

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE

SEPT 2024 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Hawaii Branch

Event #1: Youth Peer Support Group

Description: Access to Independence welcomes all youth between the ages of 14 – 24 who have a disability to join us in this monthly event as we discuss various topics relating to transitioning into adulthood, experiences of living with a disability, coping strategies, and any other issues that you feel are relevant. We hope that you will see this as a safe, non-judgmental environment that can help you along your transition all while making friends in the process. Our program will be filled with guest speakers, skills building, recreational activities, and more in order to serve as a stepping stone for you to achieve your independence and be successful in life.

Date: 9/19/2024

Time: 2:00PM – 4:00PM HST

Location: 200 N Vineyard Blvd, Oahu Conference Room, 5th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96817

Contact: Carolina Riquelme, Information & Assistance Coordinator, 808-369-9521,
criquelme@accesstoindpendence.org

Event #2: Voter Education Presentation

Description: State of Hawaii Office of Elections will be providing a free Voters Education Presentation in preparation for the upcoming General Election. Learn how to register to vote, accessible voting options, and other information regarding voting in Hawaii.

Date: 9/25/2024

Time: 1:00PM – 2:00PM HST

Location: 200 N Vineyard Blvd, Oahu Conference Room, 5th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96817

Contact: Carolina Riquelme, Information & Assistance Coordinator, 808-369-9521,
criquelme@accesstoindpendence.org

Upcoming Events

Event #3: Cross-Disabilities Support Group

Description: The Cross-Disability Support Group embraces individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Our monthly gatherings center on emotional support and social connection. In this welcoming space, consumers share experiences, explore coping strategies, and foster meaningful connections that go beyond boundaries. Expect a supportive community where heartfelt discussions and carefully curated activities foster emotional well-being and social bonds. From personal journeys shared by guest speakers to interactive sessions promoting open dialogue, the Cross-Disability Support Group is a place to find understanding, encouragement, and shared strength. Join us as we create connections that transcend limits, celebrating the diverse tapestry of our collective experiences.

Date: 9/25/2024

Time: 1:00PM - 3:00PM HST

Location: 200 N Vineyard Blvd, Oahu Conference Room, 5th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96817

Contact: Carolina Riquelme, Information & Assistance Coordinator, 808-369-9521, criquelme@accesstoindependence.org

Upcoming Events

Escondido Branch

Event #1: Disability Support Group

Description: Our disability support group aims to provide a platform for people living with disabilities to engage around different topics related to coping, overcoming hurdles, and sharing both positive and negative experiences. We invite our consumers to engage with us in a non-judgmental virtual atmosphere to enjoy a meaningful interaction with a diverse group of individuals!

Date: 9/27/2024 (Every Last Friday of the Month)

Time: 12:30 PM - 3 PM

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave. Ste 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Vivian Radam, ILSC, 619-704-2435, vradam@accesstoindependence.org

Event #2: Voting Advocacy

Description: Come and get information on voting registration, ensure your voting location is fully accessible, and learn about absentee ballot procedures and more!

Date: 9/19/2024 (Every Third Thursday of the Month)

Time: 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave. Ste 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Michaela Jackson, Information & Assistance Coordinator, 619-704-2440 Ext 101, mjackson@accesstoindependence.org

Event #3: Transition & Diversion Program

Description: Are you ready to transition out of a residential medical institution into your own independent home? This program is for you! Let Access to Independence advocate beside you in order to transition into your community successfully!

Date: Call us today to schedule an appointment!

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave. Ste 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Valerie Jex, 619-704-2434, vjex@accesstoindependence.org

Event #4: Benefits Options Counseling Program

Description: This program helps individuals learn about what benefits they are eligible for and navigate the application or appeals process including: Social Security, CalFresh, caregiving services, transportation services, healthcare applications, discounted utilities, and more!

Date: Call us today to schedule an appointment!

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave. Ste 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Vivian Radam, ILSC, 619-704-2435, vradam@accesstoindependence.org

Upcoming Events

San Diego Branch

Event #1: Disability Support Group

Description: Our disability support group aims to provide a platform for people living with disabilities to engage around different topics related to coping, overcoming hurdles, and sharing both positive and negative experiences. We invite our consumers to engage with us in a non-judgmental virtual atmosphere to enjoy a meaningful interaction with a diverse group of individuals!

