I. Policy:

Program applicants, participants, and anyone who inquires shall be provided the opportunity to register to vote or to change their voter registration in elections for federal and / or state office at all initial and subsequent certifications, or if there is a name or address change.

II. Procedure(s):

A. The local agency is required to keep voter registration forms available on site. Voter registration forms are available at a variety of locations, which are available at: http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/.

B. WIC personnel shall ask all applicants / participants / anyone who inquires if he / she is of legal voting age (18 years old) and currently registered to vote.

1) If the applicant / participant answers yes, then he / she shall be asked if he / she needs to change their registration. If they do, then personnel shall offer a form and assistance to the applicant / participant in completing the change in registration.

2) If the applicant / participant answers no, personnel shall ask if the applicant / participant would like to register to vote and offer to provide assistance if needed.

3) If assistance is requested, personnel shall assist in completing the registration form and forward completed forms to the State Board of Elections.

C. The appropriate entry shall be made in Crossroads.

D. The local agency is prohibited from the following:

1) Seeking to influence an applicant’s / participant’s political party preference

2) Displaying any political or candidate preference or party allegiance

3) Making any statements or taking any action whose purpose or effect is to discourage the applicant from registering to vote, or

4) Making any statement to an applicant or taking any action that leaves the applicant with the impression that a decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the availability of Program services or benefits.