

# ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2025

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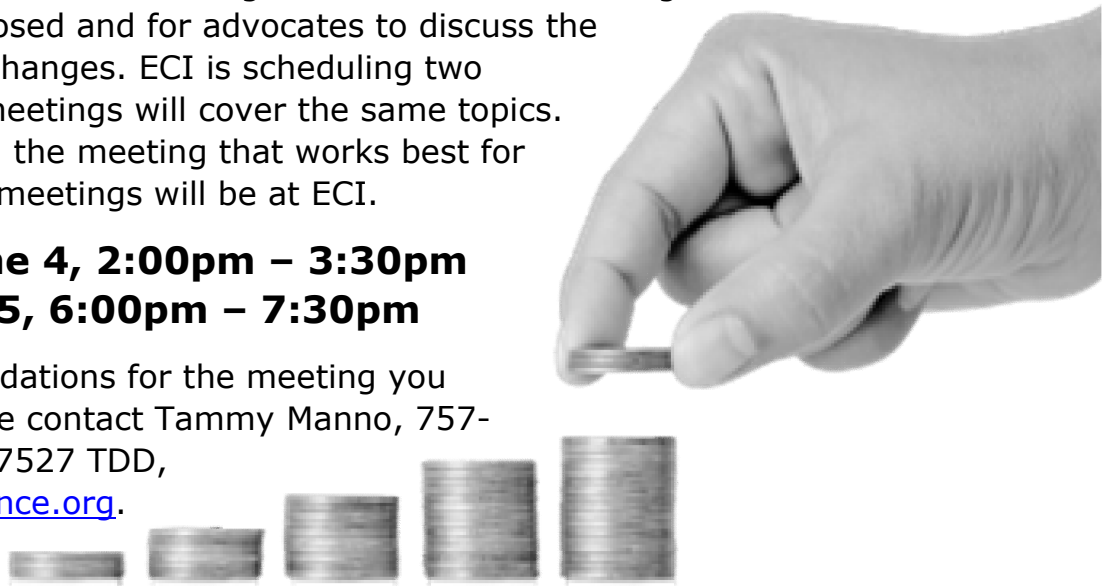
### Federally Funded Programs

The federal Administration and the U.S. Congress continue efforts to develop a new federal budget for the funding year beginning October 1, 2025. Details continue to be developed. ECI will hold two meetings to discuss federal changes that have been proposed and for advocates to discuss the impact of proposed changes. ECI is scheduling two meetings and both meetings will cover the same topics. Please plan to attend the meeting that works best for your schedule. Both meetings will be at ECI.

**Wednesday, June 4, 2:00pm – 3:30pm**

**Thursday, June 5, 6:00pm – 7:30pm**

To request accommodations for the meeting you plan to attend, please contact Tammy Manno, 757-351-1586, 757-461-7527 TDD, [tmanno@endependence.org](mailto:tmanno@endependence.org).



### Waiting for a Home: The Journey for Accessible Housing

*Since 2019, Ms. Coots has been searching for affordable and accessible housing, applying for public housing and Section 8 with various housing agencies as opportunities arose. But when her opportunity for public housing came up, the floor plans of the properties offered wouldn't accommodate a large-size wheelchair.*

*During her search, she's encountered other dilemmas such as contacting accessible places that were no longer available, finding appropriate housing with rent that was too high for Section 8, being turned down due to her credit score, being placed on interest lists but never receiving notification that a place became available, and a mix-up with housing agency paperwork that wasn't processed. Hospitalizations and illness further interrupted her search. Due to these ongoing issues and despite being awarded extensions, Ms. Coots eventually lost her voucher. Watching her rent increase each year, Ms. Coots became more and more fearful of losing her place, being unable to pay the rent, and not having a place to go.*

*Ms. Coots is currently residing in a nursing home and continues to apply for housing opportunities. She plans to provide public comment on local planning documents and share her housing search challenges.*

# **MAY 2025**

## **Endeppendence Center, Inc. Events**

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

- 14<sup>th</sup> WED**    **Board of Directors Meeting**    **1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
ECI Board of Director meetings are open to the public.
- 21<sup>st</sup> WED**    **Independent Living Skills Training**    **2:00pm - 3:30pm**  
Hampton Roads Transit will be back this month for another ILS training about On Demand Services.
- 27<sup>th</sup> TUE**    **Independent Living Skills Training on Podcasts**    **3:00pm - 4:30pm**  
This month's installment of "What's Bugging You?" will finish all editing for our third episode, and listen to it together before it's released.
- 28<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 31<sup>st</sup> SAT**    **Youth Independent Living Skills Training**    **1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
"Your Group, Your Goals." This month, we're coming together to discuss what your goals are and develop youth group topics for the rest of this year based on what you want to learn.

## **Community Events & News**

*Transportation tickets are NOT provided to attend community events.*


- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 5<sup>th</sup> MON**    **PEATC Community Office Hours**    **10:00am – 1:00pm**  
**Endeppendence Center (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)**  
This is an opportunity for families to visit Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) staff in-person. For questions, call or text PEATC's Region 2 Family Support Specialist at (757) 271-6613 or visit <https://peatc.org>.
- 17<sup>th</sup> SAT**    **TOUCH Group**    **11:00am – 1:00pm**  
**Endeppendence Center (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)**  
Bring your ideas and thoughts on being independent. We look forward to everyone's views on living independently with a disability. For questions, contact Montrell Rodgers at 757-238-1293 or [VATOUGH.22@gmail.com](mailto:VATOUGH.22@gmail.com).



**Coming This Month:** The Consumer Advisory Committee's (CAC) annual ECI Participant Satisfaction Survey will be mailed with return envelopes this month. The survey is provided to active participants to collect information regarding the quality of services you receive from ECI staff. For more information about the survey and how results are compiled, or to complete yours online, visit <https://www.endeppendence.org/feedback>.

# MAY 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.</i></p>				1	2  Silent Dinner*  @ The Burger Bar 5:30pm – 8:00pm	3
4	5  PEATC Community Office Hours*  @ ECI 10:00am – 1:00pm	6	7	8	9	10
11 	12	13	14  Board of Directors Meeting  @ ECI 1:00pm – 3:00pm	15	16	17  TOUCH Group* @ ECI 11:00am – 1:00pm  ASL Hangout* @ Afterglow Brewing 6:00pm – 9:00pm
18	19	20	21  ILS Training: HRT: On Demand  @ ECI 2:00pm – 3:30pm	22	23	24
25	26  <i>ECI Closed in Observance of Memorial Day</i>	27  ILS Training on Podcasts  @ ECI 3:00pm – 4:30pm	28  Group Peer Mentoring  @ ECI 2:00pm – 3:30pm	29	30	31  Youth ILS: Your Group, Your Goals  @ ECI 1:30pm – 3:00pm



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@endeppendence.org](mailto:ecinorf@endeppendence.org)

**Website:**

[www.endeppendence.org](http://www.endeppendence.org)

**Newsletter alternate format:**

contact (757) 351-1598 or  
[ehoapili@endeppendence.org](mailto:ehoapili@endeppendence.org)

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**Schedule Changes**

Check the ECI website:  
[www.endeppendence.org](http://www.endeppendence.org)

**Accommodations**

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

**Social Media**

**Facebook:** Endeppendence  
Center, Inc.-Norfolk, Virginia