Date: 9/27/2024 (Every Last Friday of the Month)

Time: 12:30 PM - 3 PM

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave. Ste 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Vivian Radam, ILSC, 619-704-2435, vradam@accesstoindependence.org

Event #2: Voting Advocacy

Description: Come and get information on voting registration, ensure your voting location is fully accessible, and learn about absentee ballot procedures and more!

Date: 9/19/2024 (Every Third Thursday of the Month)

Time: 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave. Ste 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Andrea Christopher, LTSS Coordinator, 619-704-2442, achrsitopher@accesstoindependence.org

Event #3: Transition & Diversion Program

Description: Are you ready to transition out of a residential medical institution into your own independent home? This program is for you! Let Access to Independence advocate beside you in order to transition into your community successfully!

Date: Call us today to schedule an appointment!

Location: 235 W. 5th Ave. Ste 110, Escondido, CA 92025

Contact: Valerie Jex, 619-704-2434, vjex@accesstoindependence.org

Event #4: Benefits Options Counseling Program

Description: This program helps individuals learn about what benefits they are eligible for and navigate the application or appeals process including: Social Security, CalFresh, caregiving services, transportation services, healthcare applications, discounted utilities, and more!

Date: Call us today to schedule an appointment!

Location: 8885 Rio San Diego Dr. Ste 100, San Diego, CA 92108

Contact: Andrea Christopher, LTSS Coordinator, 619-704-2442, achrsitopher@accesstoindependence.org

Upcoming Events

Imperial Valley Branch

Event #1: Youth Transition Program

Description: Access to Independence welcomes all youth between the ages of 14 – 24 who have a disability to join us in this program that assists in your transition towards higher education, employment, and independence.

Date: 09/16/2024

Location: 321 Wake Ave. El Centro, CA 92243

Contact: Edgar Lopez, Youth Transition Coordinator, 760-890-4651,
elopez@accesstoindependence.org

Event #2: Voting Advocacy

Description: Come and get information on voting registration, ensure your voting location is fully accessible, and learn about absentee ballot procedures and more!

Date: Call us today to learn more!

Location: 321 Wake Ave. El Centro, CA 92243

Contact: (760)768-2044

Event #3: Enhanced Vision Program

Description: Access to Independence offers a program exclusively for individuals who are 55 years or older, with vision loss or blindness. Program services include; information and referral, self-advocacy, activities of daily living, adaptive equipment/assistive technology, and more!

Date: Call us today to learn more!

Location: 321 Wake Ave. El Centro, CA 92243

Contact: Susana Garcia, LTSS Coordinator, (760)965-4199, sgarcia@accesstoindependence.org

Event #4: Transition & Diversion Program

Description: Our Transition & Diversion program safely supports and assists consumers throughout their process from their transition back into the community and safely in their home. Our Diversion program is intended to support individuals with disabilities who are high risk of becoming homeless or institutionalized. We assist individuals with remaining independent, and safely in their home.

Date: Call us today to learn more!

Location: 321 Wake Ave. El Centro, CA 92243

Contact: Judith Brown, Transition & Diversion Coordinator, 760-618-0167,
jbrown@accesstoindependence.org



Fundraiser

Enjoy delicious food and support a great cause!

During this time, 10% of sales from all three Johnny's Burritos locations will be donated to Access to Independence when you show this flyer (paper or digital) to the cashier.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 | 12 - 1 PM

All Johnny's Burritos Locations

El Centro:

105 S Imperial Ave, Imperial, CA 92251

Imperial:

105 S Imperial Ave, Imperial, CA 92251

Brawley:

490 D St, Brawley, CA 92227



For more information contact:

Karina Leon, Program Manager

☎ 760-768-2044

SUCCESS STORY



DRIVING SIMULATOR

Getting a drivers license is one of the most significant milestones in a person's life. With the help of our Driving Simulator Rig, with 3 monitors a Beginner Driver Education Curriculum, and road rules guide, consumers will have a fun experience to obtaining their driver's license and open the door to independence, adventure, and responsibility!

