

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! We're excited to see what this year holds for Access to Independence. Below you will find the programs we will be offering this year, check them out and let us know what you think!



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YOUTH TRANSITION PROGRAM

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.



What our program offers

- Assist students in developing desirable work habits and realistic career goals.
- Encourage students to develop social and personal skills.
- Promote peer support, self-advocacy and self-awareness.
- Host independent Living Skills Workshops based on consumer needs and interests.
- Connect youths with disabilities to recreational resources.



More information

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



Contact us

(760) 768-2044
321 Wake Ave.
El Centro, CA 92243

DRIVING SIMULATOR

Call us today!
(760)768-2044



Getting a driver's license is one of the **most** significant milestones in a person's life. It means freedom, independence, adventure, and responsibility. The goal is to make getting a Driver's license a fun experience while learning the road rules of defensive driving skills!

With the help of our Driving Simulator Rig, with 3 monitors a Beginner Driver Education Curriculum BDE (aimed to help students become the best drivers possible), and road rules (a guide to help students pass the driving test theory exam and road test), consumers will have a fun experience to obtaining their driver's license and open the door to independence, adventure, and responsibility



CONTACT US NOW:

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

Enhanced Vision Program

Access to Independence offers a program exclusively for individuals who are 55 years or older, with vision loss or blindness.

Program Services Include:

- Information & Referral
- Self-Advocacy
- Activities of Daily Living
- Adaptive Equipment/ Assistive Technology
- Other Independent Living Services



Contact us today!

Susana Garcia

LTSS Coordinator

760-965-4199

sgarcia@accesstoindependence.org

Transition & Diversion Program

Join us

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.

Location

321 Wake Ave.
El Centro, CA 92243

Contact Judith Brown
Transition & Diversion Coordinator,
jbrown@accesstoindependence.org



Call us today
to schedule an
appointment!





ADAPTIVE SPORTS & RECREATION

You are invited to join Access to Independence in our new Adaptive Sports & Recreation program! Come get involved in our wheelchair sports that include basketball, rugby, and power soccer!

Location: Junior Seau Beach Community Center
300 North Stand, Oceanside, CA 920254

Dates: **Weekly basis**
Fridays from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM Wheelchair Sports Open Gym
Sundays from 10 AM – 12:00 PM Wheelchair Sports Open Gym



For more info: Hermes Castro, Program Manager
619-704-2058
hcastro@accesstoindpendence.org



ACCESS
to independence

VOTING ADVOCACY

BECAUSE
YOUR VOTE
MATTERS

Every 3rd Thursday
of the month



235 W. 5th Ave. Suite 110
Escondido, CA 92025



1:30 PM - 2:30 PM



You can do the
following things:

- Get information on voting registration
- Ensure your voting location is fully accessible
- Learn about absentee ballot procedures and MORE!!

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 2023

For more information: Suly Jimenez, Transition & Diversion Coordinator
760-704-2058, sjimenez@accesstoindependence.org

Transition & Diversion Program

Join us

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!

Location

235 W. 5th Ave. Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92025



Call us today
to schedule an
appointment!

Call Suly Jimenez, Transition & Diversion Coordinator
760-704-2058
sjimenez@accesstoindependence.org



North County

Emergency Preparedness



Are you prepared for when an emergency strikes? You are invited to participate in our Emergency Preparedness training to develop an emergency plan for how you will evacuate and/or shelter in place during a natural disaster such as a fire, earthquake, or another pandemic!

Location: Access to Independence
235 W. 5th Avenue Suite 110
Escondido CA 92025

Date: Every 2nd Tuesday of the month

Time: 1 PM

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





NORTH COUNTY BRANCH

Disability Support Group

Every Last Friday of the Month

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!

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

Time: 1 - 2 PM

***Contact: Vivian Radam, ILSC, (619) 704-2435
vradam@accesstoindpendence.org***





North County

BENEFITS COUNSELING PROGRAM

ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

Join us and learn about how to seek and apply for benefits as well as how to self-advocate for yourself! Learn all about the application process for Social Security, CalFresh, Utilities, Section 8, In-Home Services and Supports (IHSS), Public Transportation and Healthcare!

LOCATION: Access to Independence - Escondido
235 W. 5th Ave. Suite 110
Escondido, CA 92025

CONTACT: Vivian Radam, LTSS, 619-704-2435
Vradam@accesstoindependence.org

Please contact Vivian Radam for more information on date and time of event*

Day Habilitation

Join us for the first workshop in our Day Habilitation series. This workshop to learn to identify conflict and different styles of resolving it when communicating with landlords, employers, friends, family and more.



