



PATH Projects for Assistance in
Transition from Homelessness

Technical Assistance Resource Page
Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)



Acknowledgments

This PATH Resource Page is a technical assistance document of the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Technical Assistance Center. Kathleen Freeman, Chris S. Pitcher, Cara Robinson, MA, and Michelle Hayes, MA of the Cloudburst Group developed the document. We would like to thank the Center for Social Innovation team for their review and guidance: Kristen Paquette, Rachael Kenney, MA, and Neil Greene. Jason Wharff designed the layout and provided creative direction. We also would like to thank Mattie Curry Cheek, PhD, Director PATH Program, for providing support and direction.

Disclaimer

This document was developed under a generous Contract (No. HHSS280200600029C) from the Homeless Programs Branch, Division of Services and Systems Improvement, Center For Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

Public Domain Notice

All material appearing in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission. However, citation of the source is appreciated. No fee may be charged for the reproduction or distribution of this material.

Electronic Access and Copies of Publication

This publication may be accessed electronically through the following Internet World Wide Web connection: <http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov>

Recommended Citation

Freeman, K. (2010). *PATH technical assistance resource page: Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)*. Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Originating Office

Homeless Programs Branch, Division of Services and Systems Improvement, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1 Choke Cherry Road, Rockville, MD 20857.

Questions or comments related to this document should be directed to Mattie Curry Cheek, PhD, Director PATH Program, at 240-276-1745; to the Center for Social Innovation at 617-467-6014; or emailed to path@samhsa.hhs.gov with "HMIS Resource Page" in the subject line.

Additional SAMHSA Resources

For more information about SAMHSA resources and programs, contact the SAMHSA Health Information Network at 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727).



Technical Assistance Resource Page

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Center for Mental Health Services
www.samhsa.gov





Background Information

What is HMIS?

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) is a locally administered, electronic data collection tool that stores person-level information about men, women, and children who access the homeless services system. HMIS began in the mid-to-late 90s as a grassroots effort to use technology to improve service delivery, support the Continuum of Care (CoC) process, and provide reliable data for community planning. In 2001, Congress directed the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address the need for information on the extent of homelessness and the effectiveness of McKinney-Vento Act Programs.¹

HUD responded to the directive from Congress by bringing together communities, technology experts, and service providers to inform the development of the HMIS Data and Technical Standards (“The Standards”) and the standardization of methods for conducting one night homeless counts (Point-in-Time). The Standards, first published in 2004, outline data elements and response categories and set minimum expectations for ensuring client record privacy and data security.

HUD required local CoCs to implement an HMIS that would facilitate unduplicated counts of clients served at the local level, analysis of service use

patterns, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the local homeless systems. HMIS supports service delivery and provides information on the:

- Extent of homelessness;
- Characteristics of persons who seek homeless services;
- Nature of services provided;
- Effectiveness of programs; and
- Effectiveness of the local and national homeless service system.

What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is a set of three competitively awarded programs created by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CoC helps to ensure that communities are addressing homelessness comprehensively with resources from other federal agencies.² Almost all communities have a CoC. At the local level, a CoC conducts planning, application submission, and monitoring of local McKinney-Vento funded homeless providers. A CoC Plan is “a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness.”³

¹ McKinney Vento Act <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/lawsandregs/mckv.cfm>

² Competitively Awarded Homeless Programs: Continuum of Care <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/coc>

³ HUD Continuum of Care Brochure, 2004 <http://www.nchv.org/docs/HUD%20CoC%20brochure%209.14.04.pdf>



HMIS – A History

HUD requires all McKinney-Vento funded providers⁴ to participate in HMIS. Between 2001 and 2005, communities began implementing HMIS and collecting data to support program evaluation, community planning, and funding requests/grant writing. Each year, HUD emphasizes the importance of HMIS by increasing the scoring in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for application components dependent on HMIS data. HUD supports HMIS by designating it as an eligible use of Supportive Housing Program (SHP) funds to implement and operate the local system and by implementing a National Technical Assistance initiative to assist communities in implementation and operation.

Since 2007, CoCs have had the opportunity to provide data to HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which describes the composition of homelessness across the United States. The AHAR is compiled from aggregate HMIS and Point-in-Time count data from a sample of communities based on the Universal Data Elements in The Standards. HUD and Congress use the AHAR to inform homelessness programmatic policy and funding decisions.

