

# Incorporating Voter Engagement into Field Education: Example Practice Activities for Educational Contract

## The Nine Competencies:

- C1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
- C2: Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial Economic, and Environmental Justice
- C3: Engage in Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice
- C4: Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
- C5: Engage in Policy Practice
- C6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- C7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- C8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- C9: Evaluate practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Example Practice Activity	Alignment with core competencies								
	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9
Help clients and/or staff look up who represents them at the local, state and federal level and how to contact them.	✓	✓			✓				
Use supervision to identify policies that negatively impact their clients and/or communities and which branch of government has the power to change them.	✓	✓			✓				
Look up voting rules and deadlines in your state, including when general, special and primary elections take place, rules for voting with a felony conviction, and how other special populations can register and vote.	✓	✓	✓						
Using the Organizational Assessment Form, identify ways your agency could integrate voter registration and engagement into services and culture. Discuss in supervision.	✓	✓	✓						
Discuss ethical implications of not supporting the political power and voice of clients and communities through voting and civic participation.	✓	✓	✓						
Research allowable nonpartisan voter activities and/or lobby rules for 501(c)(3) organizations and/or requirements for nonprofits in the 1993 National Voter Registration Act.	✓	✓			✓				

Share information on voting and elections with clients, staff and/or communities.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Integrate voter registration and engagement into agency services (e.g., add questions to intake form)	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Run voter registration drive at agency or event		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Help people with a prior felony conviction to register and vote (if eligible in your state) through public awareness and individual outreach in service delivery.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Invite elected officials to agency for meetings or forum focused on advancing human rights issues faced by your clients		✓			✓				
Assist client or staff member to contact elected official about a specific case or issue faced by client (s)		✓	✓		✓			✓	
Assess the differential impact of voting policies on diverse populations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Assess political power in your city or community by comparing voter turnout by district in local elections				✓		✓	✓		✓
Train clients/staff on advocacy, government systems, and the importance of voting		✓			✓	✓		✓	
Measure and discuss effectiveness of agency voter registration drives		✓	✓		✓				✓
Discuss ways to measure impact of voter engagement activities with clients					✓				✓

## More Skill-building Strategies for Classroom and Field Education

### 1. Engaging individuals and communities in political processes

- a. Look up the rules and procedures for voting in your state and community, including when general, special and primary elections take place each year and voting with a felony record.
  - i. What policies support and suppress voter participation and turnout?
  - ii. Partner with a nonpartisan group (e.g., LWV) to educate clients and staff on how to vote.
- b. Request voter turnout statistics by district from election officials or websites. Is there a connection between resource allocation, power, and turnout?
- c. Know the rules around voting with a felony record in your state and educate clients and staff on the issues and barriers to voting.
- d. Help clients look up who represents them at the local, state and federal level and how to contact them
- e. Build opportunities for clients and staff to register to vote in existing services and agency culture.
- f. Register voters
- g. Share nonpartisan links about elections and candidates with clients and staff as well as sample ballots
- h. Promote voting in all elections and help clients make a plan to vote.
- i. Help clients contact their elected official(s) when they face policy or service barriers at the state, local or federal level.
- j. Invite elected officials to meet with clients and staff.
- k. Engage clients about their top priorities for local government.
- l. Share clients' experiences and barriers with elected officials and/or support them to do so.

### 2. Influencing policy agendas and decision-making

- a. Identify a policy and/or process that negatively impacts the clients you serve or your community:
  - i. Meet with your elected officials about a policy issue (and write a process recording about the experience.)
  - ii. Testify at a local city council or board of education meeting or hearing
  - iii. Join an advocacy organization that works to advance policies for your client population or issue area.
  - iv. Educate elected officials, clients, and/or staff on an issue with a 1-2 page fact sheet
- b. Learn about the legislative process by joining NASW legislative committee in your state.
- c. Use *Bolder Advocacy's* resources to understand how 501(c)(3) organizations can engage in lobbying and advocacy,

### 3. Holding professional and political positions

- a. Request a field placement with an elected official (primary or secondary), state or local legislature.
- b. Compare your values inventory and core values with someone who does not agree with you politically.
  - i. Is there overlap?
  - ii. Does the order of your values matter?
  - iii. Can you find areas of common ground?

- c. Invite municipal or state agency staff to speak about their role and how to work with them to improve systems.

**4. Engaging with electoral campaigns**

- a. Attend a local political party committee to understand the endorsement process for candidates.
- b. Work (paid or unpaid) for a local or state campaign for elected office
- c. Volunteer for your state's NASW political action committee.
- d. Identify social workers in elected office in your state.

**5. Seeking and holding elected office**

- a. Attend the Campaign School for Social Workers at UConn (February 23-24, 2024) or other campaign training
- b. Write your 2-5 year political action plan
- c. Volunteer for other campaigns