

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness and Housing

FROM: HomeBase

DATE: 15 October 2008

RE: HMIS Changes in the Works

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### **Background**

The RSC has taken interest in Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) since they were first contemplated. The RSC addressed the topics of confidentiality and security first in 1994 in a workshop called "Housing California Confidentiality of Client Information" and revisited in two papers presented in 1995 entitled "Legal and Policy Issues in Shared Client Information" and "Confidentiality of Client Information." In July of 1998, the RSC was given a presentation on freestanding programs entitled "Homeless Services Information Management Systems." Then, in September 2001, the group reviewed best practices and design steps communities needed to take to implement and expand HMIS. Throughout 2002 and 2003, the RSC remained looped into a series of technical assistance workshops and conferences as communities began to implement these systems. In particular, in September 2003 the RSC analyzed the Draft National Uniform HMIS Standards, prepared feedback on the Standards, then continued to track the Standards once officially published in June 2004. In 2005, looking to the future of information systems, the RSC supported the development of RHINO (Regional Homeless Information Network Opportunity), one of the only regionally focused HMIS in the nation.

### **Timeline**

At the 2008 HMIS Training in Atlanta, GA September 21 to 23, HUD released draft revisions to the National Uniform HMIS Standards. At the Conference HUD took feedback on these revisions; over the next month HUD will consider all the comments and feedback and will issue new draft Standards. There will be a 90-day comment period with Final Standards to be published in Spring 2009. For those of you who would like to access training materials from the Atlanta Conference, all handouts, presentation slides, and other materials have been posted to [HMIS.info](http://HMIS.info).

*What is your initial feeling about these proposed changes?*

*Once official changes are announced, would it be helpful to do a peer-to-peer learning workshop?*

*Given the heightened emphasis on engaging non-McKinney players to participate in HMIS, how are your communities engaging these players?*

*Do you have other concerns?*

*For more information, please feel free to contact Danielle Wildkress, HomeBase Staff Lawyer, via email at [Danielle@homebaseccc.org](mailto:Danielle@homebaseccc.org), or by phone at 415.788.7961 x301.*