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Mobilizer

Health Care for the Homeless Action Bulletin

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Looking toward November 5

Get Out the Vote, Then Get Out the Word!



Election Day is just two weeks from today, November 4. Strong HCH projects have already helped to register thousands of homeless voters. **Now is the time to help homeless citizens exercise their power by ensuring that they make it to the polls.** GOTV (Get Out The Vote) opportunities are provided below.

The following Day, November 5, is just as important. Newly elected and reelected officials will be thinking about what they hope to accomplish. **During their terms in state and national office, they will decide on Medicaid rules and expansions, health center funding, the supply of housing, the minimum wage and other issues crucial to the HCH clientele.** Let's ensure



Get Out The Vote: Help HCH consumers exercise their right to vote!

- Talk about voting with the people you serve! Just remember to remain non-partisan. Ask if they are registered and have all needed identification. Find out about your state's requirements [here](#).
- Promote early voting. Check out state [early voting dates](#) and [polling places](#) and help consumers make plans to vote.
- Consider absentee voting. Look up your state's policies through the [Vote411 database](#).
- Assist on Election Day by

that they know about HCH as they do so!

Get Out the Vote

HCH is all about overcoming barriers, including barriers to voting, so:

- Talk about voting with the people you serve! It is totally legal, appropriate, and even clinically beneficial for consumers to be civically engaged! Just always remember to remain non-partisan. Avoid talking about specific candidates or political parties and you will be fine.
- Ask if they are registered and have all needed identification. Find out about your state's requirements [here](#).
- Promote early voting. Many states have early voting, providing more flexibility for the hectic schedules of consumers (and staff!). Check out state [early voting dates](#) and [polling places](#) and help consumers make plans to vote.
- Consider absentee voting. In many states, anyone can request to vote by mail. Disability status qualifies you in other states. This might be an easier option for some. Look up your state's policies through the [Vote411 database](#).
- On Election Day, quite legally (and in a non-partisan way):
 - Post information about likely polling places based on the locations of local shelters or housing programs
 - Provide transportation to the polls
 - Engage volunteers or staff to escort consumers to the polls
 - Acknowledge and congratulate those who vote and who assist

Get Out the Word

HCH projects are awesome examples of the good use of public funds, but many public officials are not aware, so:

- On Wednesday, November 5, please write to the election winners to establish or reinforce a relationship, tell them about your accomplishments and needs, and invite them to come see your project in action. Today, you can follow these links to template letters for [Members of Congress](#), [State Lawmakers in Medicaid expansion states](#), and [State Lawmakers in non-expansion states](#) and begin adapting them to your situation. Look to the candidates' websites for addresses, as their campaign offices will not shut down immediately after the election.
- Plan a "Pre-Term Officials' Forum" on health and homelessness in your community. Make it a conversation involving elected officials, providers, and people experiencing homelessness.
- Send delegations of providers and clients to the officials' offices to inform them and their staffs about the good work of Health Care for the Homeless.
- For the most productive conversations, stay up to date on issues like the

posting information, providing transportation, and providing escorts to the polls.

Get Out the Word: Educate lawmakers about HCH!

- On Wednesday, November 5, please write to the election winners to establish or reinforce a relationship, tell them about your accomplishments and needs, and invite them to come see your project in action. You can follow these links to template letters for [Members of Congress](#), [State Lawmakers in Medicaid expansion states](#), and [State Lawmakers in non-expansion states](#) and begin adapting them to your situation.
- For the most productive conversations, stay up to date on issues like the [primary care funding cliff](#), [Medicaid expansion developments in your state](#), and the [National Housing Trust Fund](#).

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