

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA/CENTRAL VALLEY HOMELESS ROUNDTABLE

WEST SACRAMENTO COMMUNITY CENTER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- 9:00 a.m. Gathering and Networking**
- 9:30 Welcome & Introductions**
- 10:00 Fair Housing: Family Composition, Transgender Housing, Disability Discrimination, and More**
- Adriana Windham and Jeff Jackson, HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
 - Valerie Feldman, Attorney
- 11:45 CoC Roll Call**
- 12:15 Lunch**
- 1:15 Announcements, Funding Roundtable**
- 1:20 HUD Updates**
- Larry Wuerstle, HUD
- 1:30 Legislative and Budget Updates and Actions**
- Federal Updates: HomeBase
 - State Updates: John Bauters, Housing California
- 2:00 Alternative Housing Models**
- John Foley, Sacramento Self-Help Housing
 - Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities
- 2:00 HMIS Breakout: New 2015 Data Standards**
- 3:00 Adjourn**

The Northern/Central Valley Homeless Roundtable

Roundtable Goal and History

Goal: The Northern/Central Valley Homeless Roundtable is led by delegates in homeless continuums of care in the California Northern and Central Valley communities. Its goal is to create regular opportunities for homeless continua participants to foster an exchange of information and to build community between continuum communities.

History

(If no location is noted, the meeting was held in Sacramento/West Sacramento)

- **How to Develop Local Homeless Policy**, hosted by Placer Consortium on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (PCOH), in Roseville, CA, on April 29, 2004
- **The Housing First Model**, hosted by Yolo County Homeless Coalition, in Woodland, CA, on July 29, 2004
- **Discharge Planning to Prevent Homelessness**, hosted by Sacramento County & Cities Board on Homelessness, in Sacramento, CA, on Oct. 26, 2004
- **Local Corrections Systems**, hosted by HUD Sacramento Field Office and California HCD, in Sacramento, CA, on Feb. 24, 2005
- **Housing First Model, 10 Year Plans, Prop 63**, hosted by Greater Chico Homeless Task Force/Butte Continuum of Care, in Oroville, CA, on May 5, 2005
- **Homeless Counts; Engaging Law Enforcement**, Merced Continuum of Care Collaborative, in Merced, CA, on July 28, 2005
- **Interacting with Media, MHSA, Medical Care**, hosted by City of Redding & Shasta County Homeless Continuum of Care, in Redding CA, on Oct. 21, 2005
- **Advocacy Issues; Paul Boden & Megan Schatz**, hosted by Stanislaus Housing and Supportive Services Collaborative, in Modesto, CA, on Feb. 23, 2006
- **HMIS Best Practices & Input on 10 Year Plan**, hosted by San Joaquin Continuum of Care, in Stockton, CA, on July 27, 2006
- **Role & Enhancement of Roundtable Infrastructure**, Planning Committee Retreat, in Sacramento, CA, on Aug. 24, 2006
- **Housing Models & Their Application in Member CoC**, hosted by Kings/Tulare CoC, in Visalia, CA, on Oct. 19, 2006
- **10-Year Strategic Planning, Extreme Weather Preparedness**, hosted by Yolo County Homeless Coalition on Feb. 15, 2007
- **Continuum Improvement & Development**, hosted by Chico/Paradise/Butte Continuum of Care on May 17, 2007
- **Advocacy; Federal, State & Local Levels**, hosted by Fresno-Madera Continuum of Care on Aug. 16, 2007
- **Hospital Discharge Planning**, hosted by Redding/Shasta County Continuum of Care Council, in Redding, CA, on Nov. 15, 2007
- **SSI Advocacy**, hosted by HUD Sacramento Field Office, California HCD and HomeBase on Feb. 21, 2008
- **Housing Development 101: Focus on PSH**, hosted by Central Sierra (Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne) CoC, in Jackson, CA, on May, 22, 2008
- **RRH for Families, Housing Operations 101**, hosted by HUD Sacramento Field Office, via Conference Call, on Aug. 28, 2008
- **Project Homeless Connect, Homeless Count**, hosted by Sacramento CoC on Dec. 4, 2008
- **Homeless Programs: Surviving and Thriving**, hosted by Yolo County Housing and Poverty Action Coalition on Feb. 26, 2009
- **How Do We Capitalize on What's Happening Now?**, hosted by Fresno-Madera CoC, in Fresno, CA, on May 28, 2009
- **HMIS Data Standards**, hosted by Roundtable Planning Committee, via Conference Call, on Aug. 27, 2009.
- **Regional Coordination**, hosted by Placer County Continuum of Care, on Nov. 19, 2009
- **HEARTH and Foundation Funding** on Feb. 25, 2010
- **Roundtable Retreat** on March 16, 2010
- **HMIS as a Planning Tool** on May 27, 2010
- **Federal Strategic Plans and CoC Coordination with Federal Mainstream Systems of Care** on August 26, 2010
- **Community-wide Performance Measurements** on December 2, 2010
- **Connecting Homeless Persons to Employment** on February 24, 2011
- **Targeting- How do we best match need to service?** on May 26, 2011
- **Food Security, 100,000 Homes, Corrections Realignment, and Healthcare Reform** on August 11, 2011
- **Linking Homeless Veterans to Housing and Services** on November 4, 2011
- **Serving Homeless Youth; Innovations in SSI Advocacy** on February 23, 2012
- **Coordinated/Centralized Assessment; Working with PHAs** on May 24, 2012
- **Interim Continuum of Care Regulations** on August 23, 2012
- **Opening Doors Revisited; Bringing Law Enforcement to the Table** on December 6, 2012
- **Implementing 211, Coordinating with ESG** on February 28, 2013
- **Definition of Rural, RHSP regulations** on May 23, 2013
- **Federal agencies responding to Homelessness; Serving vehicularly housed** on August 22, 2013
- **Adapting Transitional Housing; Rural Data; Extreme Weather** on December 5, 2013
- **Emergency Shelters: Increased Use and Decreased Funding** on March 27, 2014
- **Using Medi-Cal for Services in Supportive Housing** on May 22, 2014
- **Then and Now: Homelessness in Our Communities from 2004-2014** on August 28, 2014
- **Homelessness Crisis Response System** on December 4, 2014
- **Promoting Landlord Partnerships to Overcome Housing Attainment Barriers** on February 26, 2015
- **Building Positive Relationships with Law Enforcement** on May 28, 2015

