

# ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER – July 2023



## Celebrating our Civil Rights The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

### *A message from ECI Board President, Lisbet Dula*

A little American history....Women got the right to vote in America in 1920, after a long suffrage movement of educating legislators, holding rallies, marches and various acts of civil disobedience. Even then, not all women were given this right. African American women and other minority women were left out at first. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 began providing rights and protection for all citizens to vote, including allowing persons with disabilities to select a person to assist us to cast our vote. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 declared that discrimination based on race, religion, national origin and gender was no longer allowed - no separation in where you could sit in a restaurant or on a bus, and gave protections against employment discrimination. However, people with disabilities were not part of this protection.

Our turn came in 1973 with Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, which required that any program or service receiving federal funding be accessible. Yet, this only covered what was federally funded. What about everything else? Shopping malls, stores, state and local courts and government, non-federally funded hospitals, city sidewalks, doctor offices, rec centers, hotels, etc. etc. etc? All the places people may want to or need to go during their daily lives still legally did not have to be accessible to people with disabilities.

Many, many advocates and disability organizations across America successfully fought for and won passage of the ADA. This was done through rallies, marches, educating legislators, and various acts of civil disobedience over a period of years. Finally in 1990, we had our own civil rights law! The whole community opened up to us when the ADA was passed. We fought hard to get these rights, and we use them every day in all our activities and in working toward our goals. This is something to celebrate!!! This is our independence! Take time to learn about your ADA rights and then tell others. The anniversary of the signing of the ADA is July 26. How will you celebrate our independence day???


*If you would like to learn more about the Americans with Disabilities Act, please come to the July 26 Advocacy Group Meeting.*

## **ECI Employment Fair**

The ECI Employment Program is partnering with the Hampton Roads Workforce Council to help people with disabilities to obtain employment. For questions, to register, or to request an accommodation, contact Maureen Chappell at [mchappell@endependence.org](mailto:mchappell@endependence.org) or 757-351-1587.

**An Employment Fair** will be held on July 13 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Hampton Roads Workforce Council, 861 Glenrock Road, Suite 114, in Norfolk. Meet with employers who are excited to hire and are offering on-the-spot interviews! **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

# July 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4 <b>ECI Closed for Fourth of July</b>	5	6	7
10 <b>Summer YEA Program Starts!  at ECI 1:00pm – 5:00pm</b>	11	12	13	14 <b>ECI Board Meeting  at ECI 12noon – 3:00pm</b>
17	18 <b>Participant Led Event* Outback Steakhouse Virginia Beach.  12noon – 2:30pm</b>	19 <b>ILS Training Driving  at ECI 2:00pm – 3:30pm</b>	20	21
24	25	26 <b>Advocacy Group Anniversary of the ADA  at ECI  1:00pm – 3:30pm</b>	27	28
31			<p><i>*The July 18 event is organized by participants. ECI staff will not be present. Bus and paratransit tickets will not be provided by ECI.</i></p> <p><i>Outback Steakhouse is located at 1255 Fordham Drive, Virginia Beach.</i></p>	

# JULY 2023

## ENDEPENDENCE CENTER, INC. (ECI) EVENTS

HELD AT ECI, 6300 E. VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD, NORFOLK

**14<sup>th</sup> ECI Board Meeting 1:00pm– 3:00pm at ECI**

**FRI** The Endependence Center Board of Directors meets every other month. Meetings are open to the public.

**19<sup>th</sup> Independent Living Skills Training: Driving 2:00pm - 3:30pm at ECI**

**WED** Learn about how to prepare for taking the learner's permit test, what assessments you might need to take driving classes, and other steps you can take to get your driver license.

**26th Advocacy Group: Anniversary of the ADA 1:00pm - 3:30pm at ECI**

**WED** The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990. Join us for a discussion about progress made and what more advocates can do to improve access and integration.

## Summer Youth Program Youth Endependent Advocates! (YEA!)

**WHO:** Youth with disabilities ages 16-24

**WHAT:** Independent Living Skills Training, Goal Planning, Advocacy, Work Readiness, and Social Interaction. Interactive events will give youth with disabilities a chance to learn new skills, learn about their rights, and to socialize with others. Participants should be motivated to be involved in activities with others and interested in learning and sharing.

**WHEN:** July 10 – August 4 Monday-Thursday each week 1:00pm – 5:00pm each day

**WHERE:** Endependence Center, 6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd, Norfolk  
One event a week will be at a different community location.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Participants will arrange their own transportation. Paratransit and bus tickets provided.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Accommodations for disability will be provided. Request when registering.

**REGISTRATION:** Pre-registration required. Registration open until July 6. Must be referred by a Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services counselor. Session will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

**CONTACT:** Sarah Cook, [scook@endependence.org](mailto:scook@endependence.org), 757-351-1585



Disability Advocacy & Services

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## Schedule Changes

Check the ECI website:  
[www.endeppendence.org](http://www.endeppendence.org)  
or call  
757-461-8007, option 4

## Accommodations

To request accommodations  
for ECI activities:  
757-351-1586 voice  
757-461-7527 TDD  
tmano@endeppendence.org

## Social Media

**Facebook:** Endeppendence  
Center, Inc.-Norfolk, Virginia  
**Twitter** @ECINorfolk