Alaska WIC Policy

Policy Title	Local Agency Voter Registration Requirements	Item	Voter Registration
Policy Number		Effective Date	May 1, 2015

Purpose: To increase the number of citizens registered to vote in federal elections.

Authority: Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)

Policy: Voter Registration Requirements

Section 7 of the NVRA is the requirement that states affirmatively offer voter registration opportunities to clients of public assistance programs. Programs covered by the NVRA include SNAP, TANF, Medicaid/DKC and WIC. Public assistance offices are in a unique position to increase voter registration rates among low-income citizens, furthering the intent of the NVRA to increase registration among populations underrepresented in our electorate. Voter registration services must be provided whether covered transactions occur in–person at the office or remotely.

1. Distribute a voter registration application.

Distribution of voter registration applications means a voter registration application must be provided unless an applicant declines in writing; an applicant does not decline in writing if he or she leaves the voter preference question blank or unanswered. A client must receive a voter registration application if he or she answers "yes" or doesn't check either the "yes" or "no" box in response to the voter preference question. For WIC this means:

a) Make voter registration applications available in waiting rooms and other common areas.

b) Post signs prominently stating that voter registration services are available at the WIC office.

c) If the client selects "yes" on the Family Information form to the question "Do you want to register to vote here at the WIC office?" provide an application.

d) If the client does not mark "yes" or "no", follow-up with the client about their voter registration intent.

2. Have available voter information forms with appropriate disclosures and rely on the WIC Family Information form which includes a voter preference question to determine voter registration preference.

If the voter preference question has not been answered, workers are required to follow-up with the client about voter registration. A failure to respond to the voter preference question does not constitute a declination in writing. Therefore, as required by Section 7(a)(6)(A), a voter registration application must be provided.

3. Provide the same degree of assistance in completing voter registration applications as is provided in completing the office's own forms. Staff shall check voter registration applications for completeness and a signature when a client returns a voter registration application for submission.

4. Accept completed voter registration applications for timely transmittal to the appropriate state election officials. Staff must accept completed voter registration applications from clients and ensure that they are sent to the appropriate election officials within ten days or within five days if the application is collected within five days of the registration deadline.

Download voter registration forms from the State of Alaska Division of Elections website: https://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/forms/C03-Fill-In.pdf or from the Alaska WIC website at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/participants/wicapplicationforms.aspx.

Download voter information forms at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/participants/wicapplicationforms.aspx.

Completed voter information forms must be maintained for at least 22 months.