Northern California/Central Valley Homeless Roundtable Acronym List

Acronym	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
ACA	Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)
ADAP	AIDS Drug Assistance Program
AHAR	Annual Homeless Assessment Report
AI	Analysis of Impediments (to fair housing), a part of Consolidated Plans
AOD	Alcohol and Drug Dependency
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
CA	Collaborative Applicant
CalFresh	California's SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) (formerly Food Stamps)
CalWORKs	California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant (CPD program – federal)
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDVA	California Department of Veterans Affairs
CH	Chronically Homeless
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant (Federal program that flows from US Department of Health and Human Services to the California Department of Consumer Services and Development to California counties)
CHDO	Community and Housing Development Organization. Non-profit housing provider receiving minimum of 15% of HOME funds
CoC	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless
Continuum of Care	Federal grant program stressing permanent solutions to homelessness
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG and other CPD programs
CPD	Community Planning and Development (HUD Office)
CY	Calendar Year
Davis Bacon	Statutory requirement that persons working on Federal assisted projects be paid at least minimum prevailing wage rates.
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services (State Office)
DV	Domestic Violence
EHAP	Emergency Housing and Assistance Program Operating Facility Grants (State program. Obsolete.)
EHAPCD	Emergency Housing and Assistance Program Capital Development (State program). Not open to new applications
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grants (CPD – federal program. Flows to entitlement jurisdictions and HCD)
e-SNAPS	Electronic grants application and management system for HUD Homeless Assistance Programs
FESG	Federal Emergency Shelter Grants (obsolete program – replaced by ESG)
FHEO	Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (HUD Office of)
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for many HUD housing programs)
FQHC	Federally Qualified Health Center
FTE	full-time equivalent (employee) (2080 hours of paid employment)
FY	Fiscal Year
GAO	Government Accountability Office
GA/GR	General Assistance/General Relief (county assistance)
HAP	Housing Assistance Payments

