

CIDNY April 2026 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Thank you for taking the time to read CIDNY's April 2026 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's Consumer Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 1 p.m.

This month we will focus on voting and upcoming elections.

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, April 2, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 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/LXiN9bmbbsq>

Digital Literacy Office Hours

Friday, April 3, 2026, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, April 10, 2026, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, April 17, 2026, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, April 24, 2026, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, May 1, 2026, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

This is a free open office hours event at CIDNY's Manhattan office (1010 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 301, New York, NY 10018) to learn the basics and build confidence

using technology. This event will occur on Fridays through May 22, 2026. These events are open to adults age 55+. RSVP is not required. For questions or more information, please call Sara at 646-849-8303.

Knowledge is Power: Understanding Our Rights presented by ImmSchools

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

We all have rights, regardless of immigration status. Join us to learn key protections, how to respond in real-life situations, and ways to keep yourself and your community safe. This session will also include family preparedness planning, community-based resources, and bystander strategies to support and protect one another.

Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/927K1C6HYG>

Digital Literacy Workshop: Email Basics

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 12 p.m. – 1p.m.

Location: CIDNY Manhattan 1010 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 301, New York, NY 10018

This is an in-person digital literacy workshop on email basics for consumers age 55+. No registration is needed. First time attendees to a digital literacy event are eligible for a stipend.

The Future of MOPD Forum 2026 | April 14 and 28, 2026

What should the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) do for New Yorkers? Join a citywide disability community 2-part forum to help shape the future of disability policy in New York City? Join us in April to help answer this questions and more at The Future of MOPD Forum.

We invite members of the disability community, advocates, elected officials, and the public to participate in defining the future of MOPD – identifying what's working, what isn't, and what must change.

This forum will consist of two separate events. Session 1 on April 14 will be an online only event. Input from this session will help shape Session 2. Session 2 will be in-person (with an online option) at Transit Workers Union Local 100 in Brooklyn.

This is your opportunity to share your thoughts and comments on MOPD, don't miss out!

Space is limited so please register as soon as possible. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-future-of-mopd-forum-2026-april-14th-28th-2026-tickets-1985611274774>

This event is presented by The 504 Democratic Club, The Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY), Art Beyond Sight, Inclusive Futures at Project Access for All, with additional Funding by The New York Community Trust.

You can view the flyer for this event [HERE](#).

ASL and CART provided. To request additional accommodations, contact mopdforum@cidny.org

- What: The Future of MOPD Forum – Session 1 (Online only)
- When: Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Where: Online via Zoom
- Info: The April 14 session is virtual only (via Zoom) and will feature online discussions and breakouts on key disability issues (housing, education, employment, transportation, and more), the opportunity to share the issues that matter most to

you, and offer recommendations and solutions.

Community input will shape Session 2 on April 28.

- Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-future-of-mopd-forum-2026-april-14th-28th-2026-tickets-1985611274774>
- What: The Future of MOPD Forum – Session 2 (In-person and Online)
- When: Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Where: Location: Transit Workers Union Local 100, 195 Montague Street, btw Clinton St. & Cadman Plaza W Brooklyn, NY
- Info: April 28 is Session 2 and will be in-person and online. Featuring: Remarks by elected officials, a presentation on the history of MOPD, plus report-outs from Session 1 Panel discussions with disability advocates and community voices. Refreshments will be served.
- Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-future-of-mopd-forum-2026-april-14th-28th-2026-tickets-1985611274774>

Paid Research Opportunity

We're sharing this research opportunity from the folks at Zebra Strategies who are working with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) on a study about health experiences and access to care across New York

communities. As part of this research, the NYSDOH is testing a new mental health website to better understand how people navigate it, the clarity of the language, and overall usability. They are seeking individuals to participate in a paid virtual interview where feedback will help improve how information and resources are shared with New Yorkers. Please note this is not a CIDNY-related study.

Study Details:

- Format: 75-minute virtual interview
- Dates: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – Friday, April 17, 2026
- Incentive: Youth (ages 16–20): \$75, Parents/Caregivers & Adults: \$125, Providers: \$350
- Location: Must live in New York State (all 5 boroughs represented)

They are looking to speak with:

- Youth & young adults (16–20)
- Parents or caregivers (of children ages birth - 20)
- Adults (21+)
- Providers (e.g., social workers, school staff, care coordinators, healthcare workers)

The study is especially interested in hearing from individuals with a range of experiences accessing mental health services, and from diverse backgrounds, incomes, and communities.

