

ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2022

ECI Operational Plan

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

1. ECI's office will be open for scheduled appointments only.
2. You can call and speak with your IL Coordinator about scheduling an appointment to discuss your goals.
3. ECI staff will continue to be available by phone and e-mail, Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm.
4. ECI will be holding a few in-person group activities.
5. ECI will update our Facebook page, website, and newsletter to reflect this policy and any changes.

ECI is closed on Monday, October 10, 2022 in observance of Columbus Day.

IL Skills Training

The topic for Independent Living Skills Training for October is the Regional Housing Crisis Hotline.

- Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2022
- Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm
- Place: Endeppendence Center, Inc., 6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23502

For more information, and to register, ECI participants should contact **Travis Webb** by phone at **757-351-1574** or by email at **twebb@endeppendence.org**. Please inform Travis Webb no later than Friday, October 7 if you plan to attend.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The desire to educate the public that people with disabilities can work began in 1945 when congress enacted Public Law 176, which declared the first week of October each year as National Employ the Physically Handicapped week. In 1962, the word physically was removed from the title, as it was realized that people with a variety of disabilities could work. Twenty five years later, Congress expanded the week to a month and designated October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Each year, a theme is chosen to educate the community about how people with disabilities can be an asset to the workforce. This year's theme is **Disability: Part of the Equity Equation** and the goal is to highlight the important role that people with disabilities play in a diverse and inclusive American workforce.

ECI understands this role and wants to work to assist any person with a disability with understanding the Americans with Disability Act Title 1 on Employment. Resources are available to help individuals with disabilities obtain employment, but to also learn about work place accommodations and assistive technologies that are available to help with performing necessary job duties. If you are interested in employment services, please contact **ECI at 757-461-8007**.

Americans with Disabilities Act Training

October 25, November 22 and December 15

The Advocacy Group focus for the next three months will be training about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These trainings are in person and all ECI participants are welcome to attend. The dates and topics are as follows:

- October 25 – employment
- November 22 – state and local government programs
- December 15 – public accommodations such as stores, theaters and restaurants

These three ADA trainings will be held at the Endependence Center from 1:00pm to 2:30pm.

Please register before the training. There will be suggested readings before each session to prepare attendees to participate in the training. Material to read before each training will be sent to those who register. To register, and to request accommodations, please contact **Tammy Manno at 757-351-1586 or tmano@endependence.org**.

Special Education Training Opportunity

The Virginia Department of Education has partnered with Old Dominion University to offer self-paced training for teachers and administrators. This training provides information on special education compliance. Topics include Introduction to Special Education Law, Eligibility, Management of Student Records, Progress Reporting, and Transition. To access the training, please visit: <https://www.odu.edu/cdse/resources/spedlawmodules>

Hampton Roads Fall Career Fair

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and the Endependence Center, the Hampton Roads Workforce Council, and other regional partners are planning the Hampton Roads Fall Career Fair.

Hampton Roads Fall Career Fair

October 25, 2022

10:00am - 3:00pm

Norfolk Scope

201 E Brambleton Ave in Norfolk

The Career Fair is in the planning stage. Please check back at our website www.endependence.org for information and updates about sponsors, employers, and how to register for the career fair.

Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting

ECI Board of Directors appoints the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is made up of active ECI participants. The CAC works on a consumer satisfaction survey each year to get feedback from participants about ECI services and reports to the Board with suggestions.

The meeting will be held in person at ECI on **Monday, October 31, 2022** from 2:00pm – 3:00pm and is open to all participants. **Please call Rena Lewis at (757) 351-1578 for more information.**

ECI Consumer Satisfaction Survey

Your feedback is important! It helps ECI to improve services and to determine what we might offer in the future.

Please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey.

There are several ways to complete the Survey:

- Online from the ECI website at <https://endependence.org/feedback/>
- Contact your ECI Coordinator
- All participants who received services last year will receive a Consumer Satisfaction Survey in the mail with a Business Reply Envelope so that the completed survey can be sent back to us

If you need assistance to complete this survey, contact Rena Lewis at rlewis@endependence.org or 351-1578. The surveys are confidential. You do not have to give your name. We look forward to getting your feedback.

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.



**Disability Advocacy
& Services**

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Website:

www.endeppendence.org

**Alternate formats of this
the newsletter is available upon
request by contacting
757-351-1575**

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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.**

**Group meetings
are in person or virtual**

**[https://endeppendence.org/
upcoming-events/](https://endeppendence.org/upcoming-events/)**



ECI is on Twitter @ECINorfolk