

Why Engaging Voters at Health Centers Is Important

The right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy. In exercising their responsibilities concerning voter registration, health centers hold the key to ensuring that our democracy remains robust and resilient. The very nature of health centers makes them an integral part of how low income Americans are involved in their communities and society and a natural place for helping them take the step to be more informed and civically engaged. Voter engagement can help health centers meet their organization's mission and maximize effectiveness by educating and engaging the public. By fully and energetically working to engage staff, board and patients, health centers can help ensure that the promise of our democracy is fully realized.

Community, Migrant and Homeless Health Centers are “sleeping giants” of the democratic process. **The people you serve trust your health center. You have access to potential voters who are underrepresented in the electoral process.** Your position in the community provides you the power to be the catalyst for a dramatic increase in voter participation through legal, permissible, nonpartisan voter engagement activities-- voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote (GOTV).

All voter engagement activities at health centers MUST be non-partisan.and by increasing the number of registered and active voters in your community, you can increase the power of your center and its clout in your community. Elected officials know where communities turn out to vote and a health center engaging voters will be noticed by elected officials who will likely respond better to your advocacy efforts.