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New complex will join programs for disabled

*Construction on Community
Resources for Developmentally
Disabled building
should take 18 months*

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Community Resources for the Developmentally Disabled signed closing papers last week on the purchase of two plots of land for two new buildings, a large new school and headquarters in Travis and a smaller preschool in Richmond.

Construction is expected to begin within weeks on a 44,000-square-foot building at 3450 Victory Blvd. at the intersection with Signs Road, across the street from Nansen Park.

The new facility will enable the agency, formerly known as Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children Inc., to consolidate programs and offices from three buildings.

The administrative offices, now on Forest Avenue in West Brighton, the Day Treatment Center now on Seaview Avenue, Ocean Breeze and the Vocational Training Center, now on Bay Street in Tompkinsville will all move to the new building when it is ready in about a year and a half.

Work also is about to start on a new home for the agency's Joan P. Hodum Early Learning Center, a pre-school for developmentally delayed or disabled 2-to 5-year-olds that will be located at 3651 Richmond Rd., a few hundred feet north of St. Patrick's Place.

Both new buildings are being financed with a 30-year, \$13 million loan from the Industrial Development Agency of New York City. The agency will hold a separate fund-raising campaign to furnish and equip the buildings.

The new buildings will mean the non-profit agency can move out of three leased buildings, saving them the cost of real estate taxes and heating and air conditioning for the aging locations they now occupy, according to Dana Magee,