PIT Count Office Hours: Transcript
April 20, 2021

Please note that this document should not be considered formal HUD guidance; the HUD Ask A Question Desk should be leveraged for official HUD responses to questions.

Additionally, this document has not been edited. The content reflects the language used by participants and panelists during the meeting.

00:00:27.059

Aubrey Sitler: Hi, everybody. Welcome and thank you for joining us for today's PIT count office hours. It looks like our attendees number is still climbing a little bit. So, we'll give folks about another 30 seconds or a minute to get on and connected to audio before we begin. All right, we're going to go ahead and get started. Hi, everybody. Welcome to the office hours session today. I am Aubrey Sitler. I work for Abt Associates, and I'm going to start this off going through a piece of logistical and housekeeping information before we dig into our topic today. First, and foremost, as I'm sure many of you will want to know today's session is being recorded and the recording along with the slides and a copy of the chat and the Q and A will be posted to the HUD Exchange it'll take us about 2 or 3 business days to make sure that all of those resources are accessible and to get them up onto the HUD exchange. The link to those is on your screen. Now we also hope that everyone has a good audio connection, but to make sure you have good audio. Especially if you want to ask a question, verbally later on in our session, we highly encourage you to connect via phone the phone number that you can call to connect to audio on your screen here as the access code. And we can also go ahead and put that in the chat for you to connecting by phone. Instead of by your computer tends to give you just a better quality for your audio both for hearing what we're saying as well as potentially asking any questions that you have over the phone later. Next, I'm going to talk about the chat feature we know that you all probably have a lot of questions you'd like to ask today, and we hope that you will share those and your comments and your experiences of what's going on in your communities in the chat. The best way to do that is to use the chat. You will see a little bubble that says chat in the bottom right. Hand corner of your screen. If you click that it will open up a chat pain that you can use to talk to other people in the session, we ask that you please send your messages to everyone. You will see on your screen. Right now, there's a little dropdown or you can pick whether you're sending to the host the presenter to all panelists. Definitely use the everyone button and not all attendees. If you send it to all attendees, the panelists people hosting this will not be your questions. So, please make sure you send to everyone. And we will get through as many of the questions that you all ask as we can today. Finally, as I mentioned before during the 2nd, half of our session, we will also have the opportunity for you to ask questions. Verbally if you want to tell us that you want to ask a question verbally. You need to raise your hand the hand raising feature is shown in the screenshot right here from the bottom right hand of your screen right above that chat bubble a little picture of a hand. If you click that it tells us that you would like to be unmuted, you cannot unmute yourself, but we can unmute you. So, we will verbally tell you that. It looks like you have your hand raised and we are about to unmute you so that you can ask your question. If you didn't mean to raise your hand or you no longer have a question just hit that same button again. And it will raise your hand so we will know that we don't need to call on you. All right, our speakers today are going to include William Snow from HUD Office of the special needs assistance programs and then 3 of us are on from Abt Associates. Including me Aubrey Sitler and Meghan Henry, who's the director of the AHAR and Tori Morris. And our agenda for today is pretty simple. We are planning to go through 2021 HIC and PIT count data submission guidance, just going to outline everything that was in the data submission

guidance that was published earlier this week. And then we'll go into Q and A, for you all to ask your questions about submitting your PIT and HIC data for 2021. With that I will go ahead and hand things over to William.

00:05:00.528

William Snow: All right and thanks Aubrey. Welcome to everyone looking forward to the conversation. Looks like, we've kind of had a long journey with a 2021 point in time counts didn't get data or information out had count until last November and we were back and forth as the surge when it's high as it could through January like who's going to count who's not going to count, we had waiver options. Lots of CoCs decided that they were going to do some form of counts. Although not, everyone is and that's fine to safety and so. Uh, it raises all sorts of questions about how you finally submit the data, depending on what you did. So, today we're going to walk through some of those pieces. Probably not every single detail that folks want, but we will try to address as many questions as we can and from there, hopefully you'll be able to go ahead and submit. So next slide please. So, we were able to publish guidance hopefully, this actually answers most of the questions that you have, this guidance walks through the normal HDX submission process with some carve out for those who did partial shelter point in time counts. So, I think one way to think of this, and we'll talk about this more in the training. Is to try to think about what's different this year to last for many communities. There's a lot that's the same. So, one of the biggest. I guess burdens of reporting on this is the HIC. It HIC is relatively unchanged. We'll talk about a few nuances that are largely about. How do I report the data? I have it's not it's not different in HDX. You just need to know how do I categorize this in HDX so. That simply is largely the same the shelter point in time count everyone was expected to do that. That's. The same if you did an unsheltered point in time, count a normal count where you collect the date on everyone, there is a way to report just as you have in the past. I should note that if you were one of the CoCs that were approved to use an alternate data sets, I think, in nearly if not, all of those circumstances, the CoC said that they were going to collect all of the unsheltered data elements, then you would submit your data as if it were a full unsheltered count. So, I know I, I saw some questions around that you would be in that camp. So, your data submission is, as it has been in the past. But there are a lot of you who did some form of unsheltered, point in time count that was smaller, smaller in size.. A lot of effort for all of you and your need to know, like, well, how do I submit if I didn't have all of the elements that's what this is all about and the guidance walks through a lot of that. So, please take time to look at that. There's lots of screenshots. Lots of things to help. You kind of see your way through the submission. I remember this is going to be in HDX 1.0, still, that's where we're submitting this, data and let's go to the next slide please.

All right, so the one element that we did change in the housing inventory, this year was one of the federal funding sources, we just wanted to know if you're in a project that is receiving ESC-CV funding. If so then, yes, on the funding source. And you'll have the option of saying, whether it was rapid re-housing or shelter if you are a temporary emergency shelter, funded project, or have that in your CoC,

that also would be reported as emergency shelter. We don't have a special carve out for a temporary emergency shelter. In the reporting. Next slide please.

All right. So there are three areas that involve the VA funded projects. So we're going to spend a little bit of time on those again. We're not really changing the nature of the reporting. You'll use existing frameworks, but you need some guidance on what that means. Right? How do you do that? So this is what those things are going to start with the SSVF emergency housing assistance. Program, so this is actually a carve out within the SSVF program, which is normally exclusively rapid rehousing. So, in the HIC in the past, if you said, that says SSVF. You had to report it as rapid re housing. However, they actually have an arm, especially under COVID where they reports. The, or where they're able to serve people. Through SSVF in hotels, or some form of emergency shelter again, I think there are almost always. Hotels, so there were enough of those. In fact, I think that ballpark figure was around 10,000. People, veterans were served through EHA- Emergency shelter or this kind of, or hotel option. So we want to be able to capture that data. So, how do you do that? Well, in the HIC'S, you're going to report. People in those hotels or in those emergency beds as sheltered. That will be treated not as year around, but as overflow. Bed, so again, your year-round should show up as zero and the funding source will be SSVF. So, remember normally. You're only allowed to report SSVF as rapid re-housing so you will get an error. It's not a not an all stop. It's just a warning and you'll have to say yes, I understand. This is it was SSVF, and it was EHA SSVF funded. And that's how it will be reported the next slide please.