Congress continues to call for improved data collection. In 2007, it required HUD to ensure full HMIS participation by all CoCs and stated that future CoC funding will be tied to participation in HMIS and the AHAR. In response, HUD announced CoC participation in the AHAR will become mandatory and significantly increased the scoring component for HMIS participation in the 2008 CoC NOFA.

These actions underscored the federal commitment to data collection and evidence-based practice.

Currently, communities voluntarily provide data for the AHAR. Many are also implementing advanced technology (i.e., data warehousing, handheld devices, and Geographic Information Systems) and analytical processes (i.e., self-sufficiency measures, impacts of program models on client outcomes, and effectiveness of 10-year plans) to support their efforts. Recognizing the benefits of integrated service delivery and systematic data collection, many non-HUD funded homeless programs, including PATH Programs, choose to participate in HMIS. Faith-based programs, soup kitchens, food pantries, mental health providers, employment programs, education programs, and substance use treatment providers may enter data into the HMIS or share data with a local data warehouse. Their participation enhances the community's ability to understand the impact of housing and services on client outcomes. Some PATH providers were among the first programs to participate in the HMIS. Other PATH providers began participating in their communities' HMIS once they saw the potential advantages.

In 2008, HUD began updating the HMIS Data and Technical Standards and the Supportive Housing Program Annual Performance Report (APR). HUD initiated these updates in response to community input, advances in data security methods, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In addition to bringing new funding to HUD as part of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program, ARRA required expanded HMIS implementation and reporting at the local level. To meet these requirements, HUD added new data elements and responses

⁴ Except as prohibited by law. Domestic violence service providers are not required to participate in HMIS (HUD Notice on VAWA, March 2007, [http://www.hmis.info/Resources/1043/Appendix-B---HUD-Notice-on-VAWA-\(March-2007\).aspx](http://www.hmis.info/Resources/1043/Appendix-B---HUD-Notice-on-VAWA-(March-2007).aspx))



categories to The Standards. The revised HMIS Data Standards for HPRP were passed through emergency Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance in June 2009. The revised Standards include data elements and response categories specifically for two U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs: PATH and the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs.

HMIS and PATH

Although PATH programs are not required to use HMIS for PATH reporting, many PATH providers are required to use HMIS for other programs within their agencies. Because of this overlap, some PATH providers choose to enter information about their PATH consumers in HMIS. When PATH providers use HMIS, it reduces reporting burden by eliminating dual record keeping and integrates PATH into the local service continuum. This helps local communities, HUD, and HHS understand how PATH helps people who are homeless to move from the streets into shelters and housing.

At the request of PATH grantees, HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) and SAMHSA formed the HUD/HHS Outreach Workgroup in November 2006. This workgroup sought to explore the broader use of HMIS for PATH data collection and reporting. The workgroup also considered the feasibility of aligning outcomes measures across street outreach programs. This collaboration resulted in revised definitions, new outputs, and new common outcome measures for outreach programs. In 2009, HUD published data elements to support the new measures in the Revised HMIS Standards. HUD outreach programs

will now be required to report the measures as part of the revised Supportive Housing Program APR.

SAMHSA continues to improve PATH data collection and reporting processes through PATH workgroups and the former HUD/HHS Outreach Workgroup. The workgroups mapped PATH data collection needs to The Standards; identified commonalities in PATH and HMIS definitions; assessed the current integration of PATH programs in the CoC, and documented similarities in the PATH and HUD outreach models. Additionally, PATH workgroups defined measures and developed recommendations for changes to the PATH report including person-level data collection, changes to counting methodologies, and the addition of voluntary outcome measures.

At this time, not all HMIS platforms include PATH Annual Report data elements as standard reporting elements. However, all HMIS platforms collect data that support the client demographic portion of the PATH Annual Report. Some PATH providers use HMIS to produce data for the PATH Annual Report and inform programmatic decisions. PATH providers interested in learning more about HMIS can contact their local CoC.



Websites:

<http://www.hudhre.info>

HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange

The HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange is a one-stop repository of information on HUD's homeless programs. This website offers a range of information including program guides, searchable FAQs, and a virtual helpdesk. It also includes links to CoC reports, funding application and award information, upcoming events, and HUD news.

<http://www.hmis.info>

HMIS.info

The HMIS.info website stores documents related to HMIS implementation, data management, and the AHAR. It contains community documents as well as materials from HUD-sponsored trainings and conferences.