Acronym	Definition
HAP	Housing Assistance Plan; Housing Plans required by CDBG
HCD	Housing and Community Development (California Department of)
HCV	Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance (formerly Section 8)
HEARTH Act	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009, S. 896
HIC	Housing Inventory Chart (inventory of housing for the homeless conducted annually in January for same night as the PIT)
HPRP	Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (obsolete)
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (CPD program)
HPC	High Performing Community
HQS	Housing Quality Standards (required before move in for HUD programs)
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration (division of US HHS)
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
HUD-VASH	HUD Vouchers through Veterans' Affairs Supportive Housing
IDIS	Integrated Disbursement and Information System (CPD system)
IHSS	In-Home Supportive Services
LEA	Local Education Agency
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning
LOCCS	Line of Credit Control System
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAEH	National Alliance to End Homelessness
NAMI	National Alliance on Mental Illness
NIMBY	Not In My Back Yard
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
OneCPD	Resource Exchange and email notice system for HUD CDP
PHA/ HA	Public Housing Authority
PIT Count (PITC)	Point-In-Time Homeless Count (unsheltered count conducted biennially, every odd numbered year; sheltered count, every January)
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
RFP	Request for Proposals
RFQ	Request for Quotations. Used to solicit price quotes under the simplified acquisition procurement method.
SA	Sexual Assault Or Substance Abuse
SB	Senate Bill
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
S + C	Shelter + Care (obsolete – replaced by CoC Program)
Section 8	Housing Assistance Payment Program (Housing and Community Development Act of 1974)
Section 202	Loans for construction/rehab of housing for the elderly or handicapped
Section 202/811	Programs for housing assistance to the elderly and people with disabilities
SHP	Supportive Housing Program (obsolete – replaced by CoC Program)
SMI	Serious Mental Illness or Seriously Mentally Ill
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
SNAPS	Special Needs Assistance Program (HUD Division that deals with homelessness)
SOAR	SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SSI/SSDI Application program)

Acronym	Definition
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSO	Supportive Services Only (Type of CoC grant providing services only)
SSVF	Supportive Services for Veterans Families (but can serve single adults)
TA	Technical Assistance
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TAY	Transition Age Youth
UFA	Unified Funding Agency
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

*Thanks to Nevada/Placer CoC for use of their acronym list.



CALIFORNIA'S 58 COUNTIES

PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

PLEASE NOTE: This is a collection of funding opportunities that HomeBase has seen become available recently. These may not be appropriate for all applicants, and any summaries may not be fully accurate. Please refer to the original grant materials or original source for additional information.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICE EXPANSION

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration

Description: The purpose of this Health Center Program supplemental funding opportunity is to improve and expand the delivery of substance abuse services at existing health centers, 1 with a focus on Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) in opioid use disorders

Eligibility: Existing Health Center Program award recipients funded under section 330(e), (g), (h) and/or (i) of the Public Health Service Act that did not receive initial Health Center Program funding as a new start/new award recipient in FY 2015.

Available Funds: \$100,000,000

Award Ceiling: \$0

Award Floor: \$0

Due: September 28, 2015

Link: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=278195>

HUD COMMUNITY COMPASS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Description: Community Compass is HUD's integrated technical assistance and capacity building initiative that helps communities navigate complex housing and community development challenges by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, tools, capacity, and systems to implement HUD programs and policies successfully. Community Compass funds technical assistance, capacity building, and data analysis activities for HUD's customers, including grantees, public housing authorities, and tribes. Recognizing that HUD's customers often interact with a variety of HUD programs as they deliver housing

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or community development services, Community Compass brings together technical assistance investments from across HUD program offices, including, but not limited to, the offices of Community Planning and Development, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Housing, and Public and Indian Housing.

Eligibility:

- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Private institutions of higher education
- Special district governments
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- For profit organizations other than small businesses
- City or township governments
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- State governments
- County governments
- Small businesses

Estimated Total program funding: \$49,900,000

Expected number of awards: 18

Award Ceiling: \$15,000,000

Award Floor: \$250,000

Due: Sept 25, 2015

Link: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=278425>

HUD JOBS PLUS PILOT PROGRAM

Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Description: The purpose of the Jobs Plus Pilot program is to develop locally-based, job-driven approaches to increase earnings and advance employment outcomes through work readiness, employer linkages, job placement, educational advancement, technology skills, and financial literacy for residents of public housing. The place-based Jobs Plus Pilot program addresses poverty among public housing residents by incentivizing and enabling employment through earned income disregards for working families, and a set of services designed to support work including employer linkages, job placement and counseling, educational advancement, and financial counseling. Ideally, these incentives will saturate the target developments, building a culture of work and making working families the norm.

Eligibility: Public housing authorities that operate one or more public housing developments (as designated for asset management purposes) that meet the criteria outlined in this NOFA. Eligible

developments, including scattered-site developments, must have a minimum size of 200 non-elderly households.

