

## Voter Registration by Social Service Agencies

*Sixty-five million Americans, mostly low-income, are not registered to vote.*

While the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)—better known as the "Motor Voter" law—is registering people at drivers' license and welfare offices, many people are not being reached. This is why Section 1b of the NVRA encourages "all nongovernmental

entities" to register their clients. This includes homeless shelters, drop-in centers, food pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers, child welfare agencies, community health centers, etc.

Social service organizations can help empower their clients by systematically offering voter registration during the application, intake or orientation process. Many are also registering their staff to vote.

### Make a Difference in Three Easy Steps:

#### 1. Appoint a Voter Registration Coordinator.

Appoint one permanent staff person to coordinate voter registration activities. Help this coordinator incorporate voter registration in the intake process, at the reception desk or during initial client orientation at your agency. The coordinator should also obtain a supply of mail-in voter registration forms from the City/County Elections Office.

#### 2. Make Voter Registration Part of Your Intake.

Agency intake forms and procedures should be amended to include the question, "If you are not registered to vote where you now live, would you like to register here today?"

Homeless shelters should consider asking clients to register to vote as they leave the shelter, so that they can register at their new home address.

#### 3. Offer Clients Help in Filling Out Voter Registration Forms.

Check that the application is properly filled out and offer to mail it. Maintain records of those you register to vote so you can include them in your voter education and get-out-the-vote efforts.

*Your efforts make a difference!*

*70% of the people who are registered to vote by volunteers in welfare and food stamp offices actually go to the polls and vote in presidential elections.*



**520 S. Virgil Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020 (213) 439-1070 ext. 111**