

The Resident Voice

Support Line (866) 503-3332

425 East 25th Street New York, NY 10010



www.ciadny.org

EQUAL Grant Success Story!!

July 2023



Brooklyn Adult Care Center (BACC)

Residents requested automatic doors on the 2022-2023 Capital Budget for the front entrance to their facility. The home received their grant in October of 2022 and the automatic doors were installed in April of 2023. RC President Nate Farley and Floor Captain Joseph Wells are pictured showing off the doors in the photo. Congratulations to the residents of BACC!!

The new EQUAL Grant cycle is starting! Visit

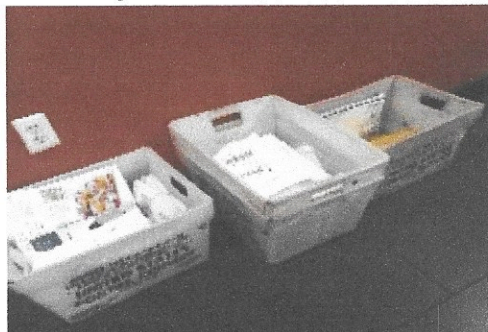
www.ciadny.org for access

to the current grant cycle information.

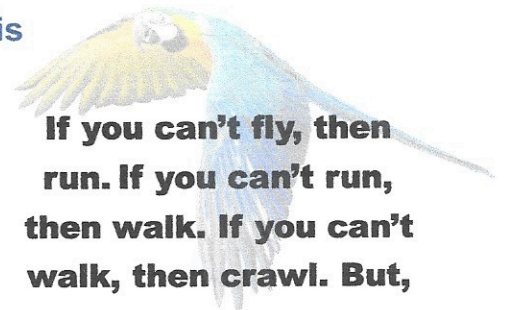
Residents Rights Victory!!

Claremont Village Adult Care

Residents at Claremont Village were not being given their mail on time for months by the facility. It was allowed to pile up behind a desk (see photo below). The Resident Council President missed recertification for his food stamps because he had not received the renewal letter on time. He was forced to use his limited income to pay \$30 for a cab to go in person to recertify for his food stamps. If he had not been proactive in advising the agency and ask for an extension, he would have to reapply and wait 45 days before his benefits would be available. Unfortunately, his story was not an isolated issue. The residents raised this issue in numerous RC meetings. Finally, residents sent a petition with pictures to the Department of



Health (DOH) email hotline. A DOH Inspector from the NYC Regional office came to Claremont Village in May and had an emergency RC meeting with 18 residents. The inspector learned from residents how they were impacted, and this issue was **resolved** the next day!!



If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But, whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

CIAD is a nonprofit advocacy organization run with and by persons with disabilities to support resident rights in Adult Care Homes. CIAD provides Resident Council training and organizing, Independence Skills Training, and individual advocacy. In partnership with Mobilization for Justice, we support advocacy on behalf of residents with the NYS Department of Health, Adult Care Home operators and state and local elected officials.

The Resident Voice

Support Line (866) 503-3332

www.ciadny.org

425 East 25th Street New York, NY 10010

Resident Council – Your Voices Your Choices!

As we have previously published, under NYCRR Title 18, Section 487.5, established in the 1980's, residents of adult care facilities **are by law entitled to a Resident Council** that must be **chaired by and directed by residents**. This means that adult home residents have a right to organize themselves to discuss the issues that are important to them and present their issues and grievances to the administrator.



The law says that the administration must work with the residents to ensure they have the support needed to maintain the Resident Council. In addition, the administration must work with the Council to address its concerns. Residents usually meet monthly but can meet as often as they deem necessary. A best practice is for Resident Councils to be **governed through bylaws or rules that the residents decide**. Some of you live in homes where your Resident Council is very active, some of you live in homes where the Resident Council may not be functioning at its full potential or not at all.

Resident Councils are especially important in the **Equal Grant** process where they help **residents choose the priorities** that the grant will be used for. If you want support from CIAD to strengthen or start your Resident Council, please call us on our **CIAD Support Line at 1-866-503-3332**.

Resident Rights Trainings CIAD and Mobilization for Justice

Advocacy groups that work with Adult Home residents are contracted by the NYS Justice Center to conduct Residents' Rights Training in Adult Homes in NYC. We have been doing these trainings over several years. Some of you may have attended one of these trainings. Some of you may have never participated. The most important thing to understand is that **you have the right to advocate for yourself and others** with the administrator and you have a right to **be protected from mistreatment of any kind**: physical, emotional, or financial. Also, you have the **right to organize** as a Resident Council and you have the **right to file complaints without negative consequences**. You also have a right to get help to make your life better at your home. If you would like to have Residents' Rights Training at your home, please call the CIAD **Support line at 1-866-503-3332**.

