

## **CIDNY Queens November 2025 Newsletter**

### **Hello from CIDNY**

Thank you for taking the time to read CIDNY's November 2025 newsletter. Election Day is on November 4!

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/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/CID\\_NY](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, November 19, 2025, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Fresh off the election, we'll be talking about voting accessibility and CIDNY's election poll site surveys.

Please RSVP in advance at <https://www.tinyurl.com/CIDNY4All> or by emailing Mbacke Thiam at [mthiam@cidny.org](mailto: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>.

### **2025 Annual Virtual Family Connect Summit**

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The summit is for children with disabilities and their families, providers that support them, and other stakeholders to learn about and navigate services and supports that could benefit them. Topics include self-advocacy, life transitions, and informed choice. View the full flyer [HERE](#).

RSVP/more information: <http://bit.ly/vfcsummit25>

### **Career Workshops**

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 20, 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>

### **Fair Housing Disability Rights Training**

Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This training provides an overview of individual disability fair housing rights under federal, state, and local fair housing laws. Attendees will learn about protected characteristics, individual disability fair housing rights, reasonable modification, and accommodation housing requests, and FHJC's Adele Friedman Housing Accessibility Fund. Contact Courtney Spaulding with any questions or concerns: [cspaulding@cidny.org](mailto:cspaulding@cidny.org) or 646-442-4162.

RSVP:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/RXI0Xy6iSdaoEWxqh21\\_iQ#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/RXI0Xy6iSdaoEWxqh21_iQ#/registration)

---

## **The People's Money Idea Generation Workshops**

CIDNY is hosting Idea Generation Workshops for this year's NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) The People's Money participatory budgeting process! Join other New Yorkers like you to help decide how to use part of NYC's budget to improve our communities. In this workshop, we'll identify needs and craft ideas for programs or services that make life better for us and our neighbors. Then we'll submit our ideas to the CEC so New Yorkers can vote on which projects to implement. Your idea could be turned into an actual program or service for your community! Make your voice heard and help build a better NYC! Contact Courtney Spaulding with any questions or concerns: [cspaulding@cidny.org](mailto:cspaulding@cidny.org) or 646-442-4162.

Virtual participants will receive a \$10 honorarium. On-site participants for the November 6, 2025, event at CIDNY's Staten Island office, will receive a \$50 honorarium.

### **The People's Money Idea Generation Workshop**

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 2 p.m.

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/q8ser7FNSn2H0eflpMzu6Q>

### **The People's Money Idea Generation Workshop**

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 4 p.m.

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/cdLAuPiaQe2rske28oc7UA>

### **The People's Money Idea Generation Workshop**

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 12 p.m.

Register for online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/HegVLgGzR1Cpou6AmM9NPA>

Register for in-person at CIDNY's Staten Island office:

<https://forms.office.com/r/cEitFadztr>

### **The People's Money Idea Generation Workshop**

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 12 p.m.

Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0NIX84qZSUOeWfC3nbq\\_Pw](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0NIX84qZSUOeWfC3nbq_Pw)

### **The People's Money Idea Generation Workshop**

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 10 a.m.

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/SPc9RGA3ROeIAEwVRu5Y3g>

## **The People's Money Idea Generation Workshop**

Tuesday, November, 18, 2025, 2 p.m.

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/IafJt942R4yy2-yKNJDxQg>

## **The People's Money Idea Generation Workshop**

Wednesday, November, 19, 2025, 4 p.m.

Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/PCM\\_am\\_fRNSSsb3KABcowA](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/PCM_am_fRNSSsb3KABcowA)

---

## **Election Day 2025: Get Out And Vote!**

The 2025 Election is underway! Be sure to cast your vote. Your vote matters!

Find your polling locations here: <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/>

---

## **2025 Election Post Voting Survey**

If you voted in the Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, or voted early or absentee, please complete CIDNY's post-vote survey about your experience. Your help in identifying problems means that we can work to get them resolved. Every voter's experience that we hear about – including the good ones – makes a difference in our efforts to improve our election process.

If you cannot complete the survey online or have concerns that were not covered by the survey, call CIDNY's Voting Community Organizer, Anna Humphrey, at 646-436-9906 or [ahumphrey@cidny.org](mailto:ahumphrey@cidny.org). Anna can help you complete the survey over the phone or address any complaints that are not covered in the survey. Thank you.

Take the survey here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ZsKqxm5ApY>

---

## **Information and Resources for SNAP Recipients in New York State**

The message below is shared from the New York State Independent Living Council.

On October 10, 2025, the federal government warned that there may not be enough funding to pay November SNAP benefits if the appropriation lapse continues past November 1st. This means the federal government might not be able to cover the cost of SNAP benefits for the month of November.

On October 29, Governor Hochul declared a State of Emergency in New York State and is allocating funds to support food banks, soup kitchens, and more outlets trying to help families get emergency food.

