

# Health Care for the Homeless Mobilizer

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council

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## National Homeless and Low-Income Voter Registration Week

September 24-30<sup>th</sup>

*You Do Not Need a Home to Vote*

The November 7 election may be one of the most important midterm elections in our nation's history. Major issues include immigration, healthcare, war in the Middle East, the economy, and the environment. Vital interests of homeless persons are at stake, and their rights to participate in this most fundamental democratic process must be protected and advanced.

To that end, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council has joined with the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty and the National Coalition for the Homeless to sponsor a National Homeless and Low Income Voter Registration Week, September 24-30<sup>th</sup>.

We urge HCH projects, their Consumer Advisory Boards (CABs) and your allies to help homeless and low-income people register to vote during that week.

It is important that homeless people understand that they *are eligible to vote*, and that everyone understands the issues in this year's campaigns

### **ACTION**

- **Read our publication *Enfranchising Homeless Clients: A Resource Guide to Voter Registration for Health Care for the Homeless Projects***, available at [www.nhchc.org/Publications/EnfranchisingHomelessClients.pdf](http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/EnfranchisingHomelessClients.pdf)
- **Plan activities to register homeless persons in your community during the week of September 24-30<sup>th</sup>**. You can find a guide to developing a plan at [www.nlihc.org/VOTE](http://www.nlihc.org/VOTE). This is the "Voterization" site of our colleagues at the National Low Income Housing Coalition. We urge you to report your plan and activities to them, using the forms on their website, for evaluation of this national effort.

Components that HCH projects may include in these efforts include:

- Consumer Advisory Boards are well-suited for leading voter registration efforts, and we encourage them to do so. This effort has been endorsed by the National Consumer Advisory Board.
- HCH waiting rooms are great places for setting up voter registration tables. Nonpartisan voter registration activity is perfectly legal and appropriate. Nonprofits seeking guidance on what voting and election activities they can engage in should visit [www.nonprofitvote.org](http://www.nonprofitvote.org).
- Make voter registration a part of all contacts with consumers. Registration forms (to be completed on a strictly voluntary basis) can be provided as part of the client intake or registration process.
- Be sure to contact your local Board of elections to learn the rules. Different jurisdictions have different requirements for proving residency, proof of identity, and registering felons to vote. Find out what the rules are in your area and educate staff and consumer leaders so they can provide accurate, non-partisan information to consumers and be available to answer questions.
- Invite candidates to visit your facilities and discuss the issues with homeless voters.
- Provide transportation to the polls on November 7.

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS MOBILIZER**

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