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NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL, INC.

NYSILC

empowering new yorkers with disabilities

NYSILC News, September 2026

Last Chance to Sign Up!
Emergency Preparedness Go Bag Training

September 24, 2026 at 6pm
Sage Ballroom, Troy Hilton Garden Inn

NYSILC's Emergency Preparedness Committee and the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services invite you to Citizen Preparedness Corps training (CPC) - a free, open to the public, 60-to-90-minute program run by the New York National Guard and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Registered attendees will receive one free emergency go-bag per household.

The training will be conducted in English with ASL interpretation. If you would like to attend, **please register here before Sept. 21: Event Registration**

Apply to join NYSILC's Youth Leadership Subcommittee!

Are you between the ages of 16 and 25 and have a disability?

NYSILC's Youth Leadership Subcommittee is looking for young people who want to connect, learn, and make a difference. Whether you're new to leadership or already involved in advocacy, this is a space where your ideas matter and your experiences can help shape the future of Independent Living in New York.

As a member, you'll meet other young people from across New York, build confidence, and work together to create the change you want to

see. All disabilities are welcome. This group meets virtually, with opportunities for growth and connection in your personal and professional networks.

If you're ready to learn, share your perspective, and help turn ideas into action, we'd love to have you join us. Apply today!

Be an Accessible Democracy Defender: Celebrate Disability Voting Rights Week

September 14-18, 2026

Disability Voting Rights Week (DVRW) is a nonpartisan movement hosted by the American Association of People with Disabilities and REV UP. DVRW is about advocacy, celebrating community, and building power.

Across the country, voters continue to experience barriers that make it harder, and sometimes impossible, to participate in our elections. At the same time, we've also seen the power of community: people helping each other make a plan to vote, sharing resources, and advocating for change. We also know the power of collective action and that even small actions can make a big difference.

Click here to get Disability Voting Rights Week updates, free social media graphics and messaging in English and Spanish, access to a nationwide calendar of events, and more.

NYSILC Council Members

Executive Committee:

Chair
Yaw Appiadu

Vice Chair
Lindsay Miller

Secretary
Sonam Ben Willow

Treasurer
Stephanie Woodward

Member at Large
Michele Juda

Staff:

Executive Director:
Laura Cardwell

Employment Opportunities at Peer Organizations in NYS

New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL)
Hiring: Statewide Support Services Coordinator
Link to posting: https://ilny.us/latest-news/694-statewide-support-services-coordinator

AIM Independent Living Center
Hiring: OPWDD Family Support Services Intake Coordinator, Agricultural Support Mentor, Veteran Programs Specialist
Link to postings:
https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=404e0ff2-3b41-42f1-b248-

laurac@nysilc.org

Program Coordinator:
Amy Wink
awink@nysilc.org

Community Building and Media Specialist:
Emily Bianchine-Cummings
emilyb@nysilc.org

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Center for Independence of the Disabled New York (CIDNY)
Hiring many positions in Manhattan and Queens
Link to postings: https://www.cidny.org/jobs/

Harlem Independent Living Center
Hiring: Victim Services Specialists
Link to postings: https://hilc.org/careers

Independent Living, Inc.
Hiring many positions in the Lower Hudson Valley
Link to posting:
https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/All/419956b6-134b-46b6-b130-d1f311b19334/Independent-Living-Inc

Resource Center for Independent Living
Hiring: Several job openinigs
Link to postings: https://www.rcil.com/join-our-team/careers/openings/

Self-Initiated Living Options, Inc.
Hiring: Olmstead/Rapid Transition Housing and Independent Living Specialist, Transition Specialist
Link to postings:
https://www.siloinc.org/siloemployment

Southern Adirondack Independent Living
Hiring: Regional Resource Development Specialist
Link to posting:
https://www.sailhelps.org/careers

Southern Tier Independence Center
Hiring many positions
Link to postings: https://www.stic-cil.org/careers

Western New York Independent Living
Hiring multiple positions in Buffalo and Niagara: Olmstead Housing program positions, Independent Living Peer Specialist, Open Doors and Rapid Transition Housing Specialists
Link to posting:
https://www.wnyil.org/employment/open-positions/

New York City Dept. of Education/Mental Health Association of NYS

Hiring: Training Implementation Specialist, Teen & Youth Mental Health First Aid and School Mental Health Initiatives
Link to posting: https://mhanys.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/JOB_202604_ImplementationSpecialist-1.pdf

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DISABILITY EMPOWHER NETWORK

FREE Networking and Noshing!

