

THE ENDEPENDENCE CENTER

June 2026 Newsletter

Opening Doors to Opportunities

Paratransit Ticket Process Update for ECI



The Endependence Center wants to make sure participants and community members can continue coming to our programs, meetings, events, and activities. We want to share an important update regarding Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) Paratransit transportation procedures.

HRT recently reminded community partners, such as the Endependence Center, that riders are required to pay their Paratransit fare *when they are picked up for their trip*. This has been HRT's longstanding policy, and it is now being more consistently enforced.

Because of this, ECI is updating how we provide transportation tickets. **Starting in June, if you need tickets to come to ECI, here is how the new process will work:**

1. You will use the one ticket you already have when HRT picks you up to come to ECI.
2. When you are ready to leave ECI, staff will give you two tickets:
 - One ticket to replace the ticket you used to get to ECI
 - One ticket for your ride home

This updated process will help ensure you can continue attending meetings with Independent Living Coordinators, events and workshops, the media room, peer support groups, and other ECI services and activities

If you have questions or need help understanding the new process, please contact ECI staff. We are happy to help.

June 3: Free Paratransit Webinar from Easterseals

On Wednesday, June 3 at 2:00pm until 3:30pm, Easterseals Project Action will host a free webinar: *Innovation, Engagement, and Spontaneity - Yes, We Are Talking About Paratransit Service*. Join Easterseals and national experts for an engaging webinar on new paratransit service models. Learn how these options can improve service for transit agencies while giving riders more choice. You'll hear from disability and transportation leaders about on-demand and rider choice programs, and from riders with disabilities sharing what's working, what's not, and what these new models mean for their daily lives. **Space is limited and registration is required. ECI is registered to attend, and participants are welcome to join us at ECI to watch the webinar.** If you prefer to watch on your own, the link to register can be found at <https://endependence.org/zoom>.

EVENT LISTINGS



JUNE 20206

ECI Events

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

- 10th WED** **Consumer Advisory Committee** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**
The agenda this month is to finalize updates to the Participant Satisfaction Survey.
- 17th WED** **Connect & Grow** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**
Connect & Grow is a fun, welcoming space where ECI participants come together to make connections, share laughs, learn, and grow together as part of our independent living community.
- 24th 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.
- 30th TUE** **Independent Living Skills Training on Podcasts** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**
Our next episode's topic is "Advocacy". This month, we'll interview the staff members we selected at our last meeting.

There will be no Saturday Youth ILS Training this month. We will resume in August with our end of summer ice cream social.

Community Events

Transportation tickets are NOT provided to attend community events.

- 1st MON** **PEATC Community Office Hours** **9:00am - 11:00am**
Independence Center (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)
The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) offers free and confidential services to assist in navigating the special education system. For questions, visit <https://peatc.org> or call (703) 923-0010.
- 3rd WED** **Easterseals Paratransit Webinar** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**
Virtual or Independence Center (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)
See page one for details.
- 10th WED** **HRT Paratransit Advisory Committee** **1:00pm**
TDCHR Norfolk Office (509 East 18th Street, Bldg. 4, Norfolk)
The Paratransit Advisory Committee is a communication link between the Transportation District Commission (TDCHR), persons with disabilities who use or may use HRT's services, and service providers to the disabled community. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, email paratransitdept@hrtransit.org or call (757) 222-6087.
- 16th TUE** **Participant-Led Event** **12noon - 2:30pm**
Cheesecake Factory (265 Central Park Ave., Virginia Beach)
This event is organized by participants.
- 26th FRI** **Participant-Led Women's Group** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**
Independence Center (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)
This month, we'll talk about our goals and future plans for living on our own.

The TOUCH Group is not meeting in June.

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 PEATC Community Office Hours* @ ECI 9:00am – 11:00am	2	3 Easterseals Paratransit Webinar* @ ECI or virtual 2:00pm - 3:30pm	4	5 Silent Dinner* @ Lynnhaven Mall 5:30pm – 8:00pm	6
7	8	9	10 HRT Paratransit Advisory Committee Meeting* @ TDCHR (Norfolk) 1:00pm CAC Meeting @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	11	12	13 ASL Hangout* @ Ocean View Fishing Pier 6:00pm
14	15	16 Participant-Led Event* @ Cheesecake Factory (Virginia Beach) 12noon – 2:30pm	17 Connect & Grow @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	18	19 Juneteenth (ECI Office Closed)	20
21	22	23	24 Group Peer Mentoring @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	25	26 Women's Group* @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	27
28	29	30 ILS Training on Podcasts @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	<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>			

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Disability Advocacy & Services

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(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
tmano@endeppendence.org

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

Facebook



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