

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Director

**FROM:** Kathryn Kuhmerker, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Medicaid Management

**SUBJECT:** Disability Awareness Training

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Bureau of Local District Support  
Upstate (518) 474-8216 NYC (212) 268-6855

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) of an upcoming training event entitled, Disability Awareness Training. This specialized training, funded by the federal Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG), will be held in three sites across upstate New York this Fall. It is anticipated that Disability Awareness Training will be held in New York City at a future date.

Implementation of the Medicaid Buy-In program for Working People with Disabilities has increased the interaction of local district workers with persons with disabilities and their representatives statewide. For this reason, funds from the MIG have been dedicated to provide training on disability awareness. Trainers from the Center for Independence of the Disabled (CIDNY) in New York City have been retained to provide a half-day training program at three sites in upstate New York in October 2004.

SCHEDULE OF TRAINING			
DATE (2004)	LOCATION	A.M. SESSION	P.M. SESSION
October 15	Holiday Inn Kingston, NY	8:30AM - 12:00PM	1:00PM-4:30PM
October 22	Holiday Inn Arena Binghamton, NY	8:30AM - 12:00PM	1:00PM-4:30PM
October 25	Buffalo/Niagara Marriott Buffalo, NY	8:30AM - 12:00PM	1:00PM-4:30PM

The training curriculum has been tailored to expressly address the work of the front-line local district workers in their interaction with Medicaid Applicants/Recipients (A/Rs) with disabilities. The training is designed to offer local district staff the skills and problem-solving techniques that can help them work effectively and efficiently in partnership with their A/Rs who have disabilities.

Each local district is encouraged to send at least two staff members to the half-day training. However, we can accommodate as many staff as districts wish to send. Travel expenses to and from the training will be reimbursed via State voucher. Written instructions for reimbursement of travel expenses will be distributed at the training.

To register your staff for the Disability Awareness Training nearest you, e-mail (preferable) or call:

Margi Trapani  
Director, Communications & Education  
Center for Independence of the Disabled  
New York, New York  
212 674-2300 ext. 130  
[mtrapani@cidny.org](mailto:mtrapani@cidny.org)

Please contact Ms. Trapani as soon as possible. Registration closes for the September dates on September 21, 2004. Registration for the October date closes on October 8, 2004.

Any questions concerning the training may be directed to Vigi Taveras at (518) 473-5330.