

CIDNY September 2025 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Thank you for taking the time to read CIDNY's September 2025 newsletter.

If you know someone who would like to receive our email newsletter, please forward this or have them sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/r/5FCJP8Auiv>.

Please note that the information in this newsletter is subject to change. If you have any questions, please call or email us. You can view this newsletter on our website at <https://www.cidny.org/cidny-quick-takes/> where you can access accessibility options such as changing font size, changing background color, and more through the Recite Me app (icon in the bottom-right corner of the CIDNY webpage).

Please Like/Follow CIDNY on social media if you have not already.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc/>

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Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/cidnyinc.bsky.social>

If you would like to support CIDNY with a donation, you can do so here: <https://www.cidny.org/donation/>.

[Click here to view CIDNY's Rights and Responsibilities and Grievance Policy.](#)

CIDNY 2025 Gala: Celebrating Advocacy. Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.

Join us for CIDNY's Annual Gala on Monday, October 27, 2025 to support greater accessibility throughout New York City. Tickets are available now.

Since 1978, the Center for Independence of the 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. We are inviting you to our annual fundraiser to help us advance our mission.

The event will take place on Monday, October 27, 2025, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. once again taking place at the Perelman Arts Center (PAC NYC) located at 251 Fulton Street New York, NY 10007.

Featuring food and drink from Metropolis by Chef Marcus Samuelsson.

Additional guests and honorees to be announced.

Date: Monday, October 27, 2025, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Location: Perelman Performing Arts Center (PAC NYC), 251 Fulton Street New York, NY 10007

Keynote Speaker: Emmy and Peabody Award-winning journalist Geraldo Rivera

For more information and/or to get tickets, visit:

<https://www.cidny.org/cidny2025gala/>

2025 Mayoral Town Hall

Thursday, September 25, 2025, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Please join our Mayoral Town Hall for a discussion on accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities in the five boroughs of NYC.

Please RSVP in advance at <https://forms.office.com/r/UDBac3EHtN> or by emailing Mbacke Thiam at mthiam@cidny.org. If you need accommodation like large print, American Sign Language (ASL), or materials in other languages, please let us know as soon as possible and at least two weeks in advance. For more information, please call 212-674-2300. Thank you!

CIDNY's Consumer Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Please join our September Consumer Action Network (CAN) meeting for a discussion on Public Matching Funds for Campaigns.

Please RSVP in advance at <https://www.tinyurl.com/CIDNY4All> or by emailing Mbacke Thiam at mthiam@cidny.org. If you need accommodation

like large print, American Sign Language (ASL), or materials in other languages, please let us know as soon as possible and at least two weeks in advance. For more information, please call 212-674-2300. Thank you!

Upcoming CIDNY and Public Information Events

Below are some upcoming CIDNY events and public events where you can speak with staff from CIDNY. Stop by and say hello to learn more about some of our programs. For all events, please visit <https://www.cidny.org/calendar>.

Career Workshops

Thursday, September 4, 2025, 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 11, 2025, 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 25, 2025, 3 p.m.

CIDNY is offering no-cost workshops catered to people with disabilities to find employment and overcome barriers. Weekly interactive workshops will include: current job market, vocational skills, resume writing, interview preparation, mock interviews, job coaching, technology in the workplace, advocacy and reasonable accommodations/legal rights, and more.

RSVP: <https://forms.office.com/r/LXiN9bmbsq>

Workshop: Power of Budgeting – Financial Literacy Workshop

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Could budgeting be your superpower? During this interactive workshop, we will explore the power of budgeting, examine wants and needs, and talk personal spending and savings goals. Many think budgeting equals constraints. But a budget can help put you in control. It is the foundation on which a financial strategy is built. Are you ready to give budgeting a try? Presented by: Isaac McCabe, Financial Advisor. Participants will receive \$25 Amazon E-Gift Card for attending the full 1-hour workshop with camera on. This workshop is supported with public funds through the NYC Civic Engagement Commission's The People's Money participatory budgeting program. If you have questions about this workshop, please contact cspaudling@cidny.org.

Register

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/n9DZO-bCTr-2TccTu1Izx>

Join the PREVENTABLE Study Webinar

The Center for Independence of the Disabled is collaborating with Duke Clinical Research Institute to help get the word out about the largest dementia prevention study in the United States.

The PREVENTABLE Study, led by Duke Clinical Research Institute, aims to investigate whether statins, commonly used to lower cholesterol, could potentially help prevent dementia in individuals aged 75 and older.

If you or someone you care for is aged 75 or older, please join this virtual presentation with one of the researchers from PREVENTABLE. During the virtual seminar via Zoom, you will hear directly from one of the researchers and you will be able to ask questions. The webinar is less than 30 minutes, and it is presented in English.

We value your support in advancing healthcare and clinical research and hope this information can benefit you, your family, and your friends.

Secure your spot in the virtual seminar via Zoom on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at https://bit.ly/PREVENTABLE_CIDNY

Introducing: Transitions Group for Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals

We are happy to introduce a new Transitions Group for Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals. This supportive and culturally respectful group is dedicated to empowering individuals navigating their visual impairment, regardless of how long they have been impacted. Led by a knowledgeable and compassionate facilitator, the group fosters a respectful environment that recognizes and affirms each person's unique experiences. It provides a safe space for sharing, processing feelings, and learning about valuable resources.

The group focuses on guiding members through key life transitions, whether adjusting to recent changes or exploring new opportunities for community involvement. Participants will find practical support for managing sensory experiences, developing self-advocacy skills, and engaging in social, employment, and advocacy activities. Emphasizing respect and understanding, the Transitions Group aims to foster confidence, resilience, and a sense of connection among all members.

This group is currently scheduled to meet on the last Monday of each month at 11 a.m. via Zoom. The first group meeting will be on Monday, September 29, 2025. For more information, please contact info@cidny.org.

Share Your Story and Help Save Medicaid

Medicaid is facing drastic cuts! There's still time to act! If you are a Medicaid recipient who lives on Staten Island or Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, or Dyker Heights in Brooklyn, you can play a role in helping save Medicaid and access to health care through the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

We are collecting stories on why Medicaid matters! We'll share these stories with the public and elected officials to showcase how important Medicaid is. If you have a POSITIVE story on how Medicaid has helped you or your friends or family, please consider sharing your story with us through the link below.

Share here: <https://forms.office.com/r/3RwK3m6ZtC>

If you have a positive Medicaid story and live elsewhere in NYC, you can still share your story by emailing mthiam@cidny.org.

Casting Call: A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol open submission casting call for the role of Tiny Tim.

Seeking child performers with disabilities for the role of Tiny Tim in the upcoming productions of A Christmas Carol at the Perelman Performing Arts Center (PAC NYC). Tiny Tim (Male or Female, 7-12 years old): Seeking child performers with any disability. No prior experience required. 4'6" and under. Production Dates: October 14, 2025 – January 11, 2026. Auditions will be held in August/September 2025.

To submit, please send an email with the child's full name, date of birth, where you are based, a recent picture and resume or bio, and any accommodations needed to ensure a successful audition to: tinytimcasting@gmail.com.

Join CIDNY's Empowerment Group For People With Disabilities

Join us for an inspiring and transformative experience! Our next Empowerment Group for people with disabilities is starting soon. Reach out now to reserve your spot.

This group meets online via Zoom weekly for a total of eight sessions. This is your chance to connect with a supportive community where you can learn, grow, and share experiences. Our sessions focus on identity, self-acceptance, and the importance of building vital support networks in a welcoming environment.

What You Can Expect:

- Engaging discussions and activities
- Valuable resources and support
- A small group setting (6-8 participants) for meaningful interactions

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to be part of a transformative journey.

For more information contact Eric Blazsek, LMHC, MPA at eblazsek@cidny.org to find out about upcoming open groups.

Accredited Continuing Education Courses For NYS Licensed Mental Health Professionals

New course dates available! 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, as well as licensed psychologists.

If you or someone you know is a licensed mental health professional in New York State, please visit our website to find out more about our upcoming courses and support a non-profit organization while getting your required CE credits.

Upcoming courses include:

- Disability 101: October 1 - [Register here](#)
- Disability 101: October 8 - [Register here](#)
- Disability 101: November 5 - [Register here](#)

- Trauma and Disability: September 24 - [Register here](#)
- Trauma and Disability: October 29 - [Register here](#)
- Trauma and Disability: December 17 - [Register here](#)
- Trauma and Disability: January 14, 2026 - [Register here](#)

- History of Deinstitutionalization: September 10 - [Register here](#)
- History of Deinstitutionalization: October 14 - [Register here](#)
- History of Deinstitutionalization: November 12 - [Register here](#)
- History of Deinstitutionalization: November 18 - [Register here](#)

- Impact of Disability in the First Session: September 17 - [Register here](#)

- Impact of Disability in the First Session: October 22 - [Register here](#)
- Impact of Disability in the First Session: December 3 - [Register here](#)
- Impact of Disability in the First Session: January 7, 2026 - [Register here](#)

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

Jobs at CIDNY – Come Work With Us!

We have a few open jobs at CIDNY. Below is a list of our current open roles. Please visit <https://www.cidny.org/jobs/> for more information, full job descriptions, and our most recent job listings. Come join our team, help fellow New Yorkers, and get great benefits!

- [Benefits Counselor - Queens](#)
- [Director of Human Resources](#)
- [LTCOP Ombudsman Advocate/Brooklyn Nursing Homes](#)
- [NY Connects Benefits Counselor - Brooklyn](#)
- [NY Connects Program Support Assistant](#)

- [OHS Housing Specialist](#)
- [Transition Specialist](#)

CIDNY In The News

Check out some of our recent media coverage, linked below. You can always see CIDNY in the news stories at <https://www.cidny.org/media-coverage>.

- Local organization discusses impact of possible Medicaid cuts for disability community (Caribbean Life)
- RFK Jr. Is Getting Personal Authority Over Who to Kick Off Medicaid (Mother Jones)
- NYC public schools still not in compliance with ADA (En Español) (Public News Service)
- Disability activists rally in Washington Square (Village Star-Review)