

ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

ECI Operational Plan

Independence 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 December 23rd and 26th, 2022 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Independence 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/check card. 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@endependence.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.

December 3rd is International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) on 3 December was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

The 2022 global observance to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be around the overarching theme of innovation and transformative solutions for inclusive development covering in three different interactive dialogues.

- **Innovation for disability inclusive development in employment:** the linkages between employment, knowledge and skills required to access employment in an innovative, rapidly changing technological landscape to all and how assistive technologies can increase accessibility to employment and be mainstreamed in the workplace.
- **Innovation for disability inclusive development in reducing inequality:** innovations, practical tools and good practices to reduce inequalities in both public and private sectors, which are disability inclusive and interested in promoting diversity in the workplace.
- **Innovation for disability inclusive development: sport as an exemplar case:** a sector where all of these aspects coalesce; sport as a good practice example and a site of innovation, employment and equity.

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.

HRT Discussion
Friday, December 9, 2022
2:00pm - 3:00pm
Endeppendence Center, 6300 E Virginia Beach Blvd, Norfolk

You are welcome to participate in a discussion with Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), Norfolk Councilwoman McClellan and the Endeppendence Center about public transportation in the City of Norfolk. You will have an opportunity to talk about what works well and what suggestions you have to improve public transportation in Norfolk.

Disability accommodations will be provided.

Please contact **Tammy Manno, 757-351-1586** or **tmano@endeppendence.org** to request an accommodation.

Cancellation

The December 13, 2022 Independent Living Skills Training has been cancelled.

The next Independent Living Skills Training will be Tuesday, January 10, 2023 from 2:00-3:30pm at the Endeppendence Center. The January training will focus on issues to consider when selecting a roommate.

Postponed Event

The December 15, 2022 Advocacy Group ADA training has been postponed.

It will not be held in December. The training has been changed to Tuesday, February 21, 2023 2:00-3:30pm at the Endeppendence Center.



**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**

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Check the ECI website at
**[https://endeppendence.org/
upcoming-events/](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 Facebook image at the top of the page on the right side.
2. Go to your personal Facebook page, and in the search box, look for **Endeppendence Center, Inc. – Norfolk, Virginia**

**Group meetings
are in person or virtual**

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



**ECI is on Twitter
@ECINorfolk**