What to do if you currently receive SNAP:

- You will be notified about the status of your November SNAP benefits by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) through the OTDA website (<https://otda.ny.gov/snap-benefits-shutdown.asp>), NYC ACCESS HRA (<https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>), myBenefits (<https://mybenefits.ny.gov/mybenefits/begin>), the ebtEDGE app, and by text.
- To find help getting food, contact your local Independent Living Center (you can reach CIDNY at [info@cidny.org](mailto:info@cidny.org) or 212-674-2300) and/or visit:
- Find Your Regional Food Bank - [https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/hpnap/regional\\_foodbank\\_map.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/hpnap/regional_foodbank_map.htm): locate the regional food bank and Emergency Food Relief Organizations (EFRO) in your area.
- The Food Pantries Food Connect Map - <https://map.thefoodpantries.org/>: find local food pantries, community meals, mobile food resources and more.
- Resources for Working Families - <https://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/nutrition.asp>: discover nutrition programs and resources that can help you feed your family.
- Feeding America - <https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>: Enter a zip code to find a local food bank from the vast Feeding America network of local partners.
- Foodfinder - <https://foodfinder.us/>: The nationwide free-to-use resource and nonprofit helps connect people in need to nearby food pantries across the U.S.
- Freedge - <https://freedge.org/locations/>: This nonprofit sharing resource points to a network of community refrigerators stocked and cared for by communities that are available 24/7 to anyone.
- 211 - <https://www.211.org/get-help/food-programs-food-benefits>: has the most up-to-date information about local assistance that may be available to you. Simply call 211 from a cell phone or landline to speak with a live, highly trained service professional. If you prefer to text or chat online, you can search your local 211 online database too.

How to help people losing SNAP benefits:

Support the Feeding America network or your local food pantry/kitchen. You can also contact your members of Congress (<https://www.congress.gov/contact-us>) to advocate for SNAP policies, help run a food drive, or support organizations that fight hunger and provide food assistance.

---

## Register Now for ACCES-VR's Virtual Public Input Opportunities

The New York State Education Department's Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) invite you to a virtual public input session to share your feedback and help shape ACCES-VR's section of New York State's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan.

We welcome individuals with disabilities, their families, advocates, service providers, employers, and businesses to share your positive experiences and suggestions on the key topics below.

How Can ACCES-VR:

- Connect and provide services to underserved groups, including: Rural areas, people of color, English language learners, foster care and justice involved youth, and low-income individuals.
- Educate our customers about training opportunities that lead to valuable credentials.
- Support businesses by hiring people with disabilities.
- Reduce barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from getting jobs or earning higher wages.

When:

- Thursday, November 6th, 8:00am – 10:00am (Zoom)
- Friday, November 7th, 12:00pm – 2:00pm (Zoom)
- Wednesday, November 12th, 5:00pm-7:00pm (Zoom)

Register:

Use the Forms link to choose which session you would like to attend and to request an accommodation. You may also use it submit written input if you cannot attend. Please request accommodations by Friday, October 31st, 2025.

<https://forms.office.com/r/DqjD2BhxFD>

Additional questions can be sent to [VRPolicy@NYSED.gov](mailto:VRPolicy@NYSED.gov)

---

## **CIDNY 2025 Gala Photo Gallery**

On October, 27, 2025, CIDNY's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual gala was held at the Perelman Performing Arts Center. The evening featured a keynote address from Geraldo Rivera and Bernard Carabello, speaking about their time and work to help shutter Willowbrook 50 years ago. We also heard from guests and honorees such as NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, 504 Democratic Club President Mike Schweinsburg, and Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado. We hope you'll be with us next year!

You can view some photos from the gala here: <https://www.cidny.org/2025-annual-fundraiser-gallery/>

You can support CIDNY's work at: <https://www.cidny.org/donation/> or even just sharing our messages online.

---

## **Join CIDNY's Next Empowerment Group For People With Disabilities**

Join us for an inspiring and transformative experience! Reach out now to reserve your spot in our next group.

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-D, MPA at [eblazsek@cidny.org](mailto:eblazsek@cidny.org) to find out about upcoming open groups.

---

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

Registration is available for upcoming continuing education courses! CIDNY is currently offering accredited Continuing Education (CE/CEU) courses for mental health professionals licensed in New York State (NYS). 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 of 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: November 5 - [Register here](#)
- Trauma and Disability: December 17 - [Register here](#)
- Trauma and Disability: January 14, 2026 - [Register here](#)
- History of Deinstitutionalization: November 18 - [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](#)
- [Bilingual Licensed Mental Health Counselor \(English/Spanish\)](#)
- [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>.

- [What ballot measures will NYC voters be deciding on Nov. 4? \(Ballotpedia\)](#)
- [Your cheat sheet to NYC's 2025 ballot proposals \(Epicenter NYC\)](#)
- [Disability discrimination | National Grid to pay \\$3.1m as jury rules it wrongly denied remote work \(HR Grapevine\)](#)
- [National Grid must pay 2 workers a total of \\$3.1M for denying them remote work after pandemic \(New York Post\)](#)
- [There Are 6 NYC Ballot Measures. Here's What to Know. \(New York Times\)](#)
- [Accessibility Issues at Steven Holl's Hunters Point Library Resolved \(World Architects\)](#)
- [Judge OKs work to fix library debacle \(Queens Chronicle\)](#)
- [Queens library gets \\$4.6M in accessibility fixes as lawsuit against architect continues \(Crain's\)](#)
- [Queens library agrees to major accessibility upgrades after disability rights lawsuit \(Gothamist\)](#)
- [Disability advocates win lawsuit against City of New York over Hunters Point Library \(New York Metropolitan Magazine\)](#)
- ["This Is a Human Rights Issue": City Council Confronts Persistent Housing Discrimination \(NY City News Service\)](#)
- [Advocating for Justice \(WBAI\)](#)