There are two options for how to dip this data out in your local setup. And it depends how you set it up in HMIS, it's also possible. You didn't set it up in HMIS Really? There's a third option where you don't have to worry about like, how do I pull this out of HMIS You just say well. I talked to and SSVF provider this number of people were in EHA on the night of the point in time count and you'll work on this such based on the guidance in the last slide. So, your HMIS project setup will determine kind of the nuance you have to follow through to get your EHA that appropriately accounted for in HIC and how you'll pull it formation HMIS. So, I'm actually going to take the second bullet on here. First. The easiest scenario is, you may have just set up in the HDX program. In HMIS and set it up as sheltered. If you did that your life, it's easy. You essentially pull those out. Each HMIS participating beds, you'll report the EHA units as part of that project and you move forward. We know that there are many CoCs that didn't do that. You weren't required to do that. You could, in fact, just report it as part of, or collect the data in your normal SSVF Rapid Re-housing projects. So we needed a way to kind of pull that piece out. Of your data, so that you could report the sheltered side of it. So, the first thing to recognize is that those would be reported nonparticipating and you'll have to make sure. You pull out the HMIS project ID. We have a little bit of guidance here so in our heads, we're thinking about. What's going to come? Not just for your HIC reporting this year, but. Your impact on LSA later, so this should make your life a little bit easier if you follow this guidance around project ID in particular right? So use the project ID associated with the project HMIS. My ask, but you want to probably put an addendum on. It says EHA or something to call out. That project ID, because you're essentially going to duplicate that Id one for the emergency shelter piece and one for the SSVF piece. Let's go in actually, let's go to the next slide. And this slide will kind of

walk through. So who exactly how am I going to know. If they're set up as a rapid re-housing project, how am I going to know? Who exactly is part of the EHA portion that should be reported in HIC and that's included so, what you'll do is, you'll walk through? This kind of logic here that's on the screen. You'll start with everyone who's in the project. And then you apply two pieces or two filters to that. one. Do they have a move in date if there is no rapid re-housing moving dates or move in date period associated with record then you keep drilling down? Right. So, if they have a move in date, then they're in rapid re-housing. They're not do not in EHA. So, if there is no moving day, next filter is. Do they have an existing EHA-TFA. Service recorded for the month. I have to admit, I don't know what TFA stands for, so we'll put that in there.

00:14:23.788

Aubrey Sitler: Temporary financial assistance.

00:14:23.788

William Snow: Thank you temporary financial assistance. If that's recorded, then that will tell you exactly which people in that rapid re-housing project should be reported as part of EHA and, an those should be included in your housing inventory account. So, everyone who's in that EHA record. Again, regardless of how you pull ups, they're all considered. Under emergency shelter, so they'll be reported as part of the sheltered point in time count. It's possible that unlikely that you won't have much information about the beds. Associated with them it is. Okay. Just to say one person equals one bed. For that, and you'll have 100% utilization associated with it as well. So, again, we know there are some nuance. We don't want to make it more complicated than it has to be. We know this already has some layers to it of complication, but for things like again, that last part. We get that you may not know the best, so just use the people as a proxy for that and report that number of beds accordingly. All right, let's go to the next slide please.

Oh, okay. So, what about. GPD like some of our other shelters, some GPD did a form of decompression where they use hotel, motels to allow some folks to spread out or they temporarily house people in hotel motel during the night of the counts. Count them as if they were in the GPD program in the facility itself. So no unique reporting there, you're not going to treat them a shelter. You're not going to have to create another record for that. Just include them as part of the count. And as part of the count of that existing GPD program. So, we know there were a lot of variations like that. There was a lot of that anyways with how you reported or will report some of your existing shelters that are not GPD funded or. Or some of the other, especially in relation to not congregate shelter. So that's our guidance on that. So next slide please.

HUD-VASH, so we were thrilled to release the HUD-VASH tool and have worked with our partners in the VA to get the data. We also know that it wasn't perfect. And this is round one, so a lot the lesson learned as we tried to get the first round of data into your HMIS asked and time to report for the HIC. one of the biggest areas of questions that we've received is. Uh, what do I do when I all I have is veteran data, I don't have anything on their households or household competition times. You don't have anything on the bed or the number of units. So this is what you'll do in that case if you don't have. Any of the other information simply report the number of veterans. You can well, you will need to report them as under the household category households with only adults, or without children. That's the house will count them under. And. If you don't have the bad information, this is similar to what we just said with the EHA it's one veteran equals one bed equals one unit. So, you'll treat it like that. We again don't want to force you to jump through a lot of hoops to kind of guess we know that this may make some of your numbers look a little different from last year. Thankfully, this is not part of the point in time count, so it doesn't have implications on your counts going up or down. So that's really important. And in the past, in the most recent past, we haven't used. Your total number of PSH beds as a way of scoring we haven't done that for several years now and we don't anticipate it for the future. So that's another area where that's something where we will make sure we're not causing harm by making this decision. We just thought this would be the easiest for you to implement. And require the least amount of work and you're getting more data. In more data in HMIS. That's good. Right overall that should actually improve. Your ability to analyze the system, improves your ability to report and understand what's going on. We're all for that gain. We don't mean to cause more pain, but again, we know it's imperfect and we're willing to kind of accept that to get more of the data for this. So there's a lot of things again the VA stuff is great. We're excited that actually, so much flexibility was there for the various things I talked about, but also recognize that that. There's also complications with that as well. I'm going to turn it over to Aubrey to kind of walk through the HDX side of submitting.

00:19:06.148

Aubrey Sitler: Great. Thank you, William. All right so. In order to support all of these changes for 2021, especially around unsheltered PIT count changes, we had to do a lot of reprogramming of the HDX. So thank you for your patience and waiting for HDX to be open for data submission. I'm going to go ahead and walk us through what William said just now: a lot of the changes that you'll see from what you may have noticed in prior years for what HDX looks like, in order to account for the types of unsheltered PIT counts that people were allowed to do this year. So first, and foremost we've gotten some AAQs about this. I want to remind folks that on this homepage when you first enter your PIT count date, and the type of PIT count that you conducted this year, it has always said, did you receive a HUD waiver this question has always been there and what it is referring to is whether or not you got a HUD waiver to conduct your PIT count outside of the last, 10 days of January once you enter your PIT count date and select your type of PIT count and HIC save in the HDX. That question will go away if you conducted your

PIT count within the last 10 days of January. If you did not conduct your PIT count in the last 10 days of January, then you need to answer that question to tell HUD whether or not you got a waiver in the way that the Notice requires you to if you're going to conduct your PIT count outside the last 10 days of January. But, again, this is not referring to the memo, the CPD memo that had certain unsheltered PIT count waivers available.

There were also changes that we implemented for the type of PIT count that you conducted this year and I'm gonna walk through each one of the ones that is now available. The first one is super easy. It's the sheltered only PIT count. And that has always been available as an option. There are many that CoCs every other year do not conduct unsheltered PIT counts. The functionality of saying that you only conducted a sheltered PIT count is the same as it would be in any other year. So, if you did not collect and are not going to report on any unsheltered PIT count data, you want to select this first option, which is sheltered only count. And then you will only submit sheltered PIT count data. You won't submit any unsheltered PIT count data.

The second option is sheltered and full unsheltered count and this replaces the option that used to be called sheltered and unsheltered count. There were multiple types of unsheltered counts this year. We had to differentiate between them. So sheltered and full unsheltered count is what you would have done in any other year that you had conducted both a sheltered and an unsheltered PIT count. So, what this means is that you are accounting for your entire geography. It means that you are reporting on all demographics and other data elements, chronic status, population, data, additional population, data, household type for everybody who is counted in the same way you would in other years. If you have any missing data, it means that you're extrapolating for that data to account for all people within your CoC. That is what the sheltered and full unsheltered count option means.