Available Funds: \$24 million

Minimum Award Amount: \$1,000,000 Per Project Period

Maximum Award Amount: \$3,000,000 Per Project Period

Due: September 28, 2015

Link: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=278147>

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) PROJECT DEMONSTRATION

Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Description: Grants funded under this initiative will enhance federal efforts to address HIV and intimate partner violence (IPV) among homeless and marginally housed women and girls. These grants will also help further the goals and objectives of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS), which calls for enhanced collaboration at the Federal, State and community level, among diverse agencies and partners to maximize efficient use of resources to achieve its goals. The activities funded under this NOFA will support the NHAS goals to reduce HIV infection; to increase access to care and improve health outcomes for person living with HIV/AIDS; and to reduce HIV-related disparities. These goals will be accomplished through improved cross-agency coordination, resource utilization and service integration among HIV/AIDS housing providers and domestic violence service providers. This NOFA announces funds available for projects that provide housing assistance and supportive services to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS who are also victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including any minors and dependents living with such persons

Eligibility: Eligible applicants for funding under this NOFA are States, units of local government, and nonprofit organizations.

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$9,109,000

Expected Number of Awards: 9

Award Ceiling: \$1,300,000

Award Floor: \$625,000

Due: Oct 23, 2015

Link: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=278647>

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

FEDERAL BUDGET

The end of the fiscal year, September 30, is approaching, and spending levels for homeless programs have not yet been established. Under normal circumstances, Congress would have passed spending bills by now and they would be working to reconcile them. However, this phase of the appropriations process in recent years has become contentious, and it is no surprise that the appropriations process for FY 2016 is, for the time, being stalled.

Congress is on recess at the moment, but when they return in September, it is expected that they will deal with the budget. If spending bills are not finalized by the end of the fiscal year on September 30, then a continuing resolution (CR), or stopgap funding measure, will need to be passed to fund the government until a spending bill is passed.

LEGISLATION

S.1945 - Mental Health Reform Act of 2015

On August 5, 2015, U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Chris Murphy (D-CT) introduced the Mental Health Reform Act of 2015, which is a comprehensive reform of the U.S. mental health care system. The legislation reauthorizes a number of programs within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), establishes workforce training and education programs for behavioral health providers, and affirms a commitment to providing evidence-based treatment services throughout federally funded mental health programs. The Mental Health Reform Act contains a number of provisions of particular note for community behavioral health providers, including several modifications to HIPAA, clarification of billing procedures for integrated care models in Medicaid, and reauthorization of the Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration (PBHCI) program at \$50 million per year. It also includes program modifications to increase statewide adoption of integrated care models and remove barriers to integration at the state levels.

This bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, which will consider it before sending it on to the House or Senate as a whole.

S. 1885 Veteran Housing Stability Act of 2015

On July 29, 2015, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced the Veteran Housing Stability Act, which would increase safe and affordable housing for veterans by improving and expanding upon the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)'s programs to prevent and end homelessness among veterans. This Act would modernize several existing VA housing programs for homeless and at-risk veterans to increase access to safe, affordable, and permanent housing options. Specifically, this act would require the VA to collaborate with HUD and other entities to conduct more robust landlord outreach and encourage more landlords to rent to veterans. This Act would also authorize the VA to issue case-management only grants to transitional housing providers that convert their facilities into permanent housing. In addition, it will expand access to a VA program that provides critical savings to veteran housing providers, allowing groups to spend limited funding to provide high quality services instead of retiring the debt they would take on to acquire a facility for housing homeless veterans. The Act would also require VA to set national performance targets for transitional housing providers and utilize them to determine whether the grantee's performance merits continued funding.

This bill was assigned to the Veteran Affairs Committee on July 29, 2015, which will consider it before sending it on to the House or Senate as a whole.

H.R. 3221 Homeless and Foster Youth Achievement Act

The Homeless and Foster Youth Achievement Act, introduced July 27, 2015, by Congresswoman Katherine Clark (D-Mass) and Congressman Tom Marino (R-PA), would require states to collect and release data on graduation rates among homeless and foster youth. States are already required to collect and report graduation rate data broken down by race, disability, and income level. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. A similar bipartisan amendment offered by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) has already passed the Senate.