Sunday, September 20th 4-6pn
Panera Bread, 65 Wolf Road, Colonie, NY
For Disabled Women and Non-Binary People

EmpowHer Capital's one year anniversary celebration is quickly approaching! Join us this Sunday for chatting, eating, and connecting. Sign up here: https://forms.gle/PnWo9NUAmFTmhjxF8

And even better, we're holding a Panera Bread fundraiser at the same time! This is a great opportunity for allies to support us! Food will be provided for participants, but friends and family are encouraged to purchase something for themselves by using the code FUND4U in-person or online between 4pm-8pm! **25% of sales will go to Disability EmpowHer Network.**

This event is **free** for all participants. Face masks will be provided! Please let us know if you have dietary restrictions. Hope to see you Sunday!

If you have any questions, please email; empowhercapital@disabilityempowhernetwork.org

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FREE Adaptive Outdoor Open House

Hudson Crossing Park in Schuylerville, NY

Tuesday, September 22, 3-6 pm and
Wednesday, September 23, 10am-1pm

Join us for hands-on workshops ro learn, try adaptive equipment, and experience the outdoors in new ways!

Hudson Crossing Park is an Inclusion Partner with Rochester Accessible Adventures. HCP and RAA have been working together to increase inclusion for all who are interested in inclusive access to recreation and tourism.

If you have any questions about the Open House, please don't hesitate to contact HCP's Inclusion Point of Contact, Wendy DeLaCruz, wdelacruz@hudsoncrossingpark.org.

Spina Bifida Association of NYS presents
the 14th Annual

Dare to Dream Gala

November 7 from 5-9pm
at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn

Dinner l Entertainment l Auction

SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

We cordially invite you to our event of the year - the annual Dare to Dream Gala! Join us as we celebrate the advancements being made in the Spina Bifida community and raise critical funds to provide clinical care, education, awareness, advocacy and programming benefitting our incredibly deserving consumer base.

EVENT FEATURES

- Live and silent auction baskets with exciting get-aways, restaurant gift cards, wine and spirits, home goods, baskets for the family and more!
- Entertainment including live music by Jeff Brisbin
- Ceremonies recognizing our You Make a Difference Awardee Eric Ryan, TRIPPr and our to be announced Eric Crow Trailblazer Award and Volunteer of the Year recipients.
- Enjoy delicious appetizers, dinner and dessert

TICKETS

- Individual tickets cost $110. Consumers and individuals age 33 and under receive a discount!
- Tables of 8 are available for $800 - a $10 discount off each seat!

SPONSORS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

- Receive strong advertising opportunities for over 200 guests and thousands of supporters when you partner with SBANYS for Dare to Dream!

HOTEL BLOCK

- Saturday 11/7/26-11/8/26 = $109
- Email julia.duff@sbanys.org to reserve a room in our block.

NAMI New York State Annual Education Conference

Be part of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New York State's Annual Education Conference, taking place November 13–15, 2026, at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, New York.

Join advocates, professionals, and community leaders from across the state for the 2026 NAMI NYS Annual Education Conference: **Mental Health for All: Uplifting Each Other Through Support and Advocacy**.

Join advocates, mental health professionals, community leaders, and individuals with lived experience from across New York State for a weekend of learning, connection, and advocacy. This year's conference will focus on strengthening connections, amplifying lived experience, and advancing equitable access to mental health care for all New Yorkers—while addressing the ongoing challenges facing our communities and the action needed to move forward.

Our dynamic agenda will feature national leaders in mental health, innovative practitioners, passionate advocates, and influential voices committed to expanding awareness, reducing stigma, and driving meaningful change. For any EdCon-related questions, please contact info@naminys.org.

Registration is Now Open - Register Today**.**

2 Scholarships are available through each local NAMI Affiliate. Contact your affiliate organization if you are interested in a scholarship.

Attention Young Adults with Disabilities -

We have $1,000 Scholarships available!

Our Pat Figueroa Scholarship program provides funding for young adults with disabilities to attend and participate in independent living related conferences and/or national disability and leadership trainings.

Are you a Center for Independent Living (CIL) or other organization working with young adults? Please share this information with your young adult consumers!

Learn more and apply here!

Let Us Share Your News!

We'd love to help spread the news about your NYS Independent Living Center (ILC) or disability-related organization.

If you have information about a service, event, or news you would like us to share, please email Amy Wink at **awink@nysilc.org**

Thank you!

Upcoming NYSILC events/activities:

- FREE Citizen Preparedness Corps Training - **Thursday, September 24, 2026** at 6pm at the Saqe Ballroom in the Troy, NY Hilton Garden Inn

- Next NYSILC Full Council Meeting - **Friday, September 25, 2026** from 9:30 to 1:30 PM at the at the Troy, NY Hilton Garden Inn and remotely via Zoom.

  Please visit https://nysilc.org/council/meetings-calendar for details.

NYSILC | office 518-400-4210 | awink@nysilc.org | NYSILC.org

155 Washington Avenue, Suite 208
Albany, NY 12210

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New York State Independent Living Council | 155 Washington Ave Suite 208 | Albany, NY 12210 US

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