Sheltered and partial unsheltered count is the third and final option, and it is new this year and there are several different ways in which the functionality of the HDX has been altered to allow for the range of partial PIT counts that people had the permission to conduct from had this year so what it means, if you did a partial unsheltered PIT count is that you collected some, but not all of the usual required unsheltered data elements. Please note that it does not mean that you only cover part of your geography, or part of your population. You still must have used a methodology that meets HUS's standards for covering your full geography and population. But without some data elements, for example, maybe you just did a head count of total number of people in your CoC maybe you only collected on some demographics. Maybe you collected everything, except for chronic homeless status for people anything short of the full unsheltered counts. Qualifies as a partial unsheltered count now in the HDX once you have selected that third option , often of sheltered and partial unsheltered counts. It tells the HDX to change the way that you interact with the unsheltered data within particularly the totals tables. So. In this screenshot here you can see that we are in the all populations tab you've selected sheltered and partial unsheltered PIT counts. And we're in the total table, if you're doing a full unsheltered PIT count, you cannot edit the totals table at all. But because you're doing a partial

unsheltered pick count, if you do not have household data, you don't know whether there were children in household. You just have a total headcount. You just don't have any ages for people. You need to be able to edit this total table. Instead, so you do have the capability to edit this table, but please note that if you are editing the totals table, it's gonna delete the data that you have put in the household breakdown tab. If you are reporting by household type, put those data in first, and then don't touch the totals table. This is also true in the veteran's totals table tab. Normally you can only add information into each of the household types within the veteran category. So household veteran households, at least one adult one child, veteran household without children. And then those auto calculate your totals in the totals table. For this year's partial unsheltered PIT functionality, you can edit the totals table. If you are not reporting on health by household type. You also have the capacity when you're doing a partial unsheltered count to edit this field that you can see highlighted in the unsheltered column here within each household type. So, it's the total number of person, because many people were not collecting age information to report this number is normally auto calculated. Based on the number of people reported by the ages below it. If you are not reporting by age, leave those fields blank for ages, 18 to 24 and ages are people over 24 and this example, which is hospitals without children and instead just put a total number of persons here. Please, if you have incomplete information about this. Still leave it blank we will not include any information that does not sum to the total. We will always assume that the total number reported is the correct number. And again, we're not doing partial data. There are a couple of functionalities related to color coding that are going to help you and us identify. Where people have and can edit unsheltered data field. So, some of these will look familiar three of them in fact, because they're the same as prior years. Any field that's white you can edit so you'd be able to click where this zero is you'd be able to delete it. You'd be able to add some other number in. You can manually enter and change those. The light blue fields are total fields that have been manually calculated, so they are not automatically calculated you have manually put in this 122. that's right here in this light blue field, the gray field that have numbers in them have been automatically calculated from other manually entered data and you cannot edit anything. That's gray, whether it has a number or not. If you see a field that is gray and has this blue line on the right side of it. That means that this field would be editable, but it's not because a relevant field, and another table has been manually changed. If you hover over this in the HDX with your mouth, it will tell you why it cannot be edited. And we'll, I'll show you some examples of screenshots in just a 2nd, for how those. These things kind of interact with each other and finally, if there are any fields that are just blank in their gray, it means that they cannot be edited. Because another field in the same column has been manually edited. All right, so an example of some of these fields, so I mentioned earlier that this total number of persons box the 1 that's currently light blue and says, 122 in the screenshot. If you did a full unsheltered count, that box would be great out with a number. That would be automatically calculated based on the number of people that you put by age below it. So, if you put 10 people under 18, 10 people 18 to 24, 10 people over age, 24, it would add up to 30 and you would not be able to change that 30. This year, if you don't know the ages of the people and households with at least one adult in one child, but you do have a head count by household type, you would want to put that number here. Where you see that 122, and it turns blue to tell you,

hey, you edited this. That's why these other boxes below it are gray. Now, this is the second example, is it spills over onto the next slide but we're going to start with these highlighted boxes that are that are gray with a blue line on the right hand side. It's the unsheltered column, it's household without children for all homeless population and all of the boxes are great out for total number of persons, and number of persons by age. But they're grayed out with this blue box, which tells you oh, you would normally be able to edit these, but you can't because they've been edited somewhere else. If you, I'm going to go to the next slide if you go over to the total's table within that same all homeless population tab, you can see. This again, it's a light blue box with a number and it, which means it was manually edited and that's the total field. You have put a total number of people counted in your unsheltered PIT count here is for 473. Because you edited that field in the totals table, you cannot edit the total number of persons shown in other tables, and you cannot add people by age below that. Because again, otherwise it would auto calculate. It's an either, or you can't do both if you accidentally edit something that you need to go back and delete and you're like, oh, shoot, no, I did have the breakdown by household or I did have the breakdown by age. All you have to do is highlight that 473 hit delete, and then tab out of it or enter out of it and it'll free up those boxes for editing again. It's a little finicky it's different from how it's ever been before, but I promise you get used to it. And again, we have all of this written down in the data submission guidance, to kind of help guide your use in the HDX, and the AAQ is always open to answer questions as you're working through this functionality. For those of you who only did a headcount and you're not adding any demographic data whatsoever. This is the field that you want to edit. It's the total number of persons in the total tab of the all homeless population tab. This is the only number that you need to add in if you are only reporting a total headcount of people again with no household breakdown no age no product status. No demographics. Just that field, we are also asking you to please leave other fields. Blank. Don't put 0, then delete them and leave them blank. If you did not collected data within a specific demographic or other type of field. This reiterates a lot of what we have already what I've already mentioned in other slides and in context, but as a reminder, if you completed a partial unsheltered counts. Please enter complete demographics that sum to the total number of people reported in that column, or leave them blank. Again. You're not going to be submitting if you have 100 total people counted and you only know the race of 50 of them. You either need to have used the methodology that allows you to extrapolate for the total to be reporting on race for 100 people, or not reporting on race at all. If any of your demographic or other data do not sum to the total of those columns that I just mentioned you, it will not be used. We will just again assume that any of the total number of people reported by category is the correct number. And if the demographics don't sum to that added together, they don't equal that total number, then we are assuming that you will not be including demographic data in your PIT count submission.

We also created this table for you to help crosswalk. If you're doing an unsheltered a partial unsheltered count, this sort of summary of validations of what needs to equal what if you're going to include it. This Row A is a pretty important one as you see, in these other boxes, these other cells, a lot of them link back to things in Row A, so pay attention to that. But basically, how you read this is each row is a

different type of data. So, total persons, demographic, chronic status and additional populations. And each column is a different type of tab or table and so. When you're submitting any of these types of data in any of these places, this tells you what it should equal or what it cannot exceed. So, for example, if you look at row C column 2. Any chronic status data that you are entering into all homeless populations tab the household level table. Any of the data that's entered into chronic status cannot exceed your full headcount, which is 1 a, or it cannot exceed any entered data. It cannot exceed the total number of people entered into that household type.

I know that was a lot of information and we are now moving into our Q and A. Let me go ahead. I know we've got a bunch of questions that people have asked about what William presented on and about kind of the HDX functionality for this year. All right. So, our first question that I'm going to ask is. What if we have a total number of unsheltered people and we know that some people are in families, but we are not sure about the others. Should we report the data on the household types that we do know about? William, do you want to answer that one?

00:33:57.173

William Snow: I think we have guidance on that from the past in our in our notice about how to address the incomplete data when it comes to distribution among household types. Generally, you have that option of kind of talking about what you. It just positive there of extrapolating. That amount, as long as you have no data that contradicts that right? If you have. If you're not extrapolating a men's shelter. To your family data definitely don't want to do that but if you have light data. You certainly have the ability to use that life data to extrapolate to account for missing information.

00:34:29.039

Aubrey Sitler: Great thanks, William. Can I submit partial demographic data?

