

THE ENDEPENDENCE CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Opening Doors to Opportunities

One in Five: A Statewide Candidate Virtual Forum with the Disability Community

Join us virtually on Monday, September 15 at 6:00pm to hear from candidates running for the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General. Candidates will discuss their past work on issues important to the disability community, and their policy plans if elected. We know that collectively, the disability community has the power to enact meaningful change and influence lawmakers and elected leaders to build a more inclusive, more accessible future for Virginia.

Visit <https://endependence.org/zoom> for the registration link. ASL interpretation will be provided. For accommodations, please email Lucy.Beadnell@TheArcofNOVA.org.

This event is brought to you by The Arc Virginia, The Arc of Northern Virginia, the Autism Society of Northern Virginia, and REV UP Virginia!. The Endependence Center will serve as a co-facilitator for this important conversation.

Upcoming Free Virtual Trainings by VACIL

The Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living will hold three virtual trainings in September. Visit <https://www.endependence.org/zoom> for registration links.

Better Off Dead? Disability, Dignity, and the Debate over Assisted Suicide

Monday, September 8 2:00pm – 3:30pm

As states expand the legalization of assisted suicide, the lives of people with disabilities can be jeopardized and devalued. Other countries, including Canada, have legalized assisted suicide for people with disabilities who are living with conditions the person does not feel are acceptable. These countries do not require the individual to have a terminal illness. Assisted suicide (sometimes referred to as medical aid in dying) legislation has been considered by the Virginia General Assembly for several years. Presenter: Seth Whitten, Deputy Director, disAbility Resource Center, Fredericksburg

Technology for People Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or with Speech Disabilities

Tuesday, September 16 10:00am – 11:00am

The Virginia Department for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) offers services, including assistive technology, that can help people increase their communication and independence. This training will provide a review of VDDHH services and technology through the Technology Assistance Program. Presenter: Brittany Howard, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver Services

Tuesday, September 30 2:00pm – 4:00pm

People with disabilities who need support such as personal care, community engagement, and residential support may be eligible to receive Medicaid services through the Medicaid Commonwealth Community Care Plus Waiver or Developmental Disabilities Waivers. Information about eligibility, screening and services will be discussed. Presenter: Maureen Hollowell, Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living.

Training facilitated by the Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living, www.vacil.org. Training provided with funding from the Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council.

EVENT LISTINGS

SEPTEMBER 2025



Statewide Events

These events are held virtually. You can find the registration links at <https://endependence.org/zoom>.

- 8th MON** **Better Off Dead? Disability, Dignity, and the Debate over Assisted Suicide** 2:00pm – 3:30pm
See page one for details.
- 15th MON** **One in Five: A Statewide Candidate Forum** 6:00pm – 7:30 pm
See page one for details.
- 16th TUE** **Technology for People Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or with Speech Disabilities** 10:00am – 11:00am
See page one for details.
- 30th TUE** **Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver Services** 2:00pm – 4:00pm
See page one for details.

ECI Events

Unless noted otherwise, events are held at ECI (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)

- 17th WED** **Board of Directors Meeting** 1:00pm – 3:00pm ***DATE CHANGE***
ECI Board of Director meetings are open to the public.
- 17th WED** **Independent Living Skills Training** 2:00pm - 3:30pm ***VIRTUAL OPTION***
The next installment in our *Health & Wellness* series: physical exercise and mindfulness.
- 24th WED** **Group Peer Mentoring** 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Share experiences, provide information, and support other participants.
- 27th SAT** **Youth Independent Living Skills Training** 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Learn ways to enjoy going online and using social media, and how to stay safe online.
- 30th TUE** **Independent Living Skills Training on Podcasts** 3:00pm - 4:30pm
It's time! This month, we'll record both questions and responses for our next episode.



Community Events & News

Transportation tickets are NOT provided to attend community events.

- 5th FRI** **Silent Dinner** 5:30pm – 8:00pm
Market Hall Dining Pavillion (Norfolk Premium Outlets, 1600 Premium Outlets Blvd., Norfolk)
All are welcome! Come meet the Deaf Community, ASL-English interpreters, ASL students, CODA (Child of Deaf Adult), signers, and others interested in ASL.
- 6th SAT** **TOUCH Group** 11:30am – 2:30pm
Portsmouth City Park, Triple Shelter (7 Cpl J M Williams Ave, Portsmouth)
Come out and join us for a nice picnic at Portsmouth City Park (triple shelter). This picnic will be full of food, games, prizes, and more. For questions, contact Montrell Rodgers at 757-238-1293 or VATOUCH.22@gmail.com.

There will be no PEATC Community Office Hours this month.

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 ECI Closed in Observance of Labor Day	2	3	4	5 Silent Dinner* @ Market Hall Dining Pavillion 5:30pm – 8:00pm	6 Touch Group Picnic* @ Portsmouth City Park 11:30am – 2:30pm
7	8 VACIL Virtual Training: Better Off Dead @ ECI or virtual 2:00pm – 3:30pm	9	10	11	12	13 ASL Hangout* @ Ocean View Fishing Pier 6:00pm – 9:00pm
 NATIONAL DISABILITY VOTING RIGHTS WEEK 						
14	15 One in Five: Statewide Candidate Forum @ ECI or virtual 6:00pm – 7:30pm	16 VACIL Virtual Training: VDDHH Technology @ ECI or virtual 2:00pm – 3:30pm	17 Board Meeting @ ECI 1:00pm – 3:00pm ILS Training: Exercise @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Group Peer Mentoring @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	25	26	27 Youth ILS: Staying Safe Online @ ECI 1:30pm – 3:00pm
28	29	30 VACIL Virtual Training: Waiver Services @ ECI or virtual 2:00pm – 4:00pm ILS Training on Podcasts @ ECI 3:00pm – 4:30pm	<p><i>Events subject to change. Check the ECI website and Facebook for up-to-date information.</i></p> <p>*This event is not organized by ECI; bus and Paratransit tickets will not be provided.</p>			



Disability Advocacy & Services

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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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

Website:

endeppendence.org

Accommodations

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

To request an alternate
format of our newsletter:
(757) 351-1598 voice
(757) 461-7527 TDD
ehoapili@endeppendence.org

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