**Access to Independence,
235 W. 5th Ave. Suite 110
Escondido, CA 92025**



Every 3rd Wednesday
of the month
1 PM - 3 PM

**JOIN
US!**

Register with:

Vivian Radam, ILSC
619-704-2435

Vradam@accesstoindependence.org



San Diego Branch

BENEFITS OPTIONS COUNSELING PROGRAM

ABOUT 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!

LOCATION: 8885 Rio San Diego Dr. Suite 100,
San Diego, CA 92108

CONTACT: Andrea Christopher at 619-704-2442 or
achristopher@accesstoindependence.org

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP



JOIN US FOR AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP TO LEARN HOW TO PREPARE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY RESOURCES, MANAGING A DISABILITY, AND CREATING YOUR OWN PERSONAL PLAN.

*Location: 8885 Rio San Diego Dr.
San Diego CA 92108
Conference Center (1st floor, Ste. 100)*

*Contact us today!
(619)704-2443*

DRIVING SIMULATOR

Call us today!
619-704-2430



Getting a driver's license is one of the **most** significant milestones in a person's life. It means freedom, independence, adventure, and responsibility. The goal is to make getting a Driver's license a fun experience while learning the road rules of defensive driving skills!

With the help of our Driving Simulator Rig, with 3 monitors a Beginner Driver Education Curriculum BDE (aimed to help students become the best drivers possible), and road rules (a guide to help students pass the driving test theory exam and road test), consumers will have a fun experience to obtaining their driver's license and open the door to independence, adventure, and responsibility



CONTACT US NOW:

Ryan Frisella
Youth Transition Coordinator
(619)704-2430
rfrisella@accesstoindpendence.org



VOTING ADVOCACY



**BECAUSE
YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**



8885 Rio San Diego Dr.
Unit 135
San Diego, CA 92108

This program is dedicated to reducing barriers to the ballot and assists consumers with registering to vote and voting in person or by absentee ballot.

**For more
information:** Call us at (619)704-2443

Transition & Diversion Program



Join us

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!

Location

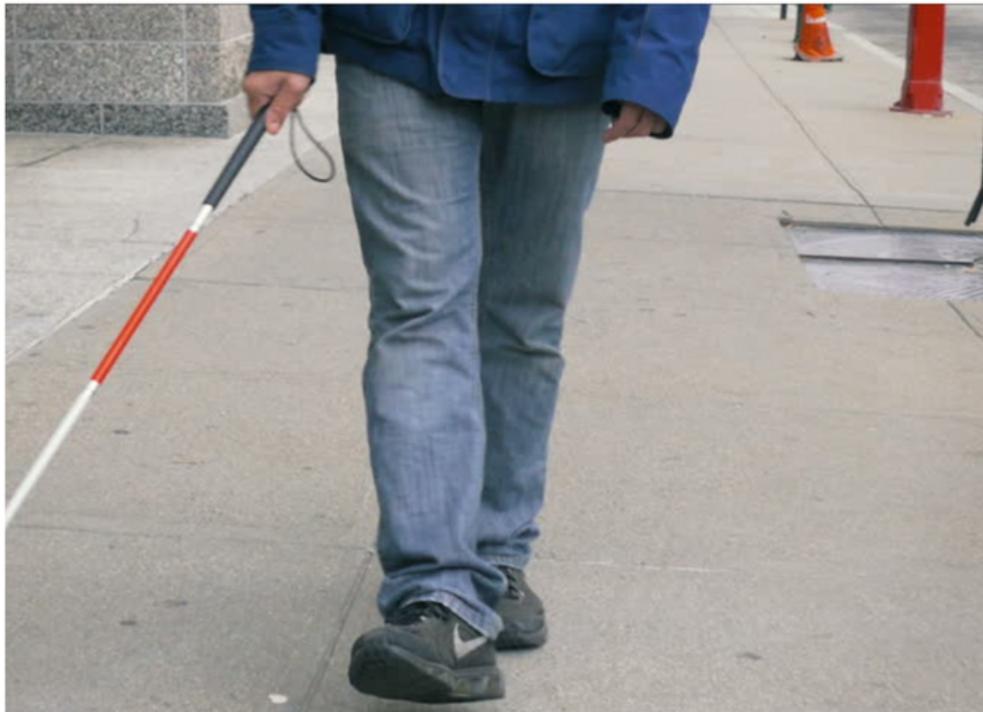
235 W. 5th Ave. Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92025

Call us today
to schedule an
appointment!