00:34:36.688

William Snow: So, it's a little unclear what that means. If you mean partial demographic data in the sense that I have all of the data. On race for all persons in my own unsheltered count and that may mean I had to extrapolate to account for them. Yes, you can provide race and that's missing data and not gender data something like that right? If partial means. Not every elements, but it means you account for every person in your count. With that, for each of the elements you do have, then that's okay. It's just not acceptable to say. Well. I only did 50% of the people. So can I just said submit 50% submit the database on the 50%? No, you're going to have to account for everyone. So, either you'll

have to extrapolate to account for everyone. Uh, so that 100% of folks are covered by with race data, whichever elements, or you can choose if you don't have confidence in that this is the year where you could choose to submit less. We need to look and consider whether you got waiver approval. I think everyone who needed to get waiver approval to do something lasted. If you're concerned about that, you can submit in AAQ and we can, we can handle that, but just know. To operations point earlier partial only means partial elements. It never means partial part of the population. You always have to submit. The date on the entire population, if you choose to submit any given element.

00:36:07.289

Aubrey Sitler: Great, thank you, William. We've got a number of SSVF questions that have come in. Let's go ahead and move through a few of those. So, there are a few that I think are all asking similar questions about HDX and SSVF there's several people have said. You know, HDX in it's going to give us an error if we use the same HDX product ID for SSVF-VASH, as we are using for SSVF rapid re-housing, how do we deal with that?

00:36:40.498

William Snow: Aubrey, you want to answer that you're probably better suited for that.

00:36:43.768

Aubrey Sitler: I can, yes, so one of the, in the data submission guidance and on the slide that William presented earlier. We are highly recommending that people do something consistent to account for the each HMIS For the EHA project ID for the HIC. and so this is specifically for folks who do not have. EHA set up as its own project in HMIS it's not a requirement to set up a SSVF-VASH, as an emergency shelter project in HMIS. Some people have, which is why we have to speak to both, but. if it is the rapid re-housing project service transaction that accounts for EHA, HMIS, and it is not an emergency shelter project in HMIS. What we're recommending that you do for that project ID in the HIC is to use the same project ideas the rapid re- housing program. With a hyphen EHA on the end of it. So it's not a project ID that actually shows up in HMIS your but it tells you and it tells us. That, hey, this is a project that is linked to the actual number at the beginning of this, and the actual code at the beginning of this. But the hyphen EHA says this is SSVF-VASH which is why it doesn't exist in HMIS. We are also planning for that to be helpful on the LSA front later on when you are doing your next round of data submission for that. So you're correct. So you can't have an identical HMIS Project ID in the HIC, for both the rapid re housing and the EHA project. If they're in fact, the same projects in HMIS, but you can kind of add that sort of coding to the end of it to say this is EHA, that's what we're recommending that you do.

Okay, so someone else asked: We already set up non participating emergency shelter projects for these EHA projects and beds. Are you saying that we should not do that? And instead use the SSVF- HMIS ID? I hope that the answer I just gave speaks to that if you chose a different path for assigning a project ID, that's fine. You just need to be able to remember that later on for your own benefit and for, I believe, LSA purposes as well. Does that seem right William anything else to add to that?

00:39:01.559

William Snow: That sounds right and you're hearing a theme here we're trying to address HIC questions and PIT questions, but we also know, like to answer questions today we also are trying to answer questions you're going to have in a year. Well, in 9 months, I guess, on the LSA. We'd rather set this up now, so that we don't surprise you later by saying oh, yeah, if you've done it slightly differently. In May or April, you would have had a lot less trouble. Now we're trying to give you those hints. So just look and how you are set up. Consider the easiest way to submit right? If you have a separate project already set up for EHA use that, but recognize if it's non- HMIS participating, that's going to come up as a flag in the future. And then the LSA, so you need to flag that and be prepared to kind of speak to that in a several months. So. The way, you kind of manage that now we leave that up to you, but we want to flag it to you're aware that's going to come up. So how are you going to be able to address those questions? So, we'll keep speaking to that, as we address questions here. We just want again. No surprises when the LSA comes up, we want you to be prepared. Now, it may even change how you report in the HIC. Because it may make your life slightly more difficult today, but save you a lot. More a lot of briefs down the road, and that's kind of our goal.

00:40:21.960

Aubrey Sitler: Yeah, thanks for that William, I think the notion of trying to be thoughtful and planful and support everyone and being thoughtful and planful is certainly has been a theme of this year's 2021 PIT and HIC data submission. Okay. Next question for the SSVF questions, SSVF- VASH what are we putting in the HIC for this? If we don't have a project, then the HIC and the PIT data will not match for emergency shelter. I think that. The gist of this question might be, how do we make sure that the PIT count and the HIC are matching to account for SSVF-VASH.

00:40:58.170

William Snow: Yeah, if you want to keep going on that, I think again Aubrey you're probably most suited for that.

00:41:01.710

Aubrey Sitler: Sure. So, I mean, I think if you are putting an emergency shelter project in for SSVF-EHA. Then the people who you're accounting, they're also need to go into your PIT unsheltered count. And you should have all access to all of the demographic information that you would need all of the chronic status, etc. Um, to be able to report on that so there is still an expectation that those two numbers, both the number of people counted in emergency shelter projects in the HIC as well as the number of people counted as in emergency shelter on the night of the PIT count should align.

00:41:42.389

William Snow: Yeah, a few questions about rapid re housing. So I'll take those while you look at other SSVF

Aubrey Sitler: go for it.

00:41:50.039

William Snow: There are a few questions around how you report somebody in rapid re housing right? Like. Where do you report them? So, if the person is enrolled in rapid re-housing, but not yet house, right? No move in dates. Presumably, that person is homeless, so you will report that person as homeless, and you'll report them in the appropriate category often. We tend to see them in shelter, or they're accounting for elsewise but without the moving date. They're not housed, so, yes, you need to report those people and you need to report them as homeless. The minute they have that move in date. They're not going to show up in your shelter point in time count, because we consider them permanently housed at that point. So, the moving date is the trigger for how you report people in. The rapid re-housing, I also saw questions around. Rapid re-housing, like, what numbers you report in terms of total beds rapid re-Housing has always been kind of a fun one and it generally is. What do you have on the night of the count? Most of the time what you have is a reflection of vouchers issued. People and households in vouchers, there are still some rapid re- housing programs where they have kind of, about stocks. That looks a little more like transitional housing, right? Where they have X number of beds that's kind of rare. But it is possible so the HIC continues to be what is available as opposed to what's occupied. You should always report what's available, but again, rapid re-housing tends to be what is

occupied and available is one and the same thing, because you don't tend to have some sort of set of open units out there. They tend to be tied against the vouchers that are already on the street.

00:43:42.389

Aubrey Sitler: Right.

00:43:54.295

Meghan Henry: I'm going to jump in one second, I think, just to clarify from the data quality perspective for rapid re-housing. What the HDX, and what the data quality team will be looking for.

After the fact is sort of confirming that people in bed for rapid re-housing are the same. And if they're not the same, why? So that's sort of just to make it clear that we, it's expected that it will be a one person per bed.

00:44:14.250

Aubrey Sitler: Thanks for that, Meghan, always helpful to hear. Daniella, we are going to go ahead and unmute you. It looks like your hand is raised.

00:44:23.280

Daniella: Thank you so much.

Aubrey Sitler: I can unmute you if you want to ask your question yes, I can hear you.

Daniella: Yeah, so I have a couple of questions, but I think most of them have been answered in one way or another. So just to clarify. So, in my in our CoC, I should say we did a partial unsheltered count. We have multiple regions, so we did a partial unsheltered count and also some regions opted to conduct an observation and, like, a head count. Um, so we have numbers both from, headcount observation, type of surveys, and also from a partial unsheltered surveys. So, we were able to capture demographics with those surveys. But with the with the headcount, we were only able to capture the number of people. So, would you mind just clarifying? How should I go about reporting these numbers?