FEDERAL UPDATES

RESOURCES FROM HUD AND FEDERAL PARTNERS

HUD has released several resources, tools, and guidance to help Homeless Assistance Programs:

Rapid Rehousing Models for Homeless Youth: an evolving model that can be implemented using the Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-housing component under HUD's Continuum of Care Program. HUD has profiled four Rapid Re-Housing

Models for Homeless Youth that use a variety of funding sources including HUD, HHS, private and foundation funding.

See more at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/rrh-models-for-homeless-youth/>

Letter from HUD to PHA Executive Directors on HUD-VASH Extraordinary Administrative Fees: This letter to Executive Directors of Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) provides further guidance on HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Extraordinary Administrative Fees (EAF) funding for fiscal year 2015. The guidance provides additional examples of eligible uses of the funds and includes a sample budget request form to simplify the process for PHAs. HUD strongly encourages PHAs to consider applying for these funds and to implement varied, innovative strategies to end homelessness amongst veterans.

See more at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Letter-from-HUD-to-PHA-Executive-Directors-on-HUD-VASH-Extraordinary-Administrative-Fees.pdf>

RESOURCES FROM FEDERAL PARTNERS

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released resources for community-based partners:

Ending Homelessness for People Living in Encampments, Advancing the Dialogue: This document summarizes discussions held across the country with advocates, housing and services providers, and government officials regarding what they've learned, and are still learning, about the most effective approaches and strategies to working with people in encampments.

See more at: <http://usich.gov/issue/human-rights/effective-community-based-solutions-to-encampments/>

Key Strategies for Connecting People Experiencing Homelessness to SSI/SSDI Benefits: This document is intended to improve practices and collaboration among SSA field offices, VA Medical Center staff, organizations, and agencies that provide services to people experiencing homelessness, and other community-based partners. The strategies focus on assisting individuals experiencing homelessness with the initial disability application and medical determination process.

See more at: http://usich.gov/usich_resources/key-strategies-for-connecting-people-experiencing-homelessness-to-ssi-ssdi/

The Justice Department The Department of Justice filed a statement of interest on the criminalization of homelessness in *Bell v. City of Boise*:

The statement of interest argues that making it a crime for people who are homeless to sleep in public places, when there is insufficient shelter space in a city, unconstitutionally punishes them for being homeless. The statement of interest was filed in federal district court in Idaho in *Bell v. City of Boise et al.*, a case brought by homeless plaintiffs who were convicted under Boise ordinances that criminalize sleeping or camping in public.

See more and read the statement of interest at:

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-brief-address-criminalization-homelessness>

THE 2015 HMIS DATA STANDARDS UPDATE

In August 2015, HUD and its federal partners announced that they were updating the 2014 HMIS data standards to include six new elements and two modified elements. Additionally, clarification and changes to the client universe were added to elements throughout the manual.

These changes will go into effect on October 1, 2015. On this date, communities are expected to begin entering data under the new standards. HMIS vendors were given the specifications for the new elements even earlier, and are all expected to implement them by the October 1st deadline.

Most HMIS projects, including all HUD-funded projects, are not required to back enter data for clients who are currently enrolled in projects as of October 1, 2015, although data must be collected going forward. However, SSVF and RHY projects **must** update open records to include responses to the new elements.

CHANGES TO HUD UNIVERSAL DATA STANDARDS

Only two of the HUD Universal Data Elements (UDEs) have changed from the 2014 standards. However, one of these elements consists of four to five separate data points, creating major changes to the UDEs as a whole.

- **3.12 – Destination:** While this element has not, in form, changed since the 2014 standards, it must now be collected for **all clients** rather than just adults and heads of household. This change was made to recognize that family members may leave a project at different time and go to different destinations.
- **3.17 – Time on Streets, in an Emergency Shelter, or Safe Haven:** This element has been completely restructured to better determine eligibility for Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing projects. The previous fields collected were:
 - Continuously Homeless for at Least One Year
 - Number of Times the Client has been Homeless in the Past Three Years
 - (If 4 or more) Total Number of Months Homeless in the Past Three Years
 - Total number of months continuously homeless immediately prior to project entry
 - Status Documented

The new fields collected are:

- Client entering from the streets, shelter or safe haven
- (if yes) Approximate Date Started

- Regardless of where they stayed last night -- Number of times the client has been homeless on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today
- Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or SH in the past three years

These fields determine not only chronically homeless status but also eligibility for Rapid Re-Housing. In addition, they remove the documentation field, which was causing confusion due to the distinction between the documentation required for HUD eligibility and the documentation required for HMIS entry.

