

CIDNY July 2026 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Thank you for taking the time to read CIDNY's July 2026 newsletter. Happy Disability Pride Month!

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

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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, July 22, 2026, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Please join us as we celebrate the 36th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The celebration will include a discussion with community leaders, advocates, City and State legislators on Inclusion and Accessibility for People with Disabilities, as well as a recap on some of our legislative wins this year! Refreshments will be provided. Please note that this event take place in the evening.

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, July 2, 2026, 3 p.m.

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

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

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

Thursday, July 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/LXiN9bmbsq>

CBH Talk | Building Access: The History and Future of Disability Rights

Thursday, July 9, 2026, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Location: Center for Brooklyn History, 128 Pierrepont Street Brooklyn, NY 11201

The disability rights movement has transformed American life and expanded access, opportunity, and civil rights for millions of people. These hard-won gains are the result of decades of organizing, advocacy, and political struggle. And the fight for equality continues.

As we celebrate July's Disability Pride Month, join us for an illuminating panel on the history and ongoing efforts to bring equal access to schools, workplaces, transportation systems, public spaces, and reshape the very meaning of civil rights.

Nisha Agarwal, Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, will offer opening remarks followed by a discussion with the former Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Victor

Calise, disability historian and activist Warren Shaw, and Executive Director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled of New York (CIDNY) Dr. Sharon Melisse McLennon-Wier. CBH Chief Historian Dominique Jean-Louis leads the conversation. Together, they will explore the movement's landmark victories, the leaders who helped secure them, and the challenges that remain as advocates continue to push for a more accessible and inclusive society.

This program is offered in conjunction with the Center for Brooklyn History's exhibition "People Making Power," which highlights Congressman Major Owens's role in the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Please note this is not a CIDNY-run event.

Register: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar/cbh-talk-building-access-center-for-brooklyn-20260709-0630pm>

Disability Unite Festival

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Location: Central Park Naumburg Bandshell

Celebrate Disability Pride at Disability Unite Festival 2026! Come together with friends and family virtually on this website, or in-person at the Central Park Naumburg Bandshell in New York City to celebrate community, and commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For virtual participants, the Disability Unite Festival will be livestreamed and continue to be offered on this website with all access accommodations for those unable to travel or not located in NYC.

For more information, visit: <https://disabilityunite.org>

Healthcare Navigation Presentation

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: SAGE Center Harlem, 220 W. 143rd St. New York, NY 10030

Learn about Medicaid managed care, long-term care services, and how to find the right plan for your needs. Please RSVP by contacting vpaula@sageusa.org or calling [929-458-2125](tel:929-458-2125).

Post Election Survey – 2026 Primary Election

If you voted in the Election on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 or voted early or absentee, please complete CIDNY's post-vote survey, at the link below, 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.

Please complete our short survey here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/78D6Wg1nZ5>

Extreme Heat Alert and Resources

We have already seen an extreme heat watch issued for NYC where heat index values are expected to reach between 105 and 110 degrees. Very hot weather will continue Saturday and Sunday. Even after outdoor temperatures drop, indoor environments can remain dangerously hot for up to three days. Stay safe.

Each summer, on average, approximately 500 New Yorkers die prematurely because of hot weather. Dangerously hot weather is becoming more frequent and more severe due to climate change.

Cooling Options:

If someone does not have access to air conditioning, they can:

- Visit someone with AC or find a free public place such as a coffee shop, library, or public atrium.
- Go to a cooling center. Cooling centers for the general public, older adults only, and people and their pets are available. Call 311 (or 212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115) to find a cooling center or other cool option nearby at <https://finder.nyc.gov/coolingcenters/>.

Prepare for Power Outages:

Power outages can be life-threatening for those who rely on electric medical equipment such as a dialysis machine, nebulizer for asthma, an elevator for mobility issues, or medications and baby formulas that require refrigeration. Be prepared by having back-up batteries and registering your electronic medical device(s) with your utility provider to avoid interruptions in electricity access. To register your device with ConEd call: 1-800-752-6633.

To learn more about hot weather and your health, visit

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/emergency-preparedness/emergencies-extreme-weather-heat.page>

CIDNY 2026 Gala: Accessibility Transforms Lives

Join CIDNY for our 2026 Annual Gala, Accessibility Transforms Lives. For 48 years, the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York has helped people with disabilities live with dignity and autonomy, last year directly serving more than 75,000 New Yorkers across all five boroughs. This year we honor Dr. Michael O'Dell for his service on CIDNY's Board, and welcome keynote speaker Jenna Bainbridge, actor and disability rights advocate, currently appearing on Broadway in Wicked. Join us for an accessible evening of connection and impact.

CIDNY's 2026 gala will take place on Monday, October 5, 2026, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Perelman Performing Arts Center (PAC NYC).

For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.cidny.org/cidny2026gala/>

Wheelchair Cleaning and Maintenance Clinic

CP Unlimited is hosting its wheelchair cleaning clinic offering free cleaning, maintenance, and sanitizing for powered and non-powered wheelchairs, helping users maintain safe, reliable mobility throughout the year. Last year's clinics supported hundreds of New Yorkers, including dozens served at community events and hundreds more through in-home repairs.

The next date is Saturday, July 11, 2026 on Staten Island at Cora Hoffman Center (2324 Forest Avenue).

The August date will be Sunday, August 16, 2026 in Brooklyn at Jewish Board (1358 56th St).

More info here: <https://www.cpunlimited.org/wheelchair-repair-and-cleaning-services/>

Climate Change Survey – Can You Help?

We're still collecting surveys! We are asking for your help in completing a quick survey on climate change. This year alone, New York City has faced heavy snow, flooding rains, and extreme heat. From Superstorm Sandy years ago to recent air quality alerts, extreme weather is not new to New Yorkers.

Now, CIDNY is collecting information on how climate change is affecting the disability community. Please fill out this short survey. It is completely anonymous unless you choose to provide your contact information, and it should only take a few minutes.

Take the survey here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/KN3MbqCHQy>

Queens Disability Pride Events

Below are a few Disability Pride events happening in Queens. Please note these are not CIDNY organized events.

Queens Disability Pride Month Launch at Borough Hall

When: Monday, July 13, 2026, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: Queens Borough Hall (120-55 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY 11424)

The office of the Queens Borough President in Partnership with Disability Unite invites you to the Queens' July Disability Pride Month Launch celebration! Join as we exchange messages of disability pride, learn about disability inclusion, and enjoy a musical performance by our Queens neighbors.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/queensdisabilitypride2026

Queens Disability Pride Month @ Queens Public Library

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: Queens Public Library at Flushing - Rooms A & B, lower level (41-17 Main St, Flushing, NY 11355)

Disability Unite and the Queens community invites you to the Queens July Disability Pride Month Resource Fair! Join our Queens neighbors as we exchange messages of disability pride and learn about disability inclusion at our resource fair.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/QPLdisabilitypride

36th Annual ADA Barbecue at Queens College

Thursday, July 23, 2026, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Location: Student Union Parking Lot, Queens College

You're invited to the celebration of the 36th Anniversary of the ADA at this Annual ADA Barbecue, hosted by the Committee for Disabled Students at Queens College and co-sponsored by the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD)! Join as all celebrate disability pride, community, and the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Enjoy free food, music, games, giveaways, and community fun!

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/ADABBQ36>

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!

- [Bilingual Mental Health Counselor](#)
- [Director of Mental Health Services](#)
- [Home Based Crisis Intervention \(HBCI\) Clinical Supervisor](#)
- [Home Based Crisis Intervention \(HBCI\) Crisis Interventionist](#)
- [LTCOP Ombudsman Advocate Brooklyn/Queens Nursing Homes](#)
- [OHS Housing Specialist](#)
- [Transition Specialist](#)
- [Veteran Direct Care Independent Living 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>.

- Department of Justice Memo sparks backlash from Bronx elected officials and disability advocacy groups (Bronx Times)
- Your go-to guide for voting in New York's 2026 primaries (Epicenter NYC)
- Disaster Preparedness (Still) Isn't Accessible in Rural America (Disabled Journalists Association)