00:45:23.610

William Snow: Yeah, that's a great question. And I'm going to put a little plug in.

We are gearing up to release a tool to help with this. It's a little bit late in the game. So many of you probably won't use it, but it will help for. This situation, and hopefully for the future, the way we look at it is, it depends on how comprehensive the data you do have is so if your observations are 90% of your data. I would tell you the only thing you're going to submit in that scenario is a headcount. So, you'll have that other data, you can use it for local purposes, but I would not recommend even attempting to extrapolate that data to kind of account for the rest of the geography. If that split, then you have. Let's say, 60% of your data. Is associated with the shorter interview where you have some of the data and 40% is the observation, you know, at that point, you can decide whether you want to make that extrapolation. Uh, it's probably okay to do so we prefer a little bit higher, but, you know, like, that's. It's your call and it's probably an okay range for you to do it. As long as you're confident that data you're extrapolating. Like, those areas are fairly representative. Of the areas you're extrapolating to account for, we generally say, kind of look and create strata right create groups of like CoC, and looked at how. How the data you have relate to the data you don't have in those groups and make the decision from them. But that's complicated, too. Like, I'm not going to lie and say, hey, that's really easy. Just sit down and make some strata and do some extrapolation. Right? Like. That does not seem like a nice Friday, Friday afternoon activity. So just consider what you have. And it is okay, especially if you conducted a full count last year, it's okay for you to say, look, I just don't have confidence in the larger set. I'm just going to do the headcount.

00:47:24.360

Daniella: Okay, and, uh, you said, thank you so much for that that makes sense if I, uh, on the other hand, if the survey's represented 90% of my data, then I would only report on those surveys. Correct?

00:47:37.525

William Snow: No, you would still account for the 10% that were observed by extrapolating. So you'd use that 90% to say. Okay, well, you're still going to have to kind of break it down into the groups and extrapolate for the missing areas based on that 90%.

00:47:55.349

Daniella: So, one way or another, I would need to extrapolate based on what I have from headcount and from surveys.

00:48:01.949

William Snow: Right

Meghan Henry: if you have 90% of the surveys, there's an extrapolation tool that's on the HUD Exchange, I believe.

Daniella: is that the Excel spreadsheet.

00:48:17.034

Meghan Henry: It is yeah, yeah yes. It only ask that you have 80% of the data. So that's really sort of the benchmark that we've been using is if you have demographic data on 80% of your population, it can be pretty confident that the extrapolation tool will get you very close to there.

But again, if you only have 10% of the demographic data, as William had mentioned, it'd be really hard to get an accurate picture. So it would be easiest for you to just enter the total numbers that you have.

00:48:45.750

Daniella: Okay, and that sorry, that would be the total numbers for the. From the surveys, if most of my information is coming from the surveys, correct?

00:48:56.304

Meghan Henry: Oh, if most of your information is coming from the surveys, then, particularly if it's 80% or above, then certainly use the extrapolation tool. And you can combine your survey based counts in your observation based accounts assuming that the, the 20% is, the observation is counts. If you have 80% or more, sort of a good chunk, it's just coming from observation. I would just combine your survey based counts with your observation headcount and just to report on those total number of people.

00:49:26.550

Daniella: Okay,

Meghan Henry: instead of adding any demographics at all.

00:49:30.059

Daniella: Yeah, okay. Thank you so much. I definitely don't want to take a whole lot of time, but may I ask just a follow up question from the extrapolation tool.

00:49:41.755

William Snow: Yeah,

Daniella: so I'm looking at this extrapolation tool right now it seems like it's a very similar format to what we report on. And that's my only concern. Uh, I do have a spreadsheet that mimics, Where we report on HDX, but would I use the extrapolation tool? To enter those numbers on HDX.

00:50:09.030

William Snow: Yep, you'd use the extrapolated numbers based on what you pull from the tool. Can you that so we created the tool the mere what's an so that you can easily say oh, this is. This is what I'm going to have to report by this is the same format. So yet use the, the numbers as extrapolated in the tool and report those in HDX.

00:50:28.469

Daniella: Okay, perfect Thank you so much. I appreciate that so much.

00:50:32.789

William Snow: Thank you

Aubrey Sitler: Yeah, I'll always feel free and everyone else as well, when you've got super specific questions you're not sure of, to go submit an AAQ and you'll get some support in some responses for what the expectations are. We've got a number of questions, William, about changes in capacity to different shelter projects in particular during COVID. So let's go ahead and ask some of those questions to get them out there. So one person has said for changes to emergency shelter, capacity, due to coverage, should we enter only the number of beds that were available on the night of the PIT count? Even though that is significantly different than the previous years.

00:51:19.710

William Snow: All right, I'm actually going to try to couple cover a couple things at once here because this is we anticipate there's going to be lots of questions on this. So, I will tell you HMIS set up is probably going to drive most of them. Right. So, in our minds, we, our goal was not ruin your life with all sorts of data Nuance as COVID was hitting. We provided HMIS set of guidance. Uh, I won't say last April and that's going to be the core for how we respond to this. So you have a couple of options here. First, if you're a shelter, then at 100 beds before COVID hits and you decompress and nothing else happened, right? You didn't create other units like, you simply decompressing you went down to 50 beds you're going to report 50 beds. That's it, that's what we would like you to do is report on exactly what's available. On the night of the counts, now, what we often saw was. Shelters worked in the system, and they rarely did something that was like, all tied to them. And often what happened was well, we decompress. Shelter A and we open shelter B to compensate for that decompression. So, whereas shelter A, had a 100 beds at one point. Now, it has 50, but we opened up a hotel. To cover the other 50 people if that's the case, we essentially gave you the option of setting up another shelter. In HMIS and recording that hotel set of bed and then you would report your shelter as 50 beds, the decompress shelter. And you would report the 50 beds associated with the hotel, because it's already set up as a separate project. You had another option of simply saying, look. We move people to 50 hotel rooms, but he was really part of the same service package. That's in our shelter. It is the same staff serving them. They were just spread out more to account for me. So it's more or less. The same shelter. Just spread out. You have the choice then just to say we are one shelter. And you would report that as one, if you're HMIS setup is one shelter. In that case, you can continue to report it has one shelter in spite of the fact that you have 50 beds spread out now and you wouldn't have to report those in some sort of strange nuance you would just consider at all. Facility based emergency shelter, so you don't have to account for them as being hotel based, or anything like that. Again, that's more for the ease of reporting for you now, if you increase capacity through the hotel, so let's say you didn't.

Added 50, new hotel beds, you added a 100 new hotel beds, and you still had yourself at 50. in that case. We recommended that you create a new shelter or new record in HMIS , because you're actually

not really just changing the location of beds. In a shelter, you're actually creating capacity so it's really a new shelter at that point. So, in those cases we would expect that you would have a separate. Shelter a project in HMIS and that's what you would report in all of those cases. You were really reporting your bed in the shelter based on the night of the PIT. Now, we do understand that there are some scenarios where that complicated, or may not be possible due to maybe HMIS set up. If you decompress. And for some reason, you can't show those numbers as being less. If you report them as, let's say, 100 beds, but you're really operating is 50, it will show as heavily under-utilized. Right? You'll still only report 50 people in those beds. That's allowable, but I will tell you the, that's the type of thing that will have. LSA implications down the road, right? Because you're going to have to account for what was going on in the shelter on the night of the count and I wish you were as easiest saying well COVID happens and I write the note and I'm done. That's simply not how the LSA cleanup happens and you guys are. Very, very well aware of that. So I would recommend that you reflect the actual capacity on the night of the count. It will make your life. Easier in the long run if you take that approach. Aubrey or Meghan is there a scenario that we missed?