CHANGES TO COC PROJECT DATA STANDARDS

Only one CoC-required element outside the HUD UDEs has been changed for 2015. Data Element **4.11 – Domestic Violence** has been expanded to collect an additional data point: for any client who answers “Yes” to Domestic Violence Victim/Survivor, intake workers must now also ask, “Are you currently fleeing?” This addition helps determine whether a client meets the Category 4 definition of homelessness.

CHANGES TO ESG PROJECT DATA STANDARDS

In addition to the updated UDEs and the domestic violence element, ESG emergency shelter projects must begin to collect an additional data element, **4.14E – Bed-night Date**, to record nightly shelter stays.

CHANGES TO SSVF PROJECT DATA STANDARDS

SSVF projects must now collect data element **4.44 – HP Screening Score** for all homelessness prevention clients. This score should be calculated in the homelessness prevention screening/assessment.

Projects must also collect data element **4.45 – VAMC Station Number** to record the identification of the VA Medical Center the household receiving SSVF services is associated with. The VA will provide SSVF grantees with the station number that corresponds to their service location.

CHANGES TO RHY PROJECT DATA STANDARDS

The wording and structure of **4.35A – Commercial Sexual Exploitation** has been changed to comply with OMB requirements. While the previous version only asked if the client had received anything in exchange for sex in the previous three months, the updated standard asks if they have *ever* received anything in exchange for sex. The remaining fields are updated to

reflect that change. In addition, the data standards now list the specific wording that providers should use when asking about each data field.

4.35B – Commercial Labor Exploitation is a new element designed to assess labor exploitation among homeless youth. Like 4.35A, the data standards include the specific question language RHY providers should use whenever possible.

In addition, all RHY-specific elements, which were originally to be collected for all clients, are now only to be collected for Heads of Household, Adults, and Unaccompanied Youth, in order to exclude the children of youth from data collection.

The updated data standards manual also notes that RHY youth should all be entered individually, as their own households, even if presenting together as a family. Other than for reporting purposes, they should be treated as a family.

CHANGES TO HOPWA PROJECT DATA STANDARDS

HOPWA projects are given a new data element: **4.47 – T-cell (CD4) and Viral Load**. This seven-field element collects clients' T-cell count and viral load measurement at 6-month intervals from project entry to project exit.

HMIS SOFTWARE PROVIDERS

ServicePoint has announced that they are in the process of implementing the changes to their assessments and expects to roll them out in early to mid-September, in advance of the October 1st HUD deadline. They request that users not attempt to make the changes manually, as this will prevent reports from mapping properly.

Clarity is currently in the process of updating their product to be fully compliant with the new 2015 HMIS Data Standards updates. These will be fully tested and released by 10/1/15. They are also implementing changes to the federal reports (HUD and HHS), and these will also be updated according to federal partner deadlines.

ClientTrack will be releasing a detailed list of the new standards to customers on September 4. The new elements will be active in the training environment on September 14, and in the live production environment on September 28.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

In addition to introducing and explaining the new and changed elements, the revised HMIS standards manual includes a number of clarifications and answers to frequently asked questions. Some of the highlights include:

- Clarification that all projects in HMIS, regardless of funder requirements, should collect the HUD Universal Data Elements and any elements required by the community for performance measurements. All projects that serve people experiencing homelessness, except for victim services provider projects, are encouraged to participate in HMIS.
- All HMIS federal partners are encouraged to enter data in real time, to the extent practical.
- Documentation of homeless status may be required by program funders, but it is not required to enter data into HMIS.
- Lump sums, *including back pay from Social Security*, are considered assets, not income, and are not recorded in HMIS.
- Indian Health Insurance was accidentally omitted from the Health Insurance List. Users should enter Indian Health Insurance as Medicaid until the next Data Standards update.
- Medicaid should always be listed as Medicaid and not State Health Insurance.

Guidance on children and youth:

- If a residential project participant gives birth while enrolled in the project and the child is expected to live with the participant, the child should be entered into HMIS as of their birth date.
- A child who lives with a residential project participant part-time should be entered into HMIS unless visitation is particularly short-term or sporadic. Providers should document their rationale for choosing whether or not to enter the child in HMIS.
- Income received for a minor child should be entered under the Head of Household unless specifically excluded by funder guidelines. For example, CoC, ESG, and SSVF guidelines exclude income from the employment of a minor child in the calculation of household income.
- Student financial aid is not considered income unless it includes a cash stipend.