Participation is completely confidential, and feedback will help inform how mental health services and communications can better support New Yorkers.

For information or questions about this opportunity, please contact: anthony@zstrategies or [212-244-3960](tel:212-244-3960).

Scholarship Opportunity: 2026 Tony Coelho Media Scholarship Application Now Open!

Applications for the 2026 Tony Coelho Media Scholarship from the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) are now open.

The Tony Coelho Media Scholarship will offer eight (8) scholarships to be used in the fall semester of 2026. High school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students with disabilities who are pursuing careers in media, communications, or entertainment industries and who will be enrolled in college or a university during the fall of 2026 are eligible to apply. Each recipient will receive \$5,625 to help cover the cost of education at their college or university.

This scholarship has been named in honor of Tony Coelho, a former United States Representative from California and

the primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The deadline to apply is Wednesday, May 29, 2026 at 5 p.m.

For more information and next steps to apply for this scholarship, please visit <https://www.aapd.com/tony-coelho-media-scholarship/>

CIDNY's Victim Assistance Program

If you are a victim of a crime within the past five years, especially when it has led to significant impacts like lost wages, expenses, emotional distress, or disruptions to safety at home, the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) is now offering a new Victim Assistance Program, funded by the New York State Office of Victim Services. Our services include personalized needs assessments, assistance with benefits and victim compensation, and trauma-informed counseling to support recovery.

If you have filed a police report, are considering doing so, or have sought or contemplated seeking counseling for trauma or other support related to the effects of the crime, we're here to guide you. If you are unsure about reporting to the police or prefer not to, we can still provide guidance and connect you with legal resources, gender-based violence support, and referrals to legal advocacy.

Counseling for trauma is available and typically follows a short-term model, occurring every other week, allowing for flexibility based on individual needs. All services are confidential and focused on supporting those impacted by crimes.

For more information or to access services, contact us at [646-303-9713](tel:646-303-9713).

Join CIDNY's Next Empowerment Group For People With Disabilities

We have a new group starting soon! 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 to find out about upcoming open groups.

Sensory Sensitive Playdates in Queens: April 2026

The New York Hall of Science in Queens is offering sensory sensitive playdates in April. This event is designed to bring neurodiverse children 4-8yrs and their families together for fun, science activities, and a shared playtime! Please note this is not a CIDNY event.

Discover the wonder of science in an environment that nurtures and supports their unique needs. The playdates will take place from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. This is for children 4-8 years old.

Through hands-on exposure to new materials, tools, and experiences, these free events provide opportunities for children to engage in social interactions and play experiences.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sensory-sensitive-playdates-april-2026-tickets-1985442642390>

Accredited Continuing Education Courses For NYS Licensed Mental Health Professionals

New continuing education courses are now available! 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, with selected courses available for licensed psychologists. Each course is three hours and three units.

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.

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 up-to-date job listings. Come join our team, help fellow New Yorkers, and get great benefits!

- [Director of Human Resources](#)
 - [NY Connects Benefits Counselor - Brooklyn](#)
 - [Queens Receptionist](#)
 - [Transition Specialist](#)
 - [Veteran Direct Care Independent Living Specialist](#)
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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>.

- [Union takes MTA to court over subway station staffing dispute \(WPIX\)](#)

- Transport Workers Union cries foul over MTA leaving subway booths unstaffed, files lawsuit (NY Daily News)
- Transit Union Sues MTA Again Over Staffing of Subway 'Token Booths' (THE CITY)
- Out of order: Transit workers union, disability advocates sue MTA over temporary subway station booth closures (amNY)
- Transit workers union sues MTA over rule eliminating requirement for staffed token booths (Gothamist)
- Subway Struggles Inspire New Yorker to Build Transit Accessibility App (Able News)
- Riders Alliance Demands Fair Fares (Queens Ledger)
- Advocates Demand Transparency After CDPAP Overhaul (Able News)
- What Would a City Designed for Blind Commuters Look Like? (Bloomberg)
- Advocates: NYS lawmakers must help disabled people find work (En Español) (Public News Service)

- Frozen Out: How Winter Storms Isolated Disabled New Yorkers (Able News)