

CIDNY October 2026 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Thank you for taking the time to read CIDNY's October 2026 newsletter. October is National Disability Employment Awareness 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/>

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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, October 21, 2026

Join CIDNY for a celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Participants will have the opportunity to attend a presentation on reasonable accommodations in the workplace, as well as hear their legislators speak about some of the work they are doing to ensure that people with disabilities are able to obtain and retain gainful employment. Participants will also have the chance to speak with staff about seeking workplace accommodations.

- What: CIDNY's Consumer Action Network (CAN) Meeting
- When: Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Where: CIDNY's Manhattan office or online via Zoom

- With: Councilmember Shahana Hanif, Councilmember Shirley Aldebol, Assemblymember Phil Steck, State Senator Patricia Fahy, and CIDNY General Counsel Arthur Schwartz
- 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, October 8, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, October 15, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, October 22, 2026, 3 p.m.

Thursday, October 29, 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>

VOTE FEST Pop-Up with Queens Says NO KINGS

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Baisley Park, S. Ozone Park

Using art, music, and culture to make civic participation visible, accessible, and welcoming. This event will include voter registration and voter education, developing voting plans and turnout strategies, assisting seniors and people with disabilities in accessing the ballot, recruiting, training, and deploying election protection volunteers

and poll monitors, and connecting community organizations working toward shared democratic goals including Headcount, Hands Off, Common Cause, League of Women Voters, NYCLU, The Beacon, Let's Talk Democracy/Youth Talk Democracy and other partners. Please note this is not a CIDNY-run event.

CIDNY Gala: Accessibility Transforms Lives

Monday, October 5, 2026, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Location: Perelman Performing Arts Center (PAC NYC), 251 Fulton Street New York, NY 10007

Join us for CIDNY's Third Annual Gala, Accessibility Transforms Lives, to celebrate the powerful impact of advocacy on New York City's disability community - and support the critical work still ahead. Featuring a keynote from Jenna Bainbridge, actor, singer, and disability rights advocate, currently appearing on Broadway as Nessarose in Wicked. Jenna will also be our keynote singer, performing selections from 504: The Musical, with composer Mason McDowell.

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

Tuesday Job Club

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. – Resume and Cover Letter Focus

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. – Resume and Cover Letter Focus

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

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. Meetings occur each Tuesday and will focus on topics like resume, cover letter, and interview preparation, networking and job-search strategies, disability disclosure and requesting accommodations, workplace communication and knowing where to seek support, and more. For more information and/or to attend, contact sschacter@cidny.org.

Pathfinder Peer Group

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

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. For more information or to join the Pathfinder Peer Group, contact sschacter@cidny.org.

CIDNY Election Day Polling Site Accessibility Surveying

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Each year CIDNY conducts polling site surveys to ensure accessibility throughout the five boroughs. If you are interested in volunteering to help with surveying, please complete this form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Q7tYARLZ5B>

Disability Pride Parade 2026

Join CIDNY and many others for the 2026 Disability Pride Parade on Sunday, October 18, 2026. We'll march from Madison Square Park to Union Square. After the parade, stop by CIDNY's table to say hello to our team and find out more about our services and advocacy.

More info: <https://www.nycdisabilitypride.org/>

2026 Election Poll Site Survey Volunteers Wanted!

CIDNY is conducting poll site surveys at polling sites across the five boroughs during the November 2026 Election to ensure that voting is accessible, independent, and private for individuals with disabilities. Join us in this effort by completing the form at the link below and surveying at least 4 polling sites to make an easy \$20!

Sign up for more information: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Q7tYARLZ>

November 2026 Election Deadlines

An election is coming up! 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.

Free Individual and Group Mental Health Counseling Now Available

We have exciting news! CIDNY's growing mental health program now offers FREE INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING across New York State. We are looking for more of our consumers to participate in our individual therapy and group services, which use a multicultural disability competency framework. Our service expansion enables us to offer greater assistance to individuals in the five boroughs, as well as beyond our usual boundaries, using telehealth.

We offer the following in-person and virtual services:

- Short-Term Counseling/Individual Therapy
 - Available by appointment to individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns
- A Trauma Support Group
 - This is a supportive group, designed for individuals with disabilities (including mental health conditions), navigates the lasting effects of trauma, including emotional overwhelm, anxiety, shutdown, or difficulty feeling safe in relationships and daily life.
 - Meets Tuesdays at 4 pm.
- A Family Dynamics and Support Systems Group
 - This group is for anyone with a disability (including mental health conditions) who is experiencing conflict, guilt, emotional strain, or difficulty setting boundaries within family or other close relationships.
 - Meets Wednesdays at 4 pm..
- Empowerment Group
 - Individuals with disabilities learn strategies to improve their resilience, and focus on self-growth. (Please email for day and time)
- Transitions Group for Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals Group

- This supportive and culturally respectful group is dedicated to empowering individuals navigating their visual impairment, regardless of how long they have been impacted.
- Meets Mondays, every other week, at 11 a.m.
- Meet-up group
 - An in-person group where individuals who have graduated from other groups meet to practice their skills.
 - Meets Fridays at 4 pm.

