



INDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER JULY 2022

ECI Operational Plan

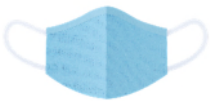
ECI recognizes the seriousness and effect that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) can have on people we work with. So that ECI staff and participants stay safe, we have established the following operational plan:

1. In observance of Independence Day, ECI is closed on Monday, July 4, 2022.
2. ECI's office will be open for scheduled appointments only.
3. You can call and speak with your IL Coordinator about scheduling an appointment to discuss your goals.
4. ECI staff continue to be available by phone and e-mail, Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.
5. ECI will be holding a few in-person group activities.
6. ECI's will update the Facebook page, website, and newsletter to reflect this policy and any changes.

Independent Living Skills Training Planning for your Own Apartment

Join us on **Tuesday, July 12, 2022 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm** to learn how to complete a checklist of goals and actions needed to start the process of planning your move to your own home. For more information, and to register, ECI participants should contact **Travis Webb** by phone at **757-351-1574** or by email at **twebb@endependence.org**. Please inform Travis Webb no later than Friday, July 8, if you plan to attend.

Masks & At-Home COVID-19 Self-Testing Kits Available at ECI



If you are in need of a N95 particulate respirator mask and / or an at-home COVID-19 self-testing kit, ECI participants can contact their coordinator to make arrangements to come to the Center for pick up. **Supplies are limited**, so contacting your coordinator will ensure that ECI has masks and testing kits available before coming to the Center.

ECI would like to thank Glenda McMurtrie of Southeastern Virginia Health System, Newport News, VA for generously making available to ECI the N95 particulate respirator masks and at-home COVID-19 self-testing kits.



Americans with Disability Act

Because of the ADA, access and inclusion are the standard, not just a nice idea.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) turns 32 this July 26, 2022. It is hard to believe that 32 years ago, access was something we fought for and, in some ways, we are still fighting to achieve. Often times when we talk about the ADA, we sum it up with ADA=Access. However, it is so much more. The ADA is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in many circumstances and it breaks down these circumstances into five main parts they call titles:

- Title 1- Employment
- Title 2- Public Services
- Title 3- Public Accommodations
- Title 4- Telecommunications
- Title 5- Other provisions not covered in the previous 4

For people with or without a disability, it is important to understand what the passing of this law means. ECI employee, **Rena Lewis**, remembers what it was like before the ADA passed.

One of the issues for me growing up as a person with a disability was going to school. Schools did not have to educate any child with a disability. If you had a disability, they could just say no.

Getting employment was difficult for me, too. It was legal for employers to ask if you had a disability, the type of disability, and how you were affected by your disability. They could even ask for a doctor's note explaining it. Very often, employers told me that they would not hire me because they were concerned for my safety. More often, employers just turned me down. So many things kept people with disabilities from working. For instance, there were buildings I could not enter or exit. I was unable to sit in or get out of certain chairs. There were steps I could not climb. Once I disclosed having seizures, or that I was born with Cerebral Palsy, ***what I could do faded away.***

People can now get help in understanding the ADA. The Mid Atlantic ADA is one recourse.

When the ADA passed, people with disabilities were asking for the same rights and access as people without disabilities. We are asking for equal rights and access to schools, businesses, public programs, education and employment.

ADA defines who an individual with a disability is:

- a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- a person who has a history or a record of such an impairment; or
- is perceived by others as having such an impairment.

If you would like to learn more about the Americans with Disabilities Act, please reach out to the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center at <https://www.adainfo.org/ada-information> or the Endependence Center for more information.

Upcoming Local Job Fairs and Hiring Events

Super Tuesday Virtual Hiring Event

Date: July 12, 2022

Time: 10am-12pm

Online Virtual Event

To register:

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/xXjvV8>

Tidewater Staffing Job Fair

Date: July 13, 2022

Time: 10am-1pm

Address: 157 N. Main Street, Suffolk, VA

- Reach Truck Operators
- Unloaders/Loaders
- Stock/Cherry Picker Operators
- Forklift drivers

Corporate Gray Virtual Military-Friendly Job Fair

Date: July 22, 2022

Time: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Online Virtual Event

For more information:

<https://www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/451>

Huntington Ingalls/Newport News Virtual Recruitment Event

Date: July 27, 2022

Time: 10am - 2pm

Online Virtual Event

To register:

<https://app.premiervirtual.com/events/246e460c-c8ce-45cf-bb50-bff591c2fdce/huntington-ingalls-newport-news-shipbuilding-virtual-recruiting-event-may-25th/attendee>

For more information about upcoming job fairs, visit <https://www.vec.virginia.gov/node/14321>.

Reach out to ECI's Employment Network contact, **Carol Robinson**, at **757-351-1570** or crobinson@endependence.org if you are interested in employment assistance.

State Cooling Program

The State Cooling program will open June 15, 2022. Eligible customers should apply for State Cooling prior to applying for General EnergyShare.

State Cooling – Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS):

Benefit: \$600.00 maximum

Application: June 15 – August 15, 2022

Eligibility: Customers must meet income requirements, and the household must include one vulnerable individual age (60 or older, disabled or under the age of six).

Pre-approvals will occur this year. Pre-approved customers will receive a payment of \$600 on their account soon.

Please visit VDSS website for more information: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/>





Disability Advocacy & Services

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Norfolk, VA 23502

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(757) 461-5375

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Website:

www.endeppendence.org

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request by contacting
757-351-1575**

Check the ECI website at
<https://endeppendence.org/upcoming-events/> for any changes to the
schedule or by calling
461-8007, Option 4

To request an
accommodation,
757-351-1598 Voice,
757-461-7527 TDD
or
jbertsch@endeppendence.org

ECI is on Facebook.
You can access it two
different ways

1. Go to www.endeppendence.org and click on the “like” lower right section near “Find us on Facebook.”
2. Go to your personal Facebook page, and in the search box, look for **Endeppendence Center, Inc. – Norfolk, Virginia**
You must click the “like” button.



<https://endeppendence.org/upcoming-events/>



ECI is on Twitter @ECINorfolk