



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street
2401 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2401
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

September 18, 2006

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Subject: National Voter Registration Act

While the Division has no specific responsibility for voter registration under the Federal or State Statute, we do want to remind counties of their obligations under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. A primary focus of the Act is to help state registration officials reach the unregistered eligible voters in the state and we strongly encourage counties to be diligent in ensuring that the requirements identified by the State Board of Elections are met.

You will remember that the federal law, then subsequently passed State Statute, designates as Voter Registration Agencies, every office in the State which accepts: "Applications for a program of public assistance under Article 2 of Chapter 108A of the General Statutes or under Article 13 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes and Applications for State-funded State or local government programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities."

Since county departments of social services accept applications for public assistance, they are designated by State Statute as Voter Registration Agencies. As such, county departments of social services must offer voter registration forms to families at initial application for services, at recertifications, and when a change of address is reported. In addition, if the individual chooses to register and asks for assistance, the agency must provide assistance in completing the registration form. Also, counties must document the decision of the individual and ensure that the registration forms and declination forms are delivered to the local Board of Elections within 5 days.

You should be hearing soon from the State Board of Elections about a renewed effort underway for the Voter Registration Project. Additional information about voter registration can be found on the State Board of Elections web site, <http://www.app.sboe.state.nc.us/>. You may also contact your local Board of Elections with questions or to work out the details of your local process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry S. Bradsher". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Sherry S. Bradsher

JBS

c: Mark Benton
Dennis Streets

DIR-01-2006