Call Suly Jimenez, Transition & Diversion Coordinator
760-704-2058
sjimenez@accesstoindependence.org



VAAIA PROGRAM: LOW VISION & BLIND



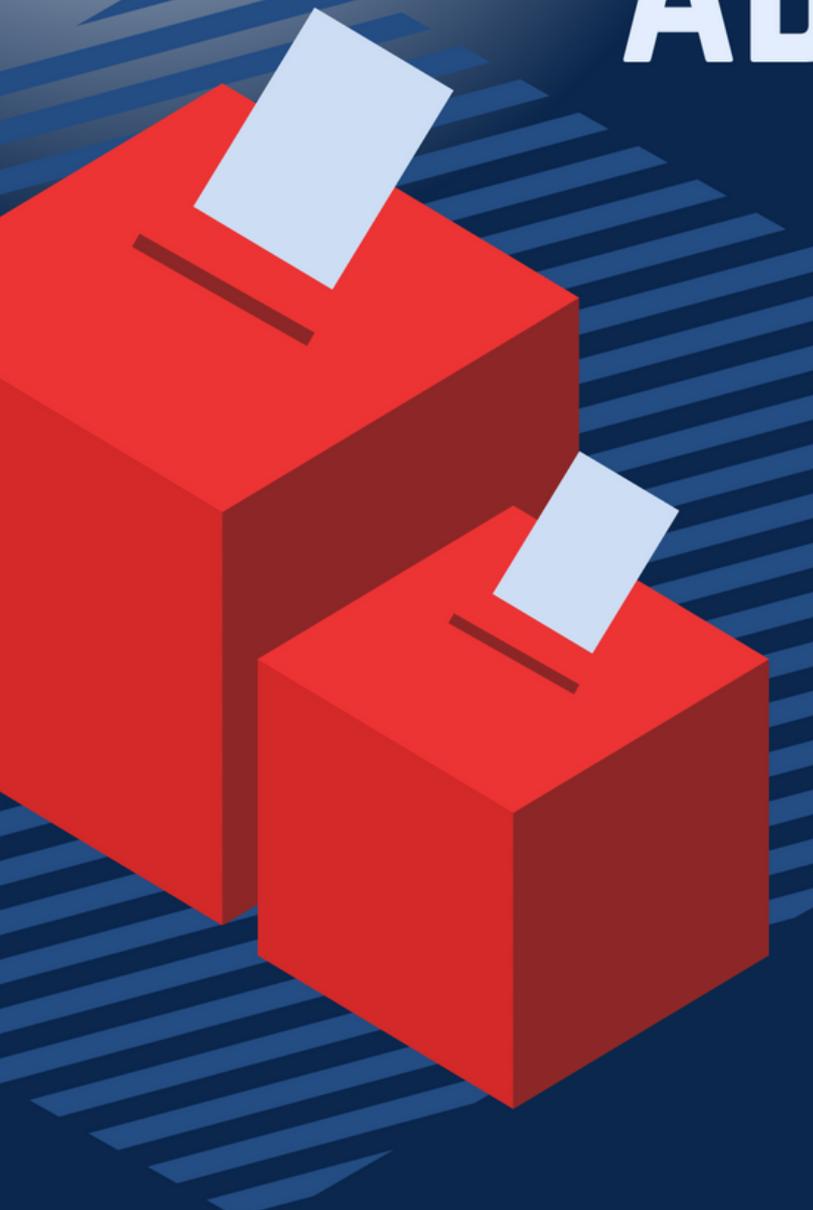
THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING TO CONSUMERS WHO WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT AND WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN GETTING BETTER USE OF THEIR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES.

**CALL US TODAY:
808-369-9521**

**LOCATION:
200 N. VINEYARD BLVD.,
SUITE 508, HONOLULU, HI
96817**



VOTING ADVOCACY



**BECAUSE
YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**



200 N. Vineyard Blvd. #508
Honolulu, HI 96817

This program is dedicated to reducing barriers to the ballot and assists consumers with registering to vote and voting in person or by absentee ballot.

**For more
information:** Call us at (808)369-9521



YOUTH TRANSITION

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 STEPPINGSTONE FOR YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR INDEPENDENCE AND BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE.

CALL US TODAY

808-369-9521





**LATEST
NEWS**

Medi-Cal Renewals

Keep yourself and your family covered.



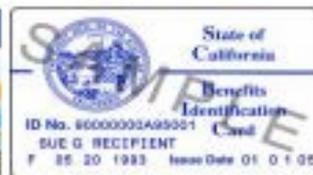
Make sure your information is up to date.

Medi-Cal covers vital health care services for you and your family, including doctor visits, prescriptions, vaccinations, mental health care, and more. So, if you have Medi-Cal, make sure you renew it when it's time.

Update your contact information
Report any new changes to your name, address, phone number, and email address, so your county can contact you.

