

ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Held annually, National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the many contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "Advancing Access and Equity."

In 2022, about 21 percent of people with a disability in the U.S. were employed, up from about 19 percent in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This is still an incredibly low number. But, as we work together to support the employment goals of people with disabilities, these numbers can only grow.

ECI offers employment support to persons with disabilities via the Ticket to Work program, as well as benefits counseling. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.endependence.org>.

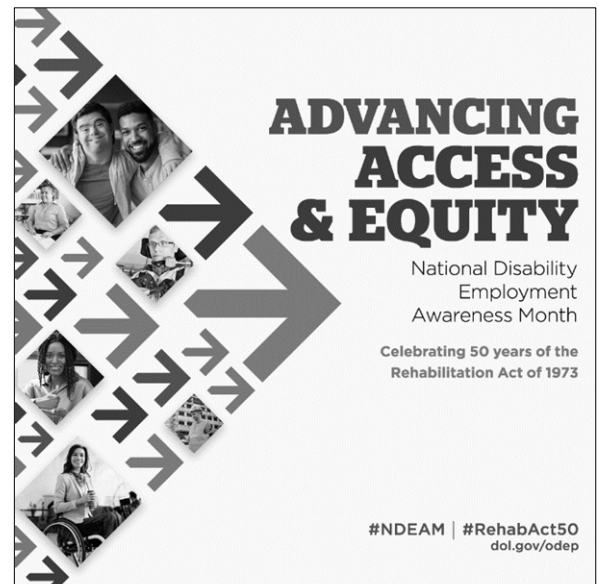
"National Disability Employment Awareness Month reminds us of the valued contributions people with disabilities make in our nation's workplaces, and the 50th anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 marks a major milestone in our nation's ongoing quest to advance access and equity for all Americans." - Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy, Taryn M. Williams.

Voter Registration Information

Election Day is November 7. For more information and to make a plan to vote, visit <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>.

IFSP Funding Announcement

Beginning Monday, October 16, individuals on Virginia's Medicaid Developmental Disability Waivers Waiting List will be able to access the Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) Funding Portal to submit an application. Applications will be available until November 14 at 5:00pm. There will also be virtual trainings to assist individuals and families completing applications. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** For more details, visit <https://dbhds.virginia.gov/developmental-services/ifsp/>.



OCTOBER 2023

Endeppendence Center, Inc. Events

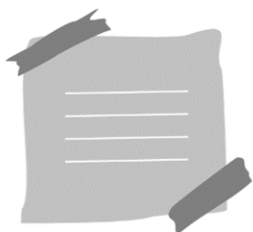
Held at ECI, 6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd, Norfolk

- 4TH WED** **Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) 2:00pm – 3:30pm**
Agenda is to review the results of the CAC participant satisfaction survey and discuss recommendations to the ECI Board.
- 17TH TUE** **Back to School Information Session 6:30pm – 7:30pm**
For youth and young adults with disabilities, parents, and special education stakeholders to learn about programs and supports for transition-age youth. The following topics will be covered: VBThrive; Medicaid home and community-based waivers for support; employment services; and transition services.
- 18TH WED** **Independent Living Skills Training: Goal Setting 2:00pm – 3:30pm**
By recording your dreams and goals on paper, you set in motion the process of becoming the person you want to be. Goal setting refers to the process of setting specific, attainable targets. Learn why goal setting is so important in life and how to do it.
- 21ST SAT** **Youth Independent Living Skills Training: Handling Stress and Communication Skills 1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Learn about how to manage stress and communicate with others.
- 25TH WED** **Advocacy Group 2:00pm – 3:30pm**
Planning for advocacy to address program access issues with local government programs.

Community Events & News

Transportation tickets are NOT provided to attend community events.

- 6TH FRI** **Silent Dinner 5:00pm – 8:00pm**
Lynnhaven Mall (701 Lynnhaven Parkway, Virginia Beach)
Southside Silent Dinner is a silent, social, family-friendly event for the deaf community, CODA (Child of Deaf Adult), ASL beginners and students, and others interested in ASL.
- 17TH TUES** **Participant-Led Event 12noon – 2:30pm**
Smokey Bones (4590 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach)
This event is organized by participants.




Reminder:

If you haven't yet, don't forget to complete your Consumer Satisfaction Survey received via mail or email. If you have not received a survey, visit endeppendence.org/feedback.

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National Disability Employment Awareness Month



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Consumer Advisory Committee @ ECI 2:00pm – 3:30pm	5	6 Silent Dinner* @ Lynnhaven Mall 5:00pm – 8:00pm	7
8	9 <i>ECI CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF COLUMBUS DAY</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Back to School Information Session @ ECI 6:30pm – 7:30pm *** Participant-Led Event* @ Smokey Bones, Virginia Beach 12noon – 2:30pm	18 ILS Training: Goal Setting @ ECI 2:00pm – 3:30pm	19	20	21 Youth ILS Training Handling Stress & Communication Skills @ ECI 1:30pm – 3:00pm
22	23	24	25 Advocacy Group @ ECI 2:00pm – 3:30pm	26	27	28
29	30	31 	<i>*These events are not organized by ECI. Bus and paratransit tickets will not be provided by ECI.</i>			



Disability Advocacy & Services

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Norfolk, VA 23502

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E-Mail:

ecinorf@endependence.org

Website:

www.endependence.org

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ehoapili@endependence.org

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Schedule Changes

Check the ECI website:
www.endependence.org
or call
(757) 461-8007, option 4

Accommodations

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

Social Media

Facebook: Endeppendence
Center, Inc.-Norfolk, Virginia