



Improving Access to Homelessness Data

October 2021

Goals

- Determine how client data can be made available to advance comprehensive support for individuals/families experiencing homelessness
- Promote data tools and funding availability to support these systems
- Strengthen stakeholder coordination on client information and availability of data

Top Challenges

- Limited access to data across varying CoCs, and between related service providers, including comparable databases
- Insufficient guidance on liability in sharing client information
- Lower capacity among some service providers to manage and update data
- Inability to align data on homelessness with other services including health (HIPPA)

Recommendations to HUD

- Update guidance on HMIS data availability and exchange with coordinating stakeholders
- Clarify policy on protecting individual's privacy in sharing data
- Promote TA to advance data integration from various sources (incl. HIPPA) through HMIS and comparable systems
- Streamline data access and affirm legal processes involved in sharing HMIS data
- Issue strategies on capacity development in information management and reporting
- Expand eligible activities under HMIS for state ESG administrators to enhance support to CoCs and related stakeholders

State Insights

Oklahoma

Eight CoCs operating; all entities progressing towards data collection and sharing information between

homeless and domestic violence shelters -> goal: align shelters through compatible system enabling data sharing and reporting

Ohio

Grantees are required to provide APRs semi-annually which are reviewed. COHHIO is the HMIS administrator for the Balance of State CoC and is also the contracted administrator for the Mahoning County CoC. All other entitlements administer their own HMISs and the entitlement data is not integrated with the BoS.

Virginia

The primary goal is merging and mapping data with other systems of care moving beyond capability of HMIS; recently initiated state homeless crisis response system