<http://www.hudhre.info/HPRP/index.cfm?do=viewCocContacts>

CoC and HMIS Contact Information

This website is part of HUD's Homelessness Resource Exchange. It includes CoC contact information by state and county. CoC contacts can provide information on how to reach local HMIS Lead Agencies.

<http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewJoin>

HUD's Listservs for Homeless Activities

Users can stay informed about HUD's homeless programs by visiting this link and connecting to HUD's Homeless Listserv, the HMIS Listserv, or the HOPWA Listserv.

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless>

HUD Community Development and Planning

The HUD.gov website on homeless programs provides information on CoCs and funding opportunities.

Other Resources:

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Edit.aspx?id=46569>

Bregon, N. (2004). Homeless management information systems (HMIS); Data and technical standards final notice. *Federal Register, 69, 45887-45934.*

These are the 2004 HMIS Data and Technical Standards as published in the Federal Register.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Edit.aspx?id=46568>

Department of Housing and Urban Development (2009, June). *Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data standards. Washington DC: Author.*

These are the 2009 Revised HMIS Data Standards as published in the Federal Register. This version differs only in the data element section of the 2004 HMIS Data and Technical Standards. The Privacy and Security sections of the 2004 Data and Technical Standards are still in effect.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Edit.aspx?id=46570>

Department of Housing and Urban Development (2009, July). *The 2008 annual homeless assessment report to congress. Washington DC: Author.*

The 2008 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is the fourth published by HUD. The report describes the composition of homelessness across the U.S. It is compiled from aggregate HMIS and Point-in-Time count data from a sample of communities based on the Universal Data Elements in The Standards.



<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46589>

Roanhouse, M. & Freeman, K. (2008). *HMIS 101: Orientation for new grantees and staff*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The HMIS 101 Training Module is a MS PowerPoint presentation with accompanying materials. This training is based on the 2004 HMIS Data and Technical Standards and has not yet been updated to include the 2009 Revised HMIS Data Standards or HPRP requirements.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46590>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development . (2008). *Glossary of HMIS definitions and acronyms*. Washington DC: Author.

This is a helpful reference of commonly used HMIS and CoC Terms and definitions.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46594>

Bernardi, R. (2007). *The Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005: Applicability to HUD programs; Notice. Federal Register, 72, 12695-12700. HUD's Guidance on Domestic Violence Provider Participation in HMIS (VAWA)*

HUD provided guidance on domestic violence provider participation in March 2007. This guidance reflects HUD's stance on participation in HMIS by domestic violence providers in response to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which prohibits the inclusion of personal identifying information of domestic violence clients in HMIS.

HMIS DATA ELEMENTS

HMIS Program Descriptor Data Elements (PDDEs)

The Program Descriptor Data Element section of the HMIS Data and Technical Standards outlines 13 data elements that identify agency programs and structure. These elements are entered into the system one time and are only updated if a change occurs. They document the program type, bed capacity, and target population.

HMIS Universal Data Elements (UDEs)

The Universal Data Element section of the HMIS Data and Technical Standards outlines 15 data elements that HUD programs are required to collect for all persons served. PATH providers who opt to use their local HMIS for PATH usually collect all of these data elements for persons enrolled in the PATH program.

The Universal Data Elements are critical for several reasons. In addition to uniquely identifying clients for case management and providing information that allows for de-duplication, they also provide information on:

- Demographics that identify special populations for targeted services;
- Client's status prior to services;
- Extent of services provided and duration of service delivery;
- Household types; and
- Service utilization.

The Universal Data Elements, along with information from the CoC's Housing Inventory, supply information for the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). Congress uses AHAR data to determine federal policies and funding levels.

Program-specific Data Elements (PDEs)

The Program-specific Data Elements (PDEs) provide detailed information to assess services provided, client outcomes, and program effectiveness (see list below). The PDEs are split into two categories: required and optional.

PDEs are dependent on the funding source(s) of the program. Programs funded by HUD are required to collect some or all of the PDEs. Optional PDEs include client information that is not required for HUD reporting, but may be of use to programs and agencies to assess day-to-day activities and services, to understand their target population's needs, and to monitor population trends (i.e., related to employment, education, and health status). Optional PDEs also offer significantly more opportunities to standardize client needs assessment and outcomes measurement.