Check your U.S. mail
Counties will mail you a letter about your Medi-Cal eligibility. You may need to complete a renewal packet. If you received a renewal packet, submit your information by mail, phone, in person, or online, so you don't lose your Medi-Cal coverage.

**For more details and to update
your contact information, visit
our website at
[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov
/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/
medi-cal_program.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/medi-cal_program.html) or **call us
at (866) 262-9881****



WE ARE HIRING!!

Hawaii Branch

1. Long Term Services and Support Coordinator

Pay: \$17 - 19 per hour

Job Type: Full-time

Under the supervision of the Program Manager, the primary goal of the LTSS Coordinator is to assist persons with disabilities reach consumer-driven goals related to enhancing, improving or maintaining their independence through the provision of programs as well as connecting consumers to community services and options. The LTSS Coordinator assists consumers navigate community resources, provides relevant information and referrals to community services, conducts risk screenings/assessments, navigates long-term and short-term care options and short-term case management.

To apply visit: <https://acessto independence.org/careers>

2. Information and Assistance Coordinator (Temporary)

Pay: \$17 - 19 per hour

Job Type: Full-time, Temporary

Under the supervision of the Program Manager, functions as the organization's receptionist; performs routine clerical tasks; expands and updates the information and referral database; and, provides referrals to contacts by multiple forms of communication that include email, phone, and referrals received through the organization's website.

To apply visit: <https://acessto independence.org/careers>

3. Community Organizing Coordinator (Temporary)

Pay: \$17 - 19 per hour

Job Type: Full-time, Temporary

Under the supervision of the Program/Systems Change Manager, the primary goal of the Community Organizing Coordinator is to recruit individuals to work together to build a group to address common problems through collective action. The Community Organizing Coordinator must have a local connection with the community, identify and understand real issues in the community, facilitate listening sessions, and have an open and unbiased attitude towards persons with disabilities and advocate for causes identified in the organization's work plan. The Community Organizing Coordinator works closely with the Program Manager to gather community support, work towards identified outcomes and collect and analyze data.

To apply visit: <https://acessto independence.org/careers>

WE ARE HIRING!!

Escondido and San Diego Branch

1. Information and Assistance Coordinator (Temporary) (Escondido)

Pay: \$17 - 19 per hour

Job Type: Full-time, Temporary

Under the supervision of the Program Manager, functions as the organization's receptionist; performs routine clerical tasks; expands and updates the information and referral database; and, provides referrals to contacts by multiple forms of communication that include email, phone, and referrals received through the organization's website.

To apply visit: <https://accessto independence.org/careers>

2. Community Organizing Coordinator (Temporary) (San Diego)

Pay: \$17 - 19 per hour

Job Type: Full-time, Temporary

Under the supervision of the Program/Systems Change Manager, the primary goal of the Community Organizing Coordinator is to recruit individuals to work together to build a group to address common problems through collective action. The Community Organizing Coordinator must have a local connection with the community, identify and understand real issues in the community, facilitate listening sessions, and have an open and unbiased attitude towards persons with disabilities and advocate for causes identified in the organization's work plan. The Community Organizing Coordinator works closely with the Program Manager to gather community support, work towards identified outcomes and collect and analyze data.

To apply visit: <https://accessto independence.org/careers>

Imperial Valley Branch

1. Community Organizing Coordinator (Temporary) (San Diego)

Pay: \$17 - 19 per hour

Job Type: Full-time, Temporary

Under the supervision of the Program/Systems Change Manager, the primary goal of the Community Organizing Coordinator is to recruit individuals to work together to build a group to address common problems through collective action. The Community Organizing Coordinator must have a local connection with the community, identify and understand real issues in the community, facilitate listening sessions, and have an open and unbiased attitude towards persons with disabilities and advocate for causes identified in the organization's work plan. The Community Organizing Coordinator works closely with the Program Manager to gather community support, work towards identified outcomes and collect and analyze data.

To apply visit: <https://accessto independence.org/careers>

Access to Independence is seeking your input!

If you are between the ages of 14-24 and have a disability or you are a parent of a child with a disability, we want to hear from you! Your feedback will help us improve our Youth Program to benefit our community in a meaningful way. For San Diego residents, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YouthandParentYouthSurvey2022TYR57K6> to complete a brief survey.

For Hawaii residents, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HawaiiYouthSurvey2022CQDL5NK>

Access to Independence is Hiring!

Open positions: Long-Term Supports & Services Coordinator - Imperial Valley

To apply, send your resume to jobs@accesstoindpendence.org

Follow us on Instagram: [@accesstoindpendence](#)

Follow us on Facebook: [@Accesstoindpendence](#)