

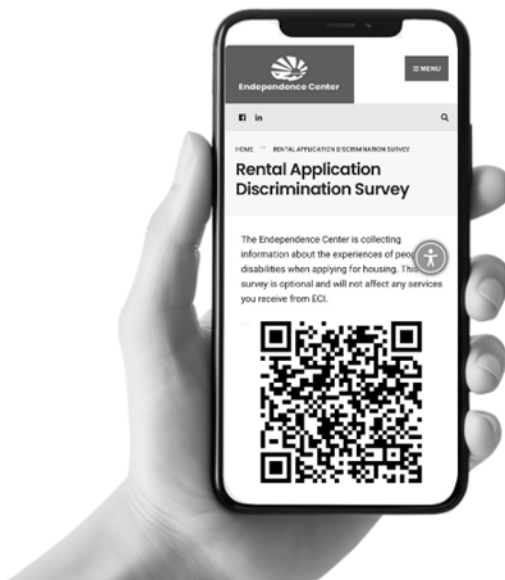
THE ENDEPENDENCE CENTER

October 2026 Newsletter

Opening Doors to Opportunities

Help Us Identify Housing Discrimination: Take the ECI Rental Application Survey

Endedependence Center staff have been working to identify the extent of illegal and unfair incidents and practices that prevent people with disabilities from accessing housing, from the first contact with the landlord to ask about available housing, the rental application itself, or how applications are processed.



To help us collect data on these types of occurrences, we are distributing a Rental Application Discrimination Survey. According to the National Fair Housing Alliance, 54% of fair housing complaints filed in 2024 were on the basis of disability. Our goal is to identify patterns that can be addressed through fair housing education and awareness to landlords to resolve both intentional and unintentional incidents, and assist participants with filing a complaint.

Scan the QR code on the left or visit the ECI website to complete the survey online. Paper versions are available in the ECI lobby or from staff. For assistance with a discriminating housing issue, please include your contact information on the form.

STAFF & PARTICIPANT

**HALLOWEEN
PARTY**

29 | OCTOBER
2:00PM – 3:30PM



October 29: Staff & Participant Halloween Celebration & Costume Contest

ECI will celebrate Halloween with a Staff & Participant Party! Join us for games, snacks, and a costume contest on Thursday, October 29, 2:00pm – 3:30pm. Costumes are not required but encouraged. Costumes can be funny or spooky, but should not be excessively scary, noisy, obscene, or revealing. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP to Justin Johnson by calling 757-351-1592 or emailing jjohnson@endedependence.org.

EVENT LISTINGS



OCTOBER 2026

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

- 7th WED** **Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting** 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Meeting agenda includes discussion of the new Participant Satisfaction Survey.
- 14th WED** **ECI Annual Meeting** 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Registration is required.
- 28th 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.
- 29th THU** **Staff & Participant Halloween Party** 2:00pm - 3:30pm
See page one for details.
- 31st SAT** **Youth Group: Fall Celebration** 1:30pm – 3:00pm
We will be having a fall celebration with activities included! Costumes are not required but encouraged. Costumes can be funny or spooky, but should not be excessively scary, noisy, obscene, or revealing. There is no cost to attend. To RSVP, contact Amy Ouellette at 757-351-1597 or aouellette@endependence.org by no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday, October 28.

Connect & Grow will not meet this month.

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

- 5th MON** **PEATC Community Office Hours** 9:00am – 11:00am
The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) offers free and confidential services to assist in navigating the special education system. For questions, call (703) 923-0010 or visit <https://peatc.org>.
- 14th WED** **HRT Paratransit Advisory Committee** 1:00pm
Hampton Roads Transit (509 East 18th Street, Bldg. 4, Norfolk)
Meetings are free and open to the public in person or via Zoom. For more information, call (757) 222-6087 or e-mail paratransitdept@hrtransit.org.
- 17th SAT** **TOUCH Group** 11:00am – 1:00pm
Endependence Center (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)
Come and join the TOUCH Group for a discussion about making changes and how change affects us. We look forward to your input and your ideas. For questions, contact Montrell Rodgers at 757-238-1293 or VATOUCH.22@gmail.com.
- 20th TUE** **Participant-Led Event** 12noon – 2:30pm
Pinboy's at the Beach (1577 Laskin Road Suite 100, Virginia Beach)
This event is organized by participants.
- 30th FRI** **Participant-Led Women's Group** 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Endependence Center (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)
Discussion this month will be centered on mental health.

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Events subject to change. Check the ECI website and Facebook for up-to-date information. *This event is not organized by ECI; bus and Paratransit tickets will not be provided.				1	2	3
					Silent Dinner* @ Lynnhaven Mall 5:30pm – 8:00pm	ASL Hangout* @ Voodoo Brewing Co 6:00pm – 9:00pm ASL Sip & Sign (Voices Off)* @ Pinup Coffee at Farmhouse 10:00am – 11:00am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	PEATC Community Office Hours* @ ECI 9:00am – 11:00am		CAC Meeting @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	ECI Closed in Observance of Columbus Day		HRT Paratransit Advisory Committee* @ TDCHR (Norfolk) 1:00pm ECI Annual Meeting @ Jordan-Newby Library 2:00pm – 4:00pm			TOUCH Group* @ ECI 11:00am – 1:00pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Participant-Led Event* @ Pinboys (Virginia Beach) 12noon – 2:30pm				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			Group Peer Mentoring @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	Staff & Participant Halloween Party @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	Participant-Led Women's Group* @ ECI 2:00pm - 3:30pm	Youth ILS: Fall Celebration @ ECI 1:30pm – 3:00pm

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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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

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



@ECINorfolk

Endeppendence Center, Inc.
Norfolk Virginia

Support ECI



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donation to ECI via our
website, or visit:
endeppendence.org/donate