For more information on our support groups and individual therapy, please visit:
<https://www.cidny.org/mentalhealth/> or contact our new email address
mentalhealth@cidny.org

Seeking Participants For Compensated Social Security Administration Interviews

We are sharing the information below from Mathematica. Mathematica is seeking people to participate in an interview for a Social Security Administration (SSA) study about programs that help people with disabilities with work. They are seeking participants with the following:

- Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries (received cash benefit payments within the past five years),
- Are currently working, have worked in the last two years, or are interested in work,
- Have heard of the Ticket to Work (TTW) or Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) programs, but,
- Have not used TTW or WIPA services or worked with a state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency.

The interview would last about 30 minutes, and participants would receive a \$40 Visa gift card in the mail as thanks.

If interested, please directly contact Mathematica at [1-844-576-1307](tel:1-844-576-1307). If you would like to learn more about the study, information is available on SSA's website:
<https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/ticketevaluation.html>

Queens College Preparedness Workshops

Do you know someone who is getting ready to attend college? The Queens Borough President's Office with the NYC Department of Education and Queens North High School are holding College Preparedness Workshops. There are two dates scheduled.

- Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Queens Technical High School, 37-02 47th Ave, Long Island City, NY 11101
- Thursday, October 8, 2026, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Queens HS of Teaching, Liberal Arts & Sciences, 74-20 Commonwealth Blvd, Bellerose, NY 11426

For more information, visit bit.ly/queenscollegeprep

Disability Night Out

Disability Night Out is a program/event that aims to help make sure dining is accessible to all. They do this through events nationwide where people with disabilities dine out and share their feedback. Please note this is not a CIDNY-run event. The next event is scheduled for October 10, 2026. From their website:

Disability Night Out is a community night out, a collective action, and a real-world access check, all at once. People with disabilities, their families, and allies dine out together nationwide. Aim to be at the table between 6 and 9 p.m., your local time. Pick a restaurant, show up, and tell us what happened.

Learn more and get notified: <https://disabilitynightout.org/e>

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, October 3, in Brooklyn at Linda Buch Gherardi Center (921 East New York Avenue) and Saturday, October 10 outside of NYC in Fishkill, NY at CP Unlimited (400 Westage Business Center Drive).

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

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 split into a Part 1 and Part 2. Completing both parts is required to receive credit. Those registered will receive six continuing education credits upon completion of both parts of a course.

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 – Part 1: October 7 - [Register here](#)
- Disability 101 – Part 2: October 14 - [Register here](#)
- Impact of Disability in the First Session – Part 1: October 28 - [Register here](#)
- Impact of Disability in the First Session – Part 2: November 4 - [Register here](#)
- History of Deinstitutionalization – Part 1: December 2 - [Register here](#)
- History of Deinstitutionalization – Part 2: December 9 - [Register here](#)
- Trauma and Disability – Part 1: January 13, 2027 - [Register here](#)
- Trauma and Disability – Part 2: January 27, 2027 - [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 up-to-date job listings. Come join our team, help fellow New Yorkers, and get great benefits!

- Benefits Counselor – Queens
 - Home Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI) Crisis Interventionist
 - Home Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI) Clinical Supervisor
 - Health Care Advocate / Attorney
 - NY Connects Benefits Counselor – Bronx
 - Peer Advocate
 - 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>.

- Judge blocks MTA policy that sidelined station agents (The Chief)
- MTA cannot leave subway station booths empty when workers call out for emergencies, Manhattan judge rules (amNY)
- MTA loses bid to eliminate mandatory staffing of subway token booths (Gothamist)
- Disability Voting Rights Week Focuses on Inclusion at the Ballot Box (Able Newspaper)
- Living for the City ft. Dr. Sharon McLennon Wier (WBAI)
- NY disability rights groups leary of DOJ shift in disability laws (En Español) (Public News Service)
- The Recruiters with Tom Duane, featuring Dr. Sharon McLennon Wier (The Recruiters with Tom Duane)
- Consider the Bollard, Stubborn Sidewalk Cop of the Post-9/11 City (New York Times)