00:55:50.215

Aubrey Sitler: I think you hit on most of the things that people were asking about, in terms of decompression and hotel motel, I think the only other one that is a very specific question. That will probably be useful for many people on the phone is we have a few hotel motel vouchers projects that did not have any clients on the count? Do we include these projects on the HIC because they were technically available even though they're considered overs overflow beds and therefore don't have a set number of beds?

00:56:10.260

William Snow: That's a really great question. So, I would say, you don't need to report them. They are overflow. And Overflow, we don't make you report if it's not open on the night of the counts. You have some flexibility there I will just say, for instance, we've allowed for rapid re-housing projects. If you have zero on the counts, we've allowed you to report that because it's used for other reporting purposes. Right? You use it for strategic planning. That may be possible, but I actually would recommend not including the project at all in that case. Does that sound right to you Aubrey and Meghan? I think that's consistent with our guidance.

00:56:51.480

Meghan Henry: That sounds right to me, I just have one quick question just to clarify because if so if it's if a project is 100 bed decompress and then 20 of those beds go to hotel motel availability in the case that they're occupied, we have them not touch of things. Right? So we say your inventory is the same, keep it as it is, but if they did that, but those beds weren't occupied, but it sort of just on the night of the counts. That's where I'm sort of it might be that it just you have to figure out what, what feels right to you as the community what makes the most sense.

00:57:36.179

William Snow: Yeah, that's a great point because you have some discretion in this regard and no matter what your shelter in that case is the compressed. So you may want to reflect the available bed through the hotel but circumstances may dictate that they weren't actually available to. Right those are things that I can make a policy here in Washington. D. C. that doesn't make any sense for you. You have a little bit of discretion to kind of think through where they actually available stay include them and count them. You should know. And there's kind of an implied question. And a lot of this of, like, are we going to get penalized? Are you comparing last year's. Shelter capacity to this year's shelter capacity. The short answer that is no. Like is a COVID a mess, the data is a mess from all of this and we know that I actually think the HIC is going to tell a lot of. The messiness, but I think there's a really strong and positive message in that. In, in how communities responded have you responded to this crisis? So we're going to use that mess and we know there's a lot floating in that data. I would recommend that you just reflect as accurate as possible and again use your discretion as to what that means locally. But don't worry about being penalized because one shelter to the last year and 10 this year. We're not, we're not looking to penalize you, or there's no, gotcha here we want to know what happens. We want to know what intervention you did and we want to tell that story.

00:59:08.909

Aubrey Sitler: Thank you, William. We've got a couple of questions that are similar, but different around whether or not people should be selecting partial unsheltered PIT count for their type of PIT count. So, one person says, for the unsheltered PIT count, we asked people everything, except for the additional homeless population's questions.

Would this be considered a partial unsheltered PIT count?

00:59:30.659

William Snow: Yep, I think the short answer for any thing is going to be. Is there one element that you're not going to report on? Even if you clicked on everything except. Except HIV status, or there are a few nuanced ones. If it's one, then you're in the partial camp.

Aubrey Sitler: I think it's a great way of thinking about it. This one is, this question is kind of the opposite of that. This person says we received a waiver from HUD for the unsheltered count. We ended up doing a modified unsheltered count but did not cover everything in the same way that we would have in the past. Should we select sheltered count and partial unsheltered count? Or should we select sheltered count only?

01:00:13.019

William Snow: Yeah, I love that question. I suspect there are several communities in that camp. So this depends on how you can answer that partial data question, are you able to account for the entire. Your entire CoC with the data you have? If so I would say, yeah, and you may have to extrapolate to do that. But, if you can confidently extrapolate yeah. Report what you have, right? Like, that's a good thing. The reality is every CoC gets something slightly different. This year. Some of them not slightly, hugely different, and some slightly different and some no count at all. So, if you have data and you're confident, it is somewhat reflective of your community not perfectly reflective, but, like, yeah, it gives you a thumbs up thumbs down. Did we go up go down in our on unsheltered? I would encourage you to submit. The level of that data that you have, that you have the most confidence in right? If it's if you collected a little bit of demographics in a headcount but you're not confident in the demographics. Don't report that, but give us the head counts. So that we have an idea of what's going on with just your total numbers. So you have some flexibility there as well. I think again, the one caution is there are some requirements that you did not conduct and then unsheltered count in 2020, but you're going to report less than the full amount and you didn't get a waiver for that. Yeah, we need to talk about that. Because you actually have more restrictions than others are not very many in that camp. For the most part, I think we heard from everyone and we address questions and provided the waivers that are needed but. Uh, I'll just put that one caveat if you did a count in 2020. You have an unsheltered count 2020 you have, like, infinite and flexibility, or you can choose to report nothing in terms of and unsheltered. If you want. Or you can report as much as you have as long as again it's representative of the entire unsheltered population.

01:02:10.980

Aubrey Sitler: All right, and one more on unsheltered PIT counts, this person says to confirm if a only the CoC conducted a headcount, they will enter the total count number in the all homeless population, total tab in the total number of persons column. Is that correct? And then we are required to provide an

explanation and the notes tab to address the warning that will be triggered is my understanding. Correct? My short answer to that is the given that I just talked to the slides is yes, that is absolutely correct. You got it you nailed it. Thank you.

There's someone asking in the HDX I've noticed on the PIT screen, it is sometimes not saving zero values. I had to go back through and fill in zeros. And it dropped them 3 or 4 times until they save. Is that normal? I could not see any cost for it and have it in pattern anything similar? Sometimes I, I've also noticed when testing in the HDX, if that does happen, you have to go back and hit zero and fill in the zeroes multiple times. If it happens over and over and over again, please open AAQ. So that we can make sure that that is not some kind of bugs that we need to be fixing more broadly also the save button, except for when you have 1st clicked into the HDX, you have to hit save once you pick your type of PIT count for it to open the data editing fields for you part of that, I think, as a safeguard. So that. If you're changing from, I did a full in unsheltered count, so I didn't do any kind of sheltered count. It doesn't just delete your data for you. You have to actively click save. But other than that, the save button shouldn't be required to save your data. So, again, if you're having issues like it, not logging zeroes over and over and over again, please submit an AAQ, and we will help you. Through that to clarify when reporting for a vast in the heck are we supposed to report the number of beds based on the number of allocated vouchers and utilization based on the actual number of households based on the step vouchers? Or are we supposed to be reporting something else?

01:04:21.420

William Snow: That sounds right especially if you're using the tool, right? It's like all the data you have essentially is there. They've export a certain number of people a certain number that may be all you have right? Number of veterans, and some of the underlying demographic data you're going to use that to determine how many beds you have. And it will be people equals beds equal to units. So 1 person to 1, bed 1 unit, and they will be households without children.

01:04:51.570

Aubrey Sitler: Great and it looks like Lillian has her hand up. Kayla. Would you be able to unmute? Lillian? Please. Lillian, can you go ahead and say something and see if we can hear you?

Lillian: Sure.

01:05:11.130

Aubrey Sitler: Yeah, and we can hear you.

01:05:14.489

Lillian: Okay, it's in the chat that I, it was kind of a double question with shelter vouchers. When you talked about the SSVF ones, you said, use those as overflow beds, should we do the same thing with ESG-CV vouchers?

