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Intro to HMIS

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Working to prevent and end homelessness

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What is HMIS?

Homeless Management Information System

A secure online database used by social service providers to record information on client needs, characteristics, and services.

- Required to receive funding from McKinney-Vento homeless assistance funding from HUD
- ! • Explicitly required by the new Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) !

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Where did HMIS come from?

In 2001, Congress directed HUD to provide data and analysis on the extent and nature of homelessness and the effectiveness of the McKinney Act programs, including:

- Developing unduplicated counts of clients served at the local level;
- Analyzing patterns of service use; and
- Evaluating the effectiveness of these systems.
- The Data and Technical Standards were required to accurately provide the data to Congress.

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Benefits of HMIS

For clients, providers, and planners

- Decreases duplicative intakes and assessments for clients and providers,
- Streamlines the process of referrals,
- Provides essential data for the study and prevention of homelessness,
- Allows evaluation of specific interventions and/or programs, and
- Meets (or exceeds) reporting requirements for most funders.

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What is the requirement?

HMIS Data and Technical Standards

- Published in the Federal Register on July 30, 2004 with an effective date of August 30, 2004.
- Revisions published April 2009

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HMIS Data and Technical Standards

- Establishes HMIS requirements including:
 - Data elements and definitions;
 - Participation requirements for homeless service programs;
 - Privacy standards for data collection, uses and disclosures;
 - Security standards for protection of client information; and
 - Technical standards for the storage and removal of data.

● ● Participation Requirements

- Recipients of HUD McKinney-Vento Act program funds including:
 - Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG);
 - Supported Housing Programs (SHP);
 - Shelter plus Care (S+C);
 - Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation for Single Room Occupancy (SRO);
 - Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) projects that target homeless persons; and
 - All recipients of HPRP funds

● ● Data Collection Requirements

- Universal Data Elements
 - All programs participating in HMIS must collect on all clients served
 - Records demographics, characteristics and patterns of service use of homeless persons
- Program-Specific Data Elements
 - Required for all clients served by McKinney-Vento programs that must complete an Annual Progress Report (APR)
 - Records needs assessments, service use, and outcomes

● ● Universal Data Elements

based on revisions published April 2009

- Name
- SSN
- DOB
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Veteran status
- Disabling condition
- Residence prior to program entry
- Zip code of last permanent address
- Homeless Status at Program Entry
- Program Entry Date
- Program Exit Date
- Personal Identification Number *(system-generated)*
- Household Identification Number *(system-generated)*

● ● Program Specific Data Elements

based on revisions published April 2009

- Income and Sources
- Non-Cash Benefits
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- HIV/AIDS
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Destination
- For outreach programs
 - Date of Contact
 - Date of Engagement
- For HPRP programs
 - Financial Services Provided
 - Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services Provided

How do we use THAT?

● ● Prior Residence

of all requests for shelter in Richmond April 2009

Prior residence	Direct clients	# of requests	% of clients
Don't Know (HUD)	2	4	0%
Emergency or Transitional Shelter	95	200	14%
Hospital (HUD)	12	19	2%
Hotel/Motel without emergency shelter(HUD)	73	130	11%
Jail, Prison or Juvenile Facility (HUD)	33	51	5%
Living With Family (HUD)	131	279	19%
Living With Friends (HUD)	121	240	18%
Other (HUD)	10	18	1%
Owned or rented home/apartment	81	103	12%
Permanent Housing for Formerly Homeless (HUD)	2	2	0%
Psychiatric Hospital or Facility (HUD)	2	4	0%
Substance Abuse Treatment Center (HUD)	12	12	2%
Unsheltered	78	123	12%
Unknown	26	39	4%
Total (unduplicated)	678	1,226	100%

● ● Last permanent address
of all requests for shelter in Richmond April 2009

Last permanent address	Distinct clients	# of requests	% of clients
Charlottesville	1	1	0%
Charlottesville County	58	95	9%
Stafford County	70	119	10%
Stafford County	8	8	1%
Stafford County	72	188	11%
Stafford County	1	1	0%
Stafford County	94	193	14%
Stafford County	19	48	3%
Stafford County	305	492	45%
Stafford County	49	92	7%
Total (unduplicated)	678	1,225	100%

● ● Ten Year Plan Indicators
in Richmond, Virginia

Recidivism: Of all persons who exited shelter in the first quarter of 2007, 25.4% returned within 12 months.

Length of stay: In 2008 the median length of stay in shelter was 28 days (no change since 2007).

Length of engagement: In 2008 the median length of engagement (all programs) was 95 days (up from 88 days in 2007)

● ● This is serious

- Data Standards have been in place since 2004;
- HUD has been clear that future funding would be contingent on satisfaction of the Data Standards;
- There are increasing regional penalties in COC process for lack of coverage;
- Applicants for COC funding must now obtain certification of participation from their System Administrator; and
- HUD trainers have warned us to "expect a call from the OIG" if HPRP data is suspicious or missing.

● ● Participation Requirements -
Domestic Violence Providers

- In January 2006, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization of 2005 became law.
- VAWA contains provisions that amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act relating to the disclosure of data to HMIS by domestic violence providers.
- At this time DV programs are not a priority for HMIS implementation and incur no penalties for themselves or their Continuum of Care for lack of participation.