

BENEFITS OF HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (“HMIS”)

An HMIS is a computer data system that collects information about individuals and families who use homeless housing and service systems. Why should communities have a Homeless Management Information System? The benefits of an HMIS go beyond simply meeting the federal requirement set by Congress!

HMIS can benefit:

CLIENTS

- by *decreasing the number of times a homeless person must engage in an intake and assessment*
- by *streamlining the referral process* because agencies are interconnected and client information is shared among partner agencies with confidentiality
- by *enhancing coordinated case management*, both within an agency and across agencies to better serve clients
- by improving the *mainstream benefits eligibility determination and acquisition process*

HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- by *improving tracking of program and service outcomes for clients*
- by reducing duplicative services and enhancing the *coordination of services within an agency and across agencies* with other providers
- by helping agencies *put together financial and programmatic reports* for funders, Boards of Directors, and other stakeholders
- by enhancing *programmatic decision-making through additional information and knowledge learned from HMIS data*

COMMUNITY DECISION MAKERS

- by *demonstrating the extent and scope of homelessness* in the community
- by *providing an unduplicated count of homeless individuals*
- by *identifying service and housing gaps* within the community
- by *providing quality data* to support policy and program decisions