**For more information,
contact your local
Access to
Independence office!**

Access to Independence received a referral from a consumer with a mental disability. Consumer was assigned to work with our Youth Coordinator for help with studying for his DMV written test and obtaining a drivers permit. Due to his disabilities, one of the obstacles this consumer faced was understanding the questions on the test. To overcome this, our Youth Coordinator was able to use visual aids such as photographs and drawings to provide a clear picture in the consumer's mind. The Coordinator would review DMV practice tests with the consumer and explained the questions that were difficult to understand. Proving his grit, the consumer would visit the office every Wednesday to study for the DMV written test in addition to studying on his own. With great success, the consumer took the DMV test and passed it on the first try! He said, "I was able to focus more on the test because I took it here in the office. It helped me pass the test. The DMV test I took had the same questions as our practice test that we worked on together. Thank you for helping me pass the test!". The consumer was thankful for the help he received from Access to Independence and wants to now pass the motorcycle DMV written test while the information is still fresh in his mind, as he has a motorcycle he wants to use.



Youth Peer Support Group



Image above text: 8 individuals sitting at tables in a circle.

Hawaii Branch

Access to Independence welcomes all youth between the ages of 14 - 24 who have a disability to join us in this monthly event as we discuss various topics relating to transitioning into adulthood, experiences of living with a disability, coping strategies, and any other issues that you feel are relevant. We hope that you will see this as a safe, non-judgmental environment that can help you along your transition all while making friends in the process. Our program will be filled with guest speakers, skills building, recreational activities, and more in order to serve as a stepping stone for you to achieve your independence and be successful in life.



Image above text: 2 ladies sitting at table working on paint projects.



Image above text: Group of 7 youths smiling at camera holding up their painted canvases..

WE'RE HIRING

Are you ready to be part of something extraordinary? We are thrilled to announce that our wonderful organization is expanding, and we are on the lookout for passionate individuals to join our dynamic team!

Now Hiring:

1. **Long-Term Services and Supports Coordinator (Location: Hawaii, HI)**
2. **Youth Transition Coordinator (Location: Hawaii)**
3. **Youth Transition Coordinator (Location: San Diego, CA)**
4. **Transition & Diversion Coordinator (Location: San Diego, CA)**
5. **Community Organizing Coordinator (Location: El Centro, CA)**

Why Join Us? At Access to Independence, we take pride in fostering a positive and collaborative work environment. Our team is not just colleagues; we are a family that supports and uplifts one another. By joining us, you'll become an integral part of an organization dedicated to making a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary
- Comprehensive health and wellness benefits
- Opportunities for professional development
- A supportive and inclusive workplace culture
- The chance to contribute to impactful programs and initiatives

How to Apply: Ready to take the next step in your career? You can apply for these exciting opportunities in two simple ways:

- Visit our Indeed job postings.
- Email your resume to jobs@accesstoindependence.org.

Don't miss the chance to be part of our incredible journey! We encourage candidates from diverse backgrounds to apply. Help us continue making a difference in the communities we serve.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to reach out to us at accessmedia@accesstoindependence.org

Join us in shaping a brighter future! We look forward to welcoming new members to our fantastic team.



SAFETY TIPS FOR USING METALLIC BALLOONS

Did you know that metallic balloons have caused over 520 costly outages and 18 dangerous fire ignitions in the last five years? Metallic balloons bring smiles to picnics, parties and family gatherings. But, when left untethered outside, they may float into power lines, cause an electrical surge and blow the circuit — resulting in a power outage and even sparking an electrical fire. Keep metallic balloons indoors, but if your festivities take you outdoors, keep them securely fastened. After using a metallic balloon, dispose of it by puncturing it in several places. Find more safety tips at [sdge.com/safety](https://www.sdge.com/safety).

Tips:

Always keep metallic balloons indoors to prevent them from floating into power lines and causing outages or fires.

If you must take metallic balloons outside, ensure they are securely fastened to a weight to prevent them from drifting away.

Never release metallic balloons near power lines or electrical equipment, as they can cause dangerous electrical surges

After use, puncture metallic balloons in several places before disposing of them to prevent them from becoming airborne

