

Benefits of Joining Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

What is HMIS? HMIS stands for Homeless Management Information System and it is a computerized data collection tool specifically designed to capture client-level information over time. It collects information on the characteristics and service needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and the services provided to those clients.



Benefits for Providers

Data driven decision making

When you make decisions about how your programs should operate, you want to make those decisions off supporting data. HMIS provides a way for agencies to assess program performance, allowing you to see what's working and what's not.

Program reports for funders & stakeholders

Our HMIS not only has the reports HUD requires, but also has dozens of reports that focus on client demographics, services, referrals, and data quality. These reports can be used to get a sense of the population you serve.

Coordinating & tracking of services between agencies

If a client has accessed multiple programs and services from your agency, you will be able to see that on the client's dashboard. If other providers in your area also utilize HMIS, you will be able to tell if the client has been served by those other agencies. This helps the process of coordinating services for clients.

Tracking client outcomes

How long was the client in your program? Where did they end up? What services did they receive and did they reach their goals? Our HMIS provides agencies with tools to gauge and report on client outcomes & larger agency-wide outcomes.

Benefits for Communities

Informing systems design and policy decisions

By utilizing data to identify service gaps in our communities, we can better inform local and national policymakers.

Identifying service gaps

HMIS makes it easy for administrators to find service gaps in the data by recording unmet needs, identifying returns to homelessness, and viewing waiting lists for permanent housing programs in your community.

Unduplicated client counts

HMIS client level data is consistently audited for accuracy. HMIS administrators are able to thoroughly comb the system to ensure data accuracy as well as verify an unduplicated count of clients accessing services in the community.

Understanding the extent of homelessness

HMIS creates an environment where community level data can be analyzed and interpreted. Without looking at the big picture data, we lose an important opportunity for system wide policy decisions.

Benefits for Clients

Coordinated case management

Some clients access multiple programs within the same organization or at different agencies within the same community. HMIS provides a way for case managers within different agencies to see what assessments, services, and referrals a client has received.

Streamlined referrals

You can see when a referral was made, to where, and for what, as well as keep track of the result of the referral. For referrals to providers that use HMIS, the referral is digital and instantaneous, meaning the client doesn't have to personally keep track of their referrals.

Decrease of duplicate intakes and assessments

When clients are entered into the system, their basic demographic information is saved to their personal record and users can see when a client already exists in HMIS. This cuts down on potential duplicate intakes and assessments.