

ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 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 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.
6. **ECI is closed on Friday, November 11, 2022 in observance of Veterans Day.**
7. **ECI is closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving.**

Endeppendence Center, Inc. Invites You to Our Annual Holiday Party

Winter Wonderland

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

12:00pm to 4:00pm

at

Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk Hotel & Conference Center

5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

This party is open to current and former center participants only. Cost is \$5.00, which is payable at the door by cash or check/checkcard. There will be food, music, pictures, karaoke, door prizes and dancing! Please RSVP no later than Friday, December 2, 2022 with Sarah Bailey at 757-351-1585 or sbailey@endeppendence.org. For TDD, call 757-461-7527. We look forward to seeing you at the party!

To help keep everyone healthy, party attendees will have their temperature taken and will complete a COVID -19 questionnaire prior to entering the ballroom.

Independent Living Skills Training

Topic: Tenant Based Rental Assistance

When: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Time: 2:00pm to 3:00pm

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, November 4, 2022 if you plan to attend.

Americans with Disabilities Act Training: November 22 and December 15

The Advocacy Group focus for the next two 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:

- November 22 – Employment
- December 15 – Public Accommodations such as stores, theaters and restaurants

These two 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. Materials will be sent to those who register before each training. To register, and to request accommodations, please contact **Tammy Manno at 757-351-1586 or tmano@endependence.org**.

Upcoming Election: What You Need to Know and How to Vote

This year, 2022, is a general election year for Virginia's US House of Representatives, along with some local offices and referendums. Election Day is **November 8, 2022 and you can vote in person from 6am-7pm**. The last day to vote early is November 5, 2022 by 5pm.

You can check your voter registration, or register to vote, by visiting the Department of Elections Citizen Portal at <http://elections.Virginia.gov/citizen-portal/>. You can also update your voter registration, apply to vote absentee, view your polling place and see what is on the ballot for the upcoming election.

A list of the 2022 candidates can be found at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/>

Information on accessible voting in Virginia can be found at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/accessible-voting/>

Voters must present acceptable forms of identification prior to voting. A detailed list of acceptable photo IDs can be found at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/voter-id/outreach-materials/documents/Voter-Identification-Chart-Rev-4-28-21.pdf>

Can I still vote if I forgot my ID? YES! If you get to your polling place without acceptable ID, you can sign an ID statement affirming your identity, and you will be able to vote a regular ballot. If you do not sign an ID statement to affirm your identity, you may vote a provisional ballot. You will be provided instructions to ensure your vote will count.

Marketing Your Own Resume

On Saturday, November 5 youth and adult participants will learn how to market their resumes. This is an in-person event that will be held at ECI from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Email Tiara Lassiter at tlassiter@endependence.org or Sarah Bailey at sbailey@endependence.org.

CALLING ALL YOUTH

Are you a youth participant between the ages of 16-24, who have either participated in last summer's YEA or any past Road 2 Independence sessions? If so, we want your participation in this year's ILS curriculum. An in-person brainstorming session will be held 1:30pm-3:30pm on Saturday November 19th in the upstairs conference room. Please RSVP by 11/14 to Sarah Bailey at sbailey@endependence.org or call/text at 757-510-2772.

Regional SEAC Meeting at ECI

The Regional SEAC Meeting will be held at ECI on November 19 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. You can attend in-person or by Zoom.

To join by Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UwnB_5LERpCPB0z7L0LpHg

HRT Offering a New Service

An information session will be held on Monday, November 14 from 1:00-2:30pm at ECI.

Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) is testing a new service for paratransit certified riders. This would be an on-demand service that could be provided on the same day that you request the ride. This is different from paratransit.

Keith Johnson from HRT will be at the Endependence Center on November 14 at 1:00pm to provide information on this service and to answer your questions.

If you need accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact Tammy Manno at 757-351-1586, tmanno@endependence.org by November 10.

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/>
- 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.



**Disability Advocacy
& Services**

Endeppendence Center, Inc.
6300 East Virginia Beach Blvd
Norfolk, VA 23502

Phone:

(757) 461-8007 Voice
(757) 461-7527 TDD

Fax:

(757) 455-8223 or
(757) 461-5375

E-mail:

ecinorf@endeppendence.org

Website:

www.endeppendence.org

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, VA
Permit No. 102**

Place label here

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