



Encouraging Your Clients to Vote

Registering your clients to vote is an important first step, but getting out the vote is the ultimate goal. Prepare to make a sustained effort to encourage your clients to exercise their right to vote, and to remove the obstacles that are most likely to prevent them from doing so.

1 Start early.

Make voting a part of as many discussions and announcements as possible.

2 Take advantage of early voting.

Confirm when in-person voting begins; some states allow their citizens to vote well before election day. This is an important consideration for clients who may have trouble waiting in line or making it to a voting site.

3 Plan for ID issues.

Your clients may experience issues at the polls. Assist them with attaining the proper ID for your state and provide them with wallet size voter information cards that list acceptable forms of identification and voter help line numbers.

4 Know the times, dates, and locations.

Readily have voting precinct or polling locations and times of operations available to help inform clients of where to vote.

5 Spread the word.

Organize phone and text trees to remind everyone of this effort. In many cases, case managers, outreach workers, and other trusted points of contact will be in the best position to discuss voting plans.

6 Reduce barriers to shelter.

If your shelter has a curfew, please suspend in advance it so that clients don't have to choose between exercising their right to vote and having a bed to sleep in.

7 Prepare for long lines.

Remind clients to bring water, umbrellas, reading materials, and other items they may need during a long wait. Providers with feeding programs should consider grab-and-go options for clients who plan to vote after breakfast service.

8 Go as a group.

Voting with friends increases the chance of people exercising their right to vote.

9 Offer transportation assistance.

This can include providing socially distanced car or van pools, public transportation assistance, or bus/subway route information.

10 Stay healthy.

Remind clients to adhere to COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

For more information and resources, please visit the National Alliance to End Homelessness' "Every one Votes" toolkit, available at www.EndHomelessness.org/voting

Legal Disclaimer: This document provides helpful information and guidance regarding voting in the United States, but the information and guidance should not be construed as providing specific legal advice about your right to vote. You should consult with legal counsel and/or local and state election offices about specific activities or questions.