01:05:33.869

William Snow: It's a great question. You actually have some flexibility there. So there is a lot of that yes. See, the ESG-CV funding that actually went into existing shelters again to help with decompression. So if you're seeing the inventory you added, as a way to supplement decompression. It probably makes sense to report that as year around and you're likely even keeping that within the shelter. Right but if you're treating it as. Temporary, you know, it's going to go away after COVID especially if it's temporary emergency shelter. Yes. It seems like you could report them as overflow beds and that's. That's an appropriate way to go. So you have some flexibility there. You just think about how long you expect those beds to be in the system? And if they're truly going to go away after COVID, which again, I think mini will overflow is a good way to report that.

01:06:28.530

Lillian: Okay, except that our. See, as a balance state, so we use emergency shelter vouchers all the time. Um, and so, for during point in time count, should those be regular. And so they end up being a 100% or should they be overflow?

William Snow: yeah, so again, that's a perfect example of where you as a state you should. You should use your discretion there. We won't, we won't force an answer on there because I think actually you really should decide because I know I think it is Alabama. That right? Lillian's.

01:07:07.019

Lillian: Yes

William Snow: you guys have all sorts of flexibility and this is an opportunity that may carry forward and it may make sense to see it as part of your regular system. But maybe not all of it. So, I just don't have enough to be able to answer that. But I think I'm confident that you.

You can use your discretion on that and make the call that you think it's right for your CoC.

01:07:27.300

Lillian: Okay, thank you.

William Snow: Thank you.

01:07:37.255

Aubrey Sitler: William, we've got a question about both PIT and HIC here, our was CoC able to capture PIT count responses from individuals and emergency shelter provided by the correction systems. And individuals staying in hotels, paid for by a charitable organization. To match the PIT and the HIC and then later the LSA. will we need to create non project for the corrections emergency shelter beds and the motel room paid for, by the charitable organization.

01:08:06.329

William Snow: I actually wonder, Meghan, if you are probably the best 1 to answer that given the LSA, because I'm pretty sure this is actually really a LSA question. I will let you take a first pass.

Meghan Henry: All right I was reading the chat. Could you say it back again?

Aubrey Sitler: Sure. So, in this, it sounds like there is a, an emergency shelter project provided by the correction system, and there's one or multiple hotel motel projects paid for by charitable organization, and they got PIT count responses. So it sounds like they did some kind of pick up survey. For individuals who are residing in both of those projects on the idea that the PIT count to match the PIT and the HIC count and later the LSA will we need to create non HMIS project for the corrections emergency shelter above and the hotel motel room is paid for by charitable organizations.

01:08:58.800

Meghan Henry: Yes, absolutely. Put them you can track them in your HIC as non-participating projects and you might want to think too about whether that means that you should also be putting the, the in the PDEs as well, if those projects regularly serve people experiencing homelessness and even if you don't put any client information in your HMIS, you should probably be tracking the projects themselves. Hey.

01:09:30.659

Aubrey Sitler: Thank you. William if there are vouchers available, but not yet assigned do we mark those as for singles or for families? Or do we use appropriation? They aren't Pre designated for 1 population or another.

01:09:48.180

William Snow: I would recommend using the preparation and that if you have. That level of information again, if you're using the extrapolation or the tool, you probably don't have that, and you can just assume that they're all household without children, but if you have the household breakdown data with your normal data set yeah, I would recommend using an extrapolation there.

01:10:13.350

Aubrey Sitler: Right. Is VASH required for the 2021 HIC.

01:10:19.289

William Snow: VASH is always required, so we've required it for several years. The 2021 context is no different than in the past.

01:10:30.119

Aubrey Sitler: And one more clarifying question about VASH and household type, this person says to clarify, we don't have to report vast families with children. We only report 1 bed and 1 unit per voucher.

Um, we don't have to extrapolate for families?

William Snow: Yes, that is correct. That's especially if you're using the tool, but. You have the option to do that if you would like. But we know that's more work and we are okay. With you just taking the data directly from the tool that's imported into HMIS and using that. In fact, you may. If you've extrapolate, maybe making can speak to this. You probably won't question marks that come up on the LSA. It says you have this number people, but I don't see the units associated with them. So while you have that option, I would say you're probably smarter just, Here's the 1 for 1 on the HIC cause it'll reflect what's already in HMIS

Does that sound right to you, Meghan? With kind of the LSA thinking.

Meghan Henry: it does yeah, just to be really cognizant about where you're putting the household. So if you have families. Adults and children households that are HMIS.

We might have to do a little we might have some questions when it comes to the LSA but if it's simple. Just to keep them as but only half of household and keep the 1 to 1.

01:12:02.520

Aubrey Sitler: Got a question on is there also a 1 person per bed expectation for voucher-based hotel shelters, or voucher based permanent supportive housing. So, is this kind of premise for HUD applicable offer? Should we also be using the contracted number of beds for either of these other types of projects?

01:12:22.140

William Snow: If you have a contracted number of beds and That is definitely what we would prefer, but that also depends a little bit on timing. And we kind of want to be acknowledge that reality. Right like, if you just got 100 beds, 100 VASH, that's contracted to you on January, 15 there's no way on earth that they're going to all be leased up. Right. So it would be unfair for us to have an expectation that you would have them all these stuff 15 days later, so again we allow some flexibility we prefer to have the contracted, but we allow you that discretion if that's if you've had the contract numbers for 9 months. Yeah. You really should actually report that number because we would expect that. It should be me step by then with probably a low vacancy rate for turnover. So just look at your own local contacts there, but generally the answer would be yes.

01:13:20.640

Aubrey Sitler: Right. We've got a number of questions of people trying to figure out basically how to determine whether their emergency shelters that were funded through COVID should be listed as year-round seasonal or overflow.

01:13:35.399

William Snow: Great

Aubrey Sitler: any guidance on determining the difference between those 3.

01:13:40.680

William Snow: Yes, let's start with seasonal. I would say not seasonal.

Unless they're, like, literally replacing, like, a winter shelter, and they're only going to be open during that winter shelter timeline, which actually, we do know that some of that happened. But that was pretty rare. Most often, the beds were open and left open indefinitely, or at least during the duration of COVID. So, I think it would be rare for you to report it as seasonal your determination about whether to consider them overflow or year-round just depends on how you saw the beds in relation to your existing shelters. So if you treated those beds. In hotels, as an extension of your decompress shelters seems to make sense that you treat them as year round. Right it's. You just moved where people over a house, you didn't change your capacity for housing or shelter, and I should say. There are, I think many CoCs didn't think of it that way at all. So, it's okay for you to say, look, that's really like, we didn't think of it as is this part of the normal game or not? We just had to reduce what we had in our normal shelters. And all of our other options went to COVID and it's all going to go away when the COVID fund is gone. So it's okay to say, well, in that case, that's overflow. Right? Like, that's going to be available for an indefinite period or undefined period, but it will end. Whenever your funding stream ends, which again is not definitely won't go forever. Probably be over within a year. So it's okay to say, yeah, we actually see those as overflow in our system and we're going to report them as overflow. To be honest. I would expect most will reflect. This inventory and overflow, but we're not like HUD's not judging. Did you put this as overflow, or did you put this in as a year-round?

Again, each system kind of saw their inventory a little different, and it's not for us to kind of make that call for. You just look at how you looked at the beds in relation to your other shelter options.

01:15:48.864

Aubrey Sitler: Here's a question that I think goes a little bit deeper into how to calculate hotel motel beds than what we've answered so far. So we'll go ahead and dive back into this one. can you remind me of how to find guidance on calculating beds at hotels? Do we use an extrapolation method? How do we assign unoccupied rooms in hotel projects? For the total bed Count.

01:16:17.310

William Snow: Yeah, you're essentially going to use extrapolation. Right? You'll just prorate your data based on the data you have, and again, ideally, you're not going to, like, just take all your shelter data and extrapolate. You're going to look at the nature of the facilities right? Like, if you are decompressing and really the same population is going to go to the hotel as what's going to the shelter, you probably should just use your preparation based on that shelter, or that group of shelters if it really is a free for all then that's fine to just use your, like, just look at your total numbers and do an extrapolation there, but the short answer is yes, you should extrapolate, and pro rate based on some form of data. Probably your full system data, but again, if you had more targeted ways of allocating people to shelter options, you may want to consider using kind of that subset of shelter data to extrapolate to account for those, those households that went to those types of shelters.

01:17:20.340

Aubrey Sitler: This question, we have a shelter that stops operating right after COVID and are still not operational now. It has been 9 to 10 months. They plan on opening again at some point. Should they be included on the 2021 HIC?

01:17:33.329

William Snow: No say we're serving nobody on the HIC or on the night of the count. Then now again, you'll just have to answer that other normal question around like, was it decompress to zero and you literally, like, replace the same number of beds in a hotel and your system thinks of it as. An extension of that shelter. In that case, you may want to report it as having bed through the hotel. It sounds like you're not thinking about it that way based on how you frame the question. So, I would likely say. No, don't report it at all. It's okay that it was on last year, not this year and we'll be on in the future.

01:18:20.100

Aubrey Sitler: Sifting through the rest of the questions here. There's one, that's asking about for a YHDP funded joint component TH-RRH project. Do we select both YHDP and the joint component check boxes under CoC funding?

01:18:44.399

William Snow: Yes

Aubrey Sitler: It should not be mutually exclusive terms or funding sources. Okay, does HUD have any pre-written talking points to inform our community about how this year's PIT count is different? And to not fully compared this year's data with previous or future counts.

01:19:07.829

William Snow: I don't know about pre-recorded talking points or pre -written talking points. We, when we release the 2020 annual homeless assessment report with the 2020, pick down data, we spoke to it a little bit. Certainly in news feeds. We'd spoken to it. Um, it's something we haven't released points, partly because we're waiting to see the data. People will have a hard time grappling with it if they don't have something tangible in front of them. But we're happy to kind of talk through that with folks and help shape messaging. We think that's really important. And we definitely will re, emphasize over and over again and we have done this with people who fund all of us, right? Like. People on the hill and others that we just said, this is not the same set of data. You should not expect to see. Comparison we've actually told them you will not see a national unsheltered comparison. That's simply not going to happen. We'll compare what makes sense, but we'll copy on it as much as we can. I think the story we have said. And for you to think about, is the HIC is going to be a really important way to frame the whole. Response story, so we will put a lot of emphasis on the heck. This is again. Why it's so important for you to decide what's most reflective of your community and why we don't want to make that call for you. Uh, we're going to take the data as given to us. And try to tell that story, you should be doing the same thing. Right, if you had, I look at California, a lot of project room key in California. I expect most if not, all CoCs in California will likely want to report those separately. And be able to say this was our project room, key intervention. This is what our community did was this number of units. They may want to compare that to the number of shelter beds from this year, the last year, and say, yeah, we had fewer in our normal shelters, but this was our response to that to make it safer and to address that. The crisis, so we will have heavy emphasis on. The HIC data and virtually no emphasis on the unsheltered. Certainly, it's a national principal. No one's no emphasis. And we'll look at what we can tell on the

sheltered side. There's certainly a lot of interest in telling the race equity story. If there is a story to be told there, we certainly will analyze that. You should probably do the same. Right. We are rightly focusing as a country on the impact of our systems and race, and this was a moment where we can try to tell that story, but we continue to copy out. Right? The shelter data, we're pretty confident in a lot of it in HMIS and we think that data is pretty strong. We can, we can make some analysis there unsheltered data Even in normal years has challenges. In the context of the point in time count so we do make the analysis, but we try to do it with some questions. If you have unsheltered data. Just consider how confident you are, and it being represented above your population, and perhaps gaps you may have in that data when you present on it but if we think it's a powerful story. And it should, it should be shared even if it has holds, it's okay to say. We don't have perfect data on this, but this is what we have.

01:22:27.989

Aubrey Sitler: We have a question: There's someone who said we were 1 day outside the last 10 days of January for our PIT count. We did not get an official waiver, but we did email Mr. Snow and he told us via emails that our PIT date was acceptable. Should we say that we received a waiver for our account in the HDX?

01:22:49.109

William Snow: So, I'm the one who actually approves all those waivers. So, if it says approved there. Then you approved, I will tell you if you're talking about January 21st, we give flexibility there. There's actually a lot of confusion around, like does this 10 days include January 21st? Does it exclude it? Our goal is not to penalize people so we tend to allow it. Although I would recommend doing January 22nd through the 31st. Uh, you can email me again, just to verify and I'm happy to look at that. But if I gave you a confirmation saying it's okay. I'm the one who makes that call. So you're probably, okay,

Meghan Henry: I would add it from a system perspective. There's probably a validation in the system that checks against the date of your account and the validation status or the waiver status. So, I just want to send that warning out there.

01:23:47.369

Aubrey Sitler: So, for purposes of the date, though, William, an email from you saying that the date that you've chosen is, okay, that is the waiver normally, isn't it? Or is there a different waiver process?

01:23:58.319

William Snow: That is the way. Yeah, we don't require even paper. We did all via email. Although again, I probably dealt with 200 CoCs in emails this year so. All of them look a little different and based on the context of the emails. So I'm. Slightly cautious there often. It's a more formal email that says staff sees your request. Accepted your request again, if you've emailed me and got a response and that it's okay that generally is my call. So. You're probably okay, but you can email me again to confirm if you want.

01:24:33.510

Aubrey Sitler: We've got someone asking for verification on when PIT count and HIC data are due and whether HUD anticipates offering an extension.

01:24:41.909

William Snow: Great question. It's due on May 14th. We don't anticipate an extension. Unfortunately, we have the same restrictions as we have had with, like, getting it backed out to the public, and you saw the 2020 report wasn't released until just a few weeks ago that actually created some, some problems and impacted other things indirectly for even all of you. So, there are, like, real reasons for us requiring it early. That being said, like, we are going to look at requests we'll take them in context. If you asked for an extension today, the answer will be no, if you ask for an extension on May 7th, because you're actually, like, there's no way on earth you can do it, we'll look at the context, but just recognize there is a chance we will say no. And we don't anticipate at this time that we'll be extending the deadline.

01:25:36.239

Aubrey Sitler: Okay, going back to something you said earlier this person has asked when William stated to report the actual capacity of available bed for a project to avoid complications with LSA does this mean the actual capacity that is generated by the HMIS LSA PIT report or what? The agency's report on bed availability, due to, for example, decompression.

01:25:59.010

William Snow: So, I'm going to answer the way. I think it should go again. I'll lean on Meghan and Aubrey, generally based on your HMIS data. So, the actual based on what's in your is likely the most.

Helpful record in the long term, considering your connection between the pit counts, HIC, and the LSA, that sound right?

01:26:25.800

Meghan Henry: That sounds right to me.

01:26:31.920

Aubrey Sitler: Great Thank you. All right. We've just got a few minutes left. Maybe ask one or possibly two more questions. one question about ESG-CV, are we to record the beds for around 2? If we do not yet have a contract as of yet.

01:26:51.720

William Snow: So, to be honest, I don't care about. That is like, the funding source is less important if you don't have the contract in place, but you are funding the bed. The starting point is absolutely report the bed. If they're not under contract, I would say, no, you probably shouldn't check the funding box CoC ESG-CV but definitely report.

01:27:29.395

Aubrey Sitler: Yeah, I think maybe some additional framing on that that might be helpful is usually when we're talking about which beds to include in the HIC, it's more about whether