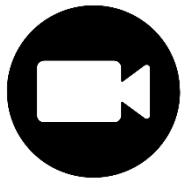


ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025



New! Attend Independent Living Skills Trainings via Zoom in 2025

A new virtual option is available to attend Independent Living Skills trainings via Zoom. Registration links can be found on Upcoming Events on the ECI website, or visit <https://endependence.org/zoom> for a list of all upcoming ECI events with virtual options. Clicking the event you want to attend will take you to the event's information and a button to register. For more information, speak with your coordinator.

Waiting for a Home: The Journey for Accessible Housing

What are your housing needs? Do local housing plans include strategies and goals to build affordable housing for people who receive SSI? Please join us at the next ILS training on February 19 from 2:00 to 3:30pm to find out how you can let city planning departments know about your housing needs. We will talk about schedules for public meetings to be held by your city and by the public housing agency during the planning process, and how you can send in your comments. Public housing agencies are required to submit these plans to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Come learn how to use your voice to let public housing agencies know about your housing needs.



"There just isn't enough affordable, accessible housing.

Even if you have a Section 8 voucher, you have to work very hard to find housing: you have a limited time frame, even with extensions. It may be hard to reach your case worker with the Housing Authority. The voucher may reduce your rent, but the costs keep going up. A lot of places claim to be "accessible" but aren't—not all first-floor units are accessible. People with disabilities are different and we all have different needs. There's no one-size fits all.

It's important to build more accessible housing, so people do not have to struggle for so long to find a home. As an advocate, I'm speaking to legislators and local leaders to share our challenges and to push for change."

- CeeCee Simmons, ECI Board Member.

FEBRUARY 2025

Endeppendence Center, Inc. Events

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

- 5th WED** **Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**
This month we'll discuss the results of the Participant Satisfaction survey and review what we did in 2024.
- 19th WED** **Independent Living Skills Training: Housing Needs** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**
What are your housing needs? Do local housing plans include strategies and goals to build affordable housing for people who receive SSI? Please join us at the next ILS training on February 19 from 2:00 to 3:30pm to find out how you can let city planning departments know about your housing needs. We will talk about schedules for public meetings to be held by your city and by the public housing agency during the planning process; and how you can send in your comments.
- 22nd SAT** **Youth Group Independent Living Skills Training** **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
The Youth Group will be creating a vision board on setting goals for 2025. Please RSVP to Amy Ouellette at 757-351-1597 or aouellette@endeppendence.org. We are looking forward to a year of fun, learning and advocacy.
- 25th TUE** **Independent Living Skills Training on Podcasts: "What's Bugging You?"** **3:00pm - 4:30pm**
Our next episode topic is set, now let's fine-tune the discussion points to share meaningful conversations and inspiring stories.
- 26th WED** **Group Peer Mentoring** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**
The monthly Group Peer Mentoring Discussion is an opportunity for participants to share experiences, provide information, and support one another to accomplish their goals.

Community Events & News

Transportation tickets are NOT provided to attend community events.

- 7th FRI** **Silent Dinner** **5:30pm - 8:00pm**
The Burger Bar by Wegman's (4721 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach)
All are welcome! Come meet the Deaf Community, ASL-English interpreters, ASL students, CODA (Child of Deaf Adult), signers, and others interested in ASL.
- 8th SAT** **ASL Hangout** **6:00pm - 9:00pm**
MoMac Brewing Co (3228 Academy Ave., Portsmouth)
The ASL Hangout goal is to bring deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people together to socialize and expand the ASL/deaf community. All users of sign language, any level, are welcome!
- 15th SAT** **TOUCH Group** **11:00am - 1:00pm**
Come and join us to share your ideas on Taking Advantages of Opportunities. We hope you can join us for a great discussion on how an opportunity may change your life.

February 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>*This event is not organized by ECI and bus and paratransit tickets will not be provided. There will be no Participant-Led Event in February.</i></p>						1
2	3	<p>IL Day</p> <p>@ General Assembly 8:20am – 6:00pm</p>	<p>Consumer Advisory Committee</p> <p>@ ECI 2:00pm – 3:30pm</p>	6	<p>Silent Dinner*</p> <p>@ The Burger Bar 5:30pm – 8:00pm</p>	<p>ASL Hangout*</p> <p>@ MoMac Brewing 6:00pm – 9:00pm</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	<p>TOUCH Group*</p> <p>@ ECI 11:00am – 1:00pm</p>
16	<p>ECI CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S DAY</p>	18	<p>ILS Training: Housing Needs</p> <p>@ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm</p>	20	21	<p>Youth Group ILS Training</p> <p>@ ECI 1:30pm – 3:00pm</p>
23	24	<p>ILS Training on Podcasts: "What's Bugging You?"</p> <p>@ ECI 3:00pm - 4:30pm</p>	<p>Group Peer Mentoring</p> <p>@ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm</p>	27	28	



Disability Advocacy & Services

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

Phone:

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

E-Mail:

ecinorf@endependence.org

Website:

www.endependence.org

Newsletter alternate format:

contact (757) 351-1598 or
ehoapili@endependence.org

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Schedule Changes

Check the ECI website:
www.endependence.org

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