PATH Relevant Data Elements

As discussed earlier, HUD and SAMSHA created the HUD/HHS workgroup to assess the potential for PATH providers to use HMIS as a data collection and reporting tool. This collaborative





effort sought to develop common outcome measures for HUD and HHS homeless programs, particularly for outreach programs. The Revised Data Standards, released in June 2009, include data elements relevant to PATH reporting. The Standards provide the structure and capacity for future outcome and performance measurement for PATH providers participating in HMIS.

Universal Data Elements and PDEs are listed below:

Universal Data Elements (UDEs)

- 3.1** Name
- 3.2** Social Security Number
- 3.3** Date of Birth
- 3.4** Race
- 3.5** Ethnicity
- 3.6** Gender
- 3.7** Veteran Status
- 3.8** Disabling Condition
- 3.9** Residence Prior to Program Entry
- 3.10** Zip Code of Last Permanent Address
- 3.11** Housing Status
- 3.12** Program Entry Date
- 3.13** Program Exit Date
- 3.14** Unique Person Identification Number
- 3.15** Household Identification Number

Program-specific Data Elements (PDEs)

- 4.1** Income and Sources
- 4.2** Non-Cash Benefits
- 4.7** Mental Health
- 4.8** Substance Abuse
- 4.10** Destination
- 4.11** Date of Contact
- 4.12** Date of Engagement
- 4.13** Financial Services Provided
Housing Relocation & Stabilization
- 4.14** Services Provided
- 4.15A** Employment
- 4.15H** Services Provided

Resources:

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Edit.aspx?id=46569>

Bregon, N. (2004). Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS); Data and Technical Standards Final Notice. *Federal Register, 69, 45887-45934.*

These are the 2004 HMIS Data and Technical Standards as published in the Federal Register.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Edit.aspx?id=46568>

Department of Housing and Urban Development (2009, June). *Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Standards. Washington DC: Author.*

These are the 2009 Revised HMIS Data Standards as published in the Federal Register. This version differs only in the data element section of the 2004 HMIS Data and Technical Standards. The Privacy and Security sections of the 2004 Data and Technical Standards are still in effect.



HMIS Privacy and Security Requirements

HMIS Privacy Requirements

HMIS Privacy Standards outline the requirements that HMIS software and users must adhere to for the protection of client privacy and confidentiality. Privacy refers to the client's right to protect their information from unauthorized access and use, including the right to expect that information provided by them in the course of applying for and receiving services is held confidential by staff. The Privacy Standards are split into two levels:

1. baseline requirements, which are the minimum standards that must be met; and
2. additional requirements, which suggest additional protections that can be taken at the community's discretion.

The HMIS Privacy Standards cover data collection limitations, data quality, purpose and use limitations, openness, access and correction, and accountability. Providers using an HMIS are required to have privacy policies that address all these areas.

HMIS Security Requirements

HMIS Security Standards outline the requirements to which HMIS software and users must adhere. The security standards include restricting access to the system software and hardware that houses client information. Security refers to the protection of the data and system (i.e., servers, desktops, laptops, etc.) and is achieved through software,

user agreements, and policies. Like the HMIS Privacy Standards, the Security Standards are also split into baseline and additional requirements. The Security Standards address management of user IDs and passwords, virus protection, firewalls, limited access to the data and systems through public access points (i.e., internet cafes, kiosks, etc.), physical security of desktops and laptops (i.e., monitor positioning), disaster protection and recovery, disposal of old equipment and data, monitoring of the system for potential harmful software, and unauthorized access to information by a user.

Resources:

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46595>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2008). *HMIS baseline and additional privacy standards*. Washington DC: Author.

This chart contains the Privacy Standards outlined in the HMIS Data and Technical Standards. It includes the privacy categories in The Standards and delineates the baseline requirements and optional measures.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46596>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2008). *HMIS baseline and additional security standards*. Washington DC: Author.

This chart contains the Security Standards outlined in the HMIS Data and Technical Standards. It includes the security categories in The Standards and delineates the baseline requirements and optional measures.





HMIS and Data Reporting

HUD-funded homeless programs must use HMIS for reporting. HMIS information is integral to the SHP components including the application process, annual CoC program performance reports, and federal program performance reports.

The CoC SHP NOFA application has become increasingly dependent on a fully functioning HMIS. Scored elements of the application rely on data derived from the HMIS. Historically, HUD required the use of HMIS data for counts of clients (duplicated and unduplicated), data quality assessments of null/missing data in the Universal Data Element category, participation in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), and client outcomes. Client outcomes include the attainment of permanent housing, retention in permanent housing, attainment of employment, increased income, and other CoC-determined outcome measures.

Similar to PATH's Annual Report, SHP requires that all project sponsors complete and submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) to HUD and the CoC. APR data are generated from the HMIS and, like the PATH Annual Report, include information on client demographics, program utilization, and client outcomes.

As previously discussed, HUD developed and published the first AHAR in 2007. Information in the AHAR includes: the number of sheltered and unsheltered persons who are homeless on a single night; longitudinal information about the number and characteristics of individuals and families in shelters; and estimates of the nation's capacity to house people

experiencing homelessness. CoCs that provide data to AHAR receive higher NOFA scores than non-AHAR contributing CoCs. CoCs that contribute to more AHAR categories receive higher scores.

A new report published in 2009, *The Homelessness Pulse*, is intended to help HUD understand the impact of the current economic crisis on homelessness. This analysis relies heavily on collecting timely information on how the number of people who are homeless changes as economic indicators impacting housing affordability and stability change. At present, HUD only collects homelessness data annually, which limits the ability to track real-time changes in homelessness. To address this limitation, HUD partnered with nine CoCs with advanced HMIS systems to collect more timely data. The data—which will be collected on a quarterly basis—will help gauge whether rising unemployment, increased foreclosures, and a slumping economy are leading to marked increases in homelessness.

This up-to-date information will enhance HUD's ability to respond to the economic crisis and inform policy decisions. Since the report draws on a very small number of volunteer communities, the data are not as comprehensive or reliable as the AHAR data. In the coming months, HUD plans to expand the number of communities reporting to the Pulse to enhance data tracking.

Resources:

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46597>

2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR): Local Reports

This is a website where users can build reports that describe the composition of homelessness within the communities that participated in the 2009 AHAR.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Edit.aspx?id=46570>

Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2009, July). *The 2008 annual homeless assessment report to congress.* Washington DC: Author.

The 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is the fourth published by HUD. The report describes the composition of homelessness across the U.S. It is compiled from aggregate HMIS and Point-in-Time count data from a sample of communities based on the Universal Data Elements in The Standards.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46598>

Department of Housing and Urban Development (2009, July). *Homelessness Pulse Project: First quarterly report.* Washington DC: Author.

This project collects quarterly client count data from communities with advanced HMIS. The purpose of the project is to provide HUD with data more frequently to assess changes in homelessness related to the economic crisis.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46599>

State of Vermont. (2009). *PATH statewide report: Report period February 1 2009 to February 28, 2009.* Burlington, VT: Author.

This PATH report is generated by the local HMIS. This data are used to inform local and state decisions on homeless programs.



<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46601>

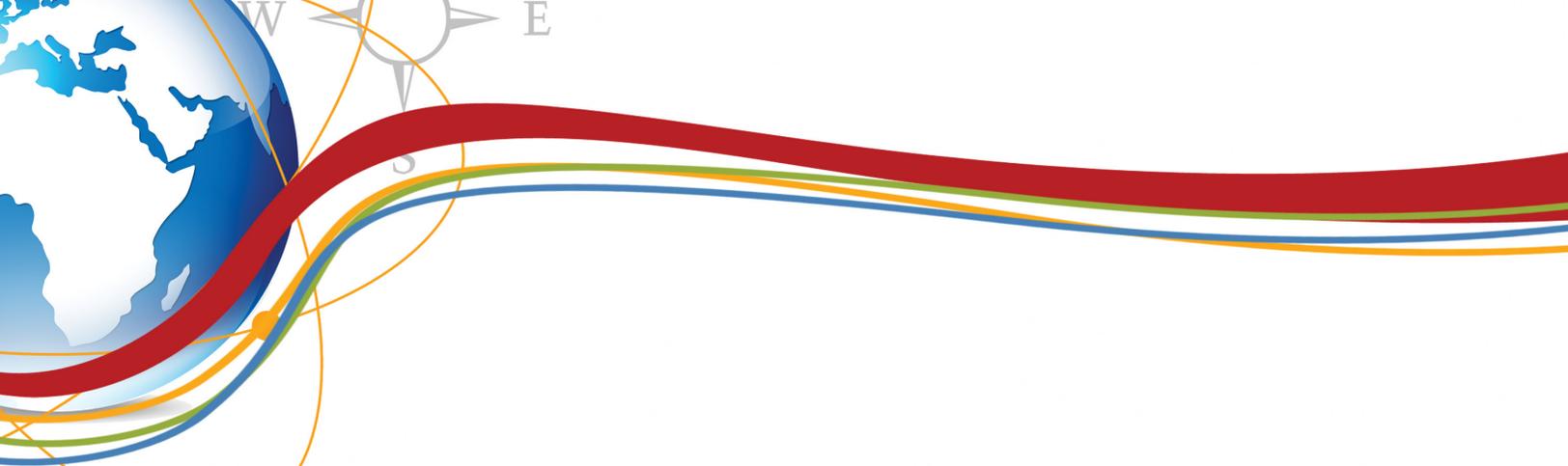
Hayes, M., Deblasio, K., Freeman, K., Rynning, K. (2008, September). *The community perspective: Using research and technology to identify effective solutions to prevent and end homelessness*. Washington DC: HMIS.Info.

This is a compilation of five case studies resulting from the 2008 Advanced Data Users Meeting. Topics include: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs to Prevent and End Homelessness; Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis of HMIS Data for Community Planning; An Integrated County Approach to Managing Human Service Provision; Increasing our Understanding of the Effectiveness of Permanent Supportive Housing; and Integrating Regional Data to Understand Homeless Service Use Patterns.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46600>

Hayes, M., Deblasio, K., Freeman, K., Rynning, K. (2007, September). *Demonstrating the uses of homeless data at the local level: Case studies from 9 communities*. Washington DC: HMIS.Info.

This is a compilation of nine case studies resulting from the 2007 Advanced Data Users Meeting. Topics include: Demonstrating the Potential of Aggregate Homeless Reporting; Linkages of Homeless with Mainstream Systems; Assessing Effectiveness of Homeless Prevention; Maximizing Benefits for Clients and Program; and Modeling Performance of Programs.



Current Developments

The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) is a limited-term funding stream for homeless programs funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). HPRP is focused on housing stabilization through the provision of homelessness prevention interventions and rapid access to permanent housing.

The program is limited to a three-year lifespan and targets persons who would be homeless without this assistance. The program's eligible activities include financial assistance (i.e., short and medium term rental assistance, security and utility deposits, utility payments, etc.) and housing relocation and stabilization services (i.e., outreach, case management, legal services, housing search and placement, credit repair, etc.). The program does not cover mortgage payments.

Programs who receive HPRP funding are required to collect client-level data in their local HMIS. HPRP quarterly and annual reporting includes information on the number of clients served and the amount of funding expended.

In May of 2009, Congress passed the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act. This legislation changes SHP funding by consolidating homeless assistance programs, codifying the CoC governance and planning process, and broadening homeless assistance to include prevention activities. Details of the new legislation are below:

- A. Expands the definition of homelessness.
- B. Consolidates Supportive Housing Programs (SHP), Innovative Homeless, Safe Havens, Shelter Plus Care, and Moderate Rehabilitation/Single Room Occupancy (ModRehab/SRO) programs under one "Continuum of Care Program."
- C. Adds language that describes the nature and role of Collaborative Applicants (formerly known as CoCs).
- D. Adds language to prevent involuntary family separation to receive homeless services.
- E. Includes language to protect identifying information of domestic violence victims.
- F. Modifies the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program to rename it "Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program" and require ESG grantees to participate in the local HMIS.
- G. Adds family support services for homeless youth, victim services, and mental health services to the list of eligible services.
- H. Expands homeless prevention activities to include homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services.
- I. Establishes an incentive program for high performing communities.
- J. Modifies, funds, and establishes the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program.
- K. Establishes a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of homelessness and homeless assistance in rural areas.
- L. Changes the membership, role, and operation of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.



Resources:

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46602>

Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2009, March). *Notice of allocations, application procedures, and requirements for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program grantees under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.* Washington DC: Author.

This is the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program notice published in the Federal Register.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46603>

One Hundred Eleventh Congress of the United States of America. (2009). *Division A—Preventing mortgage foreclosures (S.896).* Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

This is the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 published in the Federal Register.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46604>

National Alliance to End Homelessness (2009, June). *Summary of the HEARTH Act.* Washington DC: Author.

This resource summarizes the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009.

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46605>

National Alliance to End Homelessness (2009, June). *Section by section analysis of the HEARTH Act.* Washington DC: Author.

This provides a section by section analysis of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009.

Technical Assistance Resource Page

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Center for Mental Health Services
www.samhsa.gov

