

# CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE OF THE DISABLED OF NY (CIDNY)

## THE NEXT STEP – A Free Program for Students with Disabilities in Schools

Youth with disabilities are more likely than their non-disabled peers to have difficulty graduating from high school. While 70 percent of youth without disabilities graduate high school, only 41 percent of youth with disabilities are able to make the same transition successfully. This gap doesn't have to continue. With the supports and accommodations, youth with disabilities can improve their school success and transition to adult life.

CIDNY's The Next Step is for students with disabilities (ages 14–24, including college students) to help them make a successful transition to adult life. The Next Step program teaches students how to advocate for themselves as they continue on to college and/or to the working world. Workshops and one-on-one guidance help students make and fulfill transition plans that will work for them.

The Next Step counselors help students prepare for further education or vocational training, and provides workplace readiness skills that

help them meet their goals. Since stability in the community is crucial to success in adult life, The Next Step's wrap-around services ensure that students have benefits and supports they are entitled to maintain their independence.

The program also teaches students about their rights as people with disabilities and how to advocate for themselves.

Since parental involvement is a critical component of student success in school,

The Next Step also provides workshops for parents/guardians on education issues for their students with disabilities including understanding the Individual Education Plan (IEP); parents/guardian and students rights to participate in the IEP process; steps parents/guardians and students can take to ensure they are getting the accommodations they need; and advocacy strategies for parents and guardians.

If you are or have a youth with a disability and would like to learn more about The Next Step program, please call or email Shireen Khan.



**CID-NY**

### **CIDNY**

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### **Did You Know?**

#### **The Fair Housing Act protects your rights:**

- You cannot be denied housing or be treated differently from other tenants because you have a disability.
- You can ask for changes to make an apartment accessible to you because of your disability.

These are Fair Housing Facts.

For more information on the Fair Housing Act, go to [www.cidny.org/fair-housing.php](http://www.cidny.org/fair-housing.php), or call us and ask to speak to a counselor about housing.

ASL, Spanish, Toisanese, Tagalog, Mandarin, Cantonese, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, and Bangla-speaking counselors are available.