

CIDNY September 2026 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Thank you for taking the time to read CIDNY's September 2026 newsletter. September 14 through 18 is Disability Voting Rights Week.

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.

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If you would like to support CIDNY with a donation, you can do so here:
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CIDNY's Consumer Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Join us during Disability Voting Rights Week for CIDNY's September CAN meeting. This meeting will focus on voting rights and issues. Featuring presentations from: Diane Burrows from League of Women Voters NYC: Create Your Voting Action Plan, Ama Acquah from NYC Votes: What's On the Ballot?, and Michael Ring, NYC Poll Site Coordinator: Becoming a poll worker as a person with a disability. We will also hold a workshop on voter registration and mail-in ballot requests. We'll also be giving away free swag (t-shirts and other items) while supplies last! This is a hybrid meeting with the option to be in person at CIDNY's Manhattan office or online via Zoom.

- What: CIDNY's Consumer Action Network (CAN) Meeting

- When: Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Where: CIDNY's Manhattan office or online via Zoom
- RSVP: <https://www.tinyurl.com/CIDNY4All>

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](tel: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 3, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 24, 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>

Press Conference: Families Deserve Better Busing

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 12 p.m.

Location: Steps of Tweed Courthouse (52 Chambers St. New York, NY 10007)

Join Assemblymember Tapia, Senator Jackson, and the Road to Better Busing Coalition as we call for urgent, long-overdue changes to NYC's school bus system and address the impact that decades of outdated, inefficient transportation services have had on students and families.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/ywkb35r7>

Remembering Susan Dooha

In late August we heard of the passing of the passing of Susan Dooha, who had previously served as Center for Independence of New York's Executive Director for 19 years. Susan's leadership, unwavering advocacy, and deep commitment to disability rights helped shape our organization and strengthen the disability community across New York.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Susan's family, friends, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing and working with her. We are profoundly grateful for Susan's extraordinary contributions to CIDNY and to the disability rights movement. Her legacy will continue to inspire our work, and she will be deeply missed.

You can read more about Susan's storied advocacy work here, in NYSILC Disability Rights Hall of Fame: <https://nysilc.org/inductees/32-2022/236-susan-doocha>

New CIDNY Tuesday Job Club and Wednesday Pathfinder Peer Group Begin This September

CIDNY's Tuesday Job Club is a group for individuals who are looking for a job and/or struggling with job retention. This is a deep dive skill building hour long session.

What will we focus on?

- Resume, cover letter, and interview preparation
- Networking and job-search strategies
- Disability disclosure and requesting accommodations
- Workplace communication and knowing where to seek support

What can I expect?

Participants can expect to learn and refine:

- Job-search and interviewing skills
- Self-advocacy and workplace communication skills
- Strategies for navigating employment and workplace challenges

When and where is the Tuesday Job Club?

- Tuesdays, beginning September 8, from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- This will be online via Zoom
- Zoom information will be provided to participants – Contact Sara Schacter-Erenburg at sschacter@cidny.org

Wednesday Pathfinder Peer Group

CIDNY's Wednesday Pathfinder Peer Group is a counseling-focused group for individuals who are currently job seeking or already employed. This group provides a supportive space to discuss the emotional and personal experiences that can come with searching for work, starting a new job, and maintaining employment.

What will we focus on?

- Managing stress, anxiety, and emotions related to job searching or employment
- Building confidence and coping with rejection, setbacks, or self-doubt
- Navigating workplace relationships and adjustment
- Exploring career goals, motivation, and employment-related concerns

What can I expect?

- Guided group discussions and reflection
- Emotional support from others with similar experiences
- Strategies for coping with job-search and workplace stress
- A supportive space to discuss employment-related challenges

When and where is the Wednesday Pathfinder Peer Group?

- Wednesdays, beginning September 9, from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- This will be an in-person group
- CIDNY's Manhattan Office, 1010 Avenue of the Americas, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018
- No pre-registration required

CIDNY staff interns Camden, Jennie, and Tatiana will also be available for one-on-one individual counseling sessions from September 2026 through May 2027.

For more information about the Tuesday Job Club, Wednesday Pathfinder Peer Group, or individual counseling sessions, please reach out to: Sara Schacter-Erenburg, Director of Vocational and Employment Services, at sschacter@cidny.org

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/>

MOPD Deaf Town Hall

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities is holding a Deaf Town Hall on Wednesday, September 16 at 6 p.m. This Town Hall will provide the NYC Deaf community with an opportunity to share their experiences, concerns, and priorities directly with MOPD. Topics include public housing, language access, and public safety. Please note this is not a CIDNY-run event.

- What: MOPD Deaf Town Hall
- When: Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Where: Positive Exposure, 83 Maiden Lane, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10038
- Register/More Info: <https://on.nyc.gov/4bWZQo0>

ASL and CART services will be provided. If other accommodations are needed, please contact Tony Wooden at rwooden@mopd.nyc.gov or by videophone at [646-396-5830](tel:646-396-5830) by September 9, 2026.

Daniel's Day Queens Community Event

Join organizations and advocates for Daniel's Day in Queens NYC. This community event is part of a statewide series of events commemorating the lives of Daniel Prude, Win Rosario, Eleanor Bumpurs, Deborah Danner, Kawaski Trawick, Eudes Pierre, and many others who tragically lost their lives or were harmed while in crisis due to an encounter with police. This event brings together families, local organizations, small businesses, and service providers for a day of education, resources, wellness, entertainment, and community engagement. This event is focused on the social determinants of health — the conditions in which people live, work, and play, and how the systems governing those conditions shape our emotional and mental well-being. More info about Daniel's Law can be found here: www.danielslawny.org. Please note this is not a CIDNY-run event. If you have any questions, please contact NYCDanielsDay@gmail.com.

- What: Daniel's Day NYC Wellness Event
- When: Saturday, September 19, 2026, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Where: PS 16 Q - Corona, Queens, Playground Entrance @ 42nd Ave. & 104th St.

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, September 12, in the Bronx at West Farms Center (1880 Bryant Avenue).

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

Disability Voting Rights Week

September 14 through 18 is Disability Voting Rights Week!

Below are a few important dates to make note of for the November 2026 election.

- Voter Registration Deadline for General Election: October 24, 2026 (applications must be received by this date)
- Early Mail and Absentee Ballot Request Deadline for General Election: October 24, 2026 if mailed, and November 2, 2026 if hand-delivered
- Early Mail and Absentee Ballot Return Deadline for General Election: November 3, 2026
- Early Voting: October 24, 2026 - November 1, 2026
- Election Day: November 3, 2026

If you are a New York City resident, you can register online at <https://e-register.vote.nyc/>.

If you need help registering to vote, please contact CIDNY's Voting Community Organizer, Anny Humphrey at ahumphrey@cidny.org or 646-436-9906.

Don't forget to register for our CAN meeting, which takes place during Disability Voting Rights Week and focuses on voting issues. You can register for the CAN meeting here: <https://www.tinyurl.com/CIDNY4All>

Rent Assistance: SCRIE and DRIE

Did you know that New York City has programs that help eligible older adults and people with disabilities with rent? The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) is for renters 62 and older. The Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) is for renters 18 and older with a qualifying disability.

You may qualify if your household income is \$50,000 or less, you live in eligible rent-regulated housing, and you spend more than one-third of your household income on rent. There are other eligibility requirements and someone from our team would be happy to work with you to see if you are eligible and help obtain the benefit.

You can find out more about these programs here:

- SCRIE: <https://access.nyc.gov/programs/senior-citizens-rent-increase-exemption-scrie/#how-it-works>
- DRIE: <https://access.nyc.gov/programs/disability-rent-increase-exemption-drie/#how-it-works>

Contact us to SCRIEDRIE@cidny.org or [646-442-1520](tel:646-442-1520) to see if you qualify and start the application process.

MTA Experience Survey

PCAC- The Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA is seeking people to complete a survey about experiences in finding your way around the MTA. The more experiences are shared, the better we can do to make sure transit is accessible to all.

Take the survey here: <https://pcac.org/findingyourwaysurvey/>

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](#)
 - [Home Based Crisis Intervention \(HBCI\) Crisis Interventionist](#)
 - [Health Care Advocate / Attorney](#)
 - [NY Connects Benefits Counselor – Bronx](#)
 - [NY Connects Benefits Counselor - Brooklyn](#)
 - [NY Connects Outreach Specialist](#)
 - [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>.

- [Advocates Appreciate Hochul's Defense of Olmstead Rights But Say More Action Is Needed to Protect Community Living \(Able Newspaper\)](#)
- [Settlement Over MTA Elevators Includes Efforts to Improve Usability of Subway System for People with Disabilities \(Able Newspaper\)](#)
- [Mixed emotions on MTA elevator deal \(Queens Chronicle\)](#)

- CIDNY, disability-centered non-profit, reflects on 36 years of advocacy (Caribbean Life)
- ADA at 36: Advocates Warn Rights Are Under Threat (Able Newspaper)
- MTA pledges greater transparency around subway elevators (NY 1 Spectrum News)