

CIDNY Queens March 2025 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Thank you for taking the time to read our March 2025 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. 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 lower right corner of the webpage).

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

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CID_NY

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cidnyinc/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cidnyinc/>

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's Consumer Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join us for our March CAN meeting! We'll be discussing the Consumer Direct Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) and our opposition to the Single Fiscal Intermediary. We will be joined by fellow advocates from CDPAANYS and NY Caring Majority.

Please RSVP in advance at: www.tinyurl.com/CIDNY4All or email 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. 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.

Career Workshop

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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. Workshops, when scheduled, are held on Thursdays at 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. via Zoom. For more information and/or to RSVP, please contact: Rachel Smith at rsmith@cidny.org or [646-216-8543](tel:646-216-8543).

Vaccine Event

Friday, March 7, 2025, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Stop by CIDNY's vaccine event with US Aging and get a flu or COVID-19 vaccine. No cost and no insurance needed. \$75 E-Gift Card For Those Vaccinated.* This event will take place at CIDNY's Manhattan office (1010 Avenue of the Americas, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018). Please call 212-674-2300 if you have any questions.

Webinar: Accessibility in 2025 – Compliance to Competitive Advantage

Wednesday, March 13, 2025, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CIDNY's Dr. Sharon McLennon Wier will be a guest speaker at Recite Me's Accessibility webinar. Full information below.

Are you ready to elevate your business by embracing digital accessibility in 2025? Join us as we explore how accessibility can drive growth, enhance your brand, and ensure compliance in the year ahead. Here's what will be covered: The state of digital accessibility in the United States, including highlights from our annual report, accessibility best practices and how to implement initiatives, tips on building a strong business case for accessibility that drives growth and keeps you compliant, overview of key US accessibility regulations, such as the ADA and the DOJ 2026 deadline, diversity and inclusion in theater.

Speakers include: Avneet Jagpal, Accessibility Specialist, Recite me – Kelly Jan, Senior Business Development Executive, Recite Me US – Dr. Sharon McLennon Wier, Executive

Director, CIDNY – Kyle Thomas, Director of Marketing, Opera Omaha – Emma Morris,
Program Director Patient Experience, Daymark Recovery Services.

RSVP: <https://reciteme.com/us/news/2025-webinar/>

Rally to Save Education Programs

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Location: Steps of City Hall

Join the Coalition for Equitable Education Funding on the steps of City Hall, just before the City Council hearing on the preliminary education budget, to call on the City to save key education programs at risk of funding cuts.

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hm800LQtL6>

Career Workshop

Thursday, March 13, 2025

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Workshop: Power of Budgeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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.

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?

Participants will receive \$25 Amazon E-Gift Card for attending the full 1-hour workshop with camera on.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/6GQeGKm4T_KL5czli8asPg

Career Workshop

Thursday, March 20, 2025

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. Workshops, when scheduled, are held on Thursdays at 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. via Zoom. For more information and/or to RSVP, please contact: Rachel Smith at rsmith@cidny.org or [646-216-8543](tel:646-216-8543).

Vaccine Event

Friday, March 21, 2025, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Stop by CIDNY's vaccine event with US Aging and get a flu or COVID-19 vaccine. No cost and no insurance needed. \$75 E-Gift Card For Those Vaccinated.* This event will take place at CIDNY's Manhattan office (1010 Avenue of the Americas, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018). Please call 212-674-2300 if you have any questions.

Career Workshop

Thursday, March 27, 2025

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. Workshops, when scheduled, are held on Thursdays at 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. via Zoom. For more information and/or to RSVP, please contact: Rachel Smith at rsmith@cidny.org or [646-216-8543](tel:646-216-8543).

Empowerment Group for Individuals with Disabilities

Join us for an inspiring and transformative experience! Our empowering group meets on Wednesdays for eight weeks, both in-person in our Manhattan office and online. 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.

The next group begins on Thursday, March 27.

What You Can Expect:

- Engaging discussions and activities
- Valuable resources and support
- A small group setting (6-10 participants) for meaningful interactions
- Flexible options to attend in-person or virtually

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.

Action Alert: Tell Your Members of Congress Not to Cut Hundreds of Billions from Medicaid and to Preserve the Nursing Home Staffing Rule

Your members of Congress need to hear from you. The House of Representatives is considering cuts to the Medicaid program that could exceed \$800 billion. In addition, some in Congress are seeking to block the nursing home minimum staffing standard from going into effect.

These actions would have devastating consequences for all Medicaid recipients, including recipients of long-term care supports and services. Medicaid pays for roughly half of all long-term care in the United States. 5 out of 8 nursing home residents rely on Medicaid to help pay for their care, while it helps 7.8 million individuals remain out of

institutions by funding home and community-based services.

In addition to devastating cuts to Medicaid, some members of Congress are seeking to block the nursing home staffing rule from going into effect. The recently finalized rule is estimated to save 13,000 lives annually and increase positive health outcomes for hundreds of thousands of nursing home residents. Blocking this rule will result in thousands of nursing home residents continuing to die each year from poor staffing.

Next week, Congress will be voting on the budget resolution that contains these drastic cuts. We need you to contact your members of Congress and tell them to oppose the budget resolution, cuts to Medicaid, and efforts to block the nursing home staffing rule. It takes just two minutes to send a message to your members of Congress. After sending a message, double your impact by calling your members of Congress at 1-866-426-2631.

Take Action Now Urge your members of Congress to oppose cuts to the Medicaid program or blocks the implementation of the minimum staffing rule in nursing homes.

Visit this link to take action: <https://bit.ly/4gUI0CV>

Accredited Continuing Education Courses For NYS Licensed Mental Health Professionals

Reminder! 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.

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:

- Wed. 03/05/2025 – Impact of Disability During the First Session - [Register here](#)
- Wed. 03/26/2025 – History of Deinstitutionalization - [Register here](#)
- Wed. 04/02/2025 – Trauma and Disability - [Register here](#)

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

Vaccine Reminder and No Cost Vaccine Events

Don't wait – get up to date on your flu and COVID-19 vaccines, and check with your health care provider to see if you're eligible for an RSV vaccine. You can stop by one of CIDNY's vaccine events to received a no-cost flu or COVID-19 vaccine. There is no cost and no insurance is needed. \$75 E-Gift Card For Those Vaccinated.*

We have two vaccine events coming up. Both will take place at CIDNY's Manhattan office (1010 Avenue of the Americas, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018).

- Vaccine Event: Friday, March 7, 2025, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Vaccine Event: Friday, March 21, 2025, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Visit <https://www.cidny.org/calendar> for the most up to date information. Please call 212-674-2300 if you have any questions.

Convo Access pilot: Live American Sign Language interpretation

The MTA has launched a new pilot program featuring Live American Sign Language interpretation. From the MTA website: "If you're Deaf or hard of hearing, we're piloting a new technology solution so you can get the right information on the go. Convo Access is a mobile app that connects you to a live ASL interpreter right on your device, so you can chat with an MTA employee about service changes, payment, or anything else about your trip."

For more information, visit: <https://www.mta.info/accessibility/convo>

Scholarship Opportunity: Lighthouse Guild Scholarship Program

The Lighthouse Guild Scholarship Program supports academically accomplished students who are legally blind as they successfully transition to college and graduate school. The award is unrestricted, so it can be used as needed for: tuition, room and board, books, supplies, or travel. If you have a record of strong academic accomplishment and merit, apply for a Lighthouse Guild scholarship and take another step toward the advanced education you deserve. The deadline to apply is March 31.

For more information and/or to apply, please visit: <https://lighthouseguild.org/support-services/academic-and-career-services/scholarships/>

Reminder: IdeaSpark Entrepreneurship Program

The IdeaSpark Program is a collaboration between The Viscardi Center (TVC) and the Hynes Institute of Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Iona University.

The IdeaSpark Program engages individuals with disabilities in developing an entrepreneurial mindset. Participants will discover what it takes to be an innovator and

entrepreneur by engaging in a series of activities that will let them define an entrepreneurial opportunity and explore its feasibility over a six-week period. Embedded in the free virtual program will be opportunities for participants to interact with entrepreneurs and experts in their fields, as well as partner with Iona University students serving as Peer Mentors. Participants will be given challenges that will help them develop and apply entrepreneurial skills in action. At a culminating Second Annual IdeaSpark Program Pitchfest event, they will practice presentation skills and share aspects of their personal learning experiences, while pitching their business ideas and competing for equity-free cash grants.

To be eligible, people must: Be 18 years of age or older and self-identify as having a disability, have a defined business concept, or are actively launching a business, commit to attend all class sessions and complete assignments, sign the participant agreement.

The deadline to apply is March 10, 2025. For more information, visit <https://www.ViscardiCenter.org/IdeaSpark> - Questions may be directed to entrepreneurship@viscardicenter.org.

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!

- ASL Benefits Counselor - Manhattan
- Benefits Counselor – Manhattan
- Healthcare Advocate - IDD
- Independent Living Specialist
- LTCOP Ombudsman Advocate/Brooklyn Nursing Homes
- Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinator
- OHS Housing Program Intake Coordinator
- OHS Housing Specialist
- Part Time Open Doors (MFP) Transition Specialist
- Transition Specialist

CIDNY In The News

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

- Congestion Pricing on Track to Fill Transit Funding Gap, MTA Says (THE CITY)
- Wheelchair users face daily detours on NYC's uneven streets (Epicenter NYC)
- Is NYC congestion pricing in jeopardy? (FOX 5)
- With Black trauma on the rise, more self-care needed (Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder)
- Advocates: NY lawmakers must do more for disability-rights issues (En Español) (Public News Service)
- Inclusion The Movement—Celebrating New York City's Disability Community (Able News)