHS shelter to permanent housing. Homebase locations are servicing clients either via phone or for in-person services. Anyone seeking Homebase services should call the office in advance to schedule an appointment. This workshop occurs every fourth Tuesday on 5/28, 6/25, 7/23, and 8/27.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpce6pqDotGdGGWFaWavel4wO2kJn_tC0dq

Disability and Abortion Access Survey

The Disability and Abortion Access Survey asks people with disabilities about their abortion experiences, including access barriers they may have encountered (e.g., inaccessible medical equipment or offices; failure to provide effective communication, etc.), and ways that they believe abortion professionals can improve their policies. The survey asks about experiences people have had with both in-person and virtual providers, abortion funds, and abortion doulas/support professionals, as well as personal stories they may want to share about their efforts to access abortion information or services. WEI and DREDF will use the responses to this community survey to create guidance documents on best practices for abortion accessibility. NOTE: participation is anonymous. Any information voluntarily or inadvertently shared that could be traced back to a particular person will remain strictly confidential and not be shared in any summary of the results or resulting guidance documents.

Take the survey here:
https://airtable.com/appYhRxuDdiTJxpAa/pagXdGmEufFjJEdM0/form

Show Up To Support Transportation Accessibility Hearings

Two very important accessibility-related transportation hearings will be heard in court this week and we need your support! We are asking people to show up for support.
The first case in the Taxis for All case on Tuesday, May 7 at 10:30 a.m. An agreement was reached that would see at least 50% of NYC yellow cabs be accessible to people with disabilities. The deadline was not met. The deadline was extended and still not met. Now it seems there is no commitment to meeting with agreed upon goal. This is unacceptable.

The second case in the Elevator Maintenance case on Wednesday, May 8 at 10 a.m. We know about that only about one quarter of the subway system is accessible. We also know that elevators that are not working or unclean help no one. We need and deserve this accessibility.

If you can attend to support, please know that you will be entering a court. Please arrive early to go through security. The accessible entrance is at 200 Worth Street across from Columbus Park between Baxter St. and Mulberry St.

- What: Taxis For ALL Case
- When: Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
- Where: United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (also known as the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Courthouse) at 500 Pearl St. New York, NY 10007, Courtroom 11A before Judge Daniels.

- What: Elevator Maintenance Case
- When: Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
- Where: United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (also known as the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Courthouse) at 500 Pearl St. New York, NY 10007, Courtroom 11A before Judge Daniels.

Long COVID and PREVENTABLE Dementia Study Opportunities

PREVENTABLE Dementia Study
If you are 75 years or older you may be eligible to join the PREVENTABLE Study.

PREVENTABLE is investigating whether a commonly used heart medication can prevent dementia, disability, and heart disease in older adults. By taking part in PREVENTABLE, you may be able to make a difference in dementia prevention research and help shape the future of health care for older adults.

Taking part in PREVENTABLE is easy. Enrollment and all study activities can be done by phone or in-person in a participating clinic. Join today to be part of something bigger!
To learn more about this exciting opportunity and sign up to join, visit preventablecommunity.org today.

**Long COVID Study**
With your help, we can better understand why and how Long COVID affects people in different ways and explore possible treatments. Learn more about Recover Vital at trials.recovercovid.org/vital

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**Discounted Broadway Tickets For Friends of CIDNY**

We are happy to be able to offer two discounts for upcoming Broadway shows! We hope you can take advantage of the offer and enjoy the shows.

**All of Me starring Kyra Sedgwick on Broadway**
The producers of the new Broadway production *All of Me* are offering an exclusive discount to friends of CIDNY. *All of Me*, starring Kyra Sedgwick, is playing at the Alice Griffin Jewel Box Theatre at The Pershing Square Signature Center (480 W 42nd St.) from April 23, 2024 to June 16, 2024.

The discount available to CIDNY’s community lowers standard ticket prices from $47 to $29. (Please note that this does not apply to premium seating and there is a limit of 6 discounted tickets per performance). To receive the discount, enter code AOMCIDNY at checkout when you purchase tickets at https://thenewgroup.org/production/all-of-me/tickets/. Remember, you must use the discount code AOMCIDNY at checkout to receive the discount.

The discount code is eligible from April 23 to May 11, plus May 16 (ASL performance), May 23 and June 8 (Open Caption performances). Once an audio described performance is confirmed, that date will be included in the discount period.

More about the show:

Boy meets girl. Boy uses wheelchair. Girl uses scooter. Boy and girl use text-to-speech technology to connect to each other and the world around them. Boy and girl fall in love and achieve their dreams against all odds. *All of Me* is a romantic coming-of-age story that reminds us that love fits all.

For any accessibility questions or concerns please email jaime.m.bartolett@gmail.com.
Mary Jane starring Rachel McAdams on Broadway
The Manhattan Theatre Club is offering an exclusive discount to friends of CIDNY for the new Broadway production of *Mary Jane*. Using offer code MARYJCARE, you can get orchestra level tickets for only $49 when purchasing tickets online at Telecharge.com.

The show, featuring the Broadway debut of Rachel McAdams, is running at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre through June 2, 2024. More about the show:

Academy Award nominee Rachel McAdams stars in the Broadway premiere of Mary Jane, written by Pulitzer Prize finalist Amy Herzog (4000 Miles, the recent Tony-nominated adaptation of A Doll’s House). Captivating, affecting and compassionate, it’s the story of a single mother in an impossible family situation. Faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, Mary Jane relies on unflagging optimism and humor, along with the wisdom of the women around her who have become a makeshift family, to take on each new day. But will inner strength and newfound friendships be enough to see her through? The New York Times calls Mary Jane “the most profound of Herzog’s many fine plays.” And The New Yorker raves, “beautiful and remarkable... Herzog has made theatre that shines.” Directing is the acclaimed Anne Kauffman (The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window).

For accessibility requests, please contact Telecharge at 212-239-6222 or 866-300-9761 (outside of the NY metro area) or visit the Friedman Theatre Box Office (261 West 47th Street). For information on theater accessibility, please visit https://www.manhattantheatreclub.com/plan-your-visit/accessibility/.

For individuals who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing, there is an Open Caption performance scheduled for May 18, 2024. This is in partnership with TDF, and to purchase tickets, you must sign up for TDF’s free accessibility program at: https://www.tdf.org/accessibility-services/tdf-accessibility-programs/hearing-loss/.

CIDNY In The News

Check out some our recent media coverage, linked below.

- New Disability Training for Therapists. (Able News)
- Classes help NY psychologists understand disabled people’s mental health (En Español) (Public News Service)
- Department of Justice writes scathing letter to NYPD about parking on sidewalks, crosswalks. Here’s what it says (CBS News)
• National Poetry Month 2024: Maxine Starr (WNYC)

• Voting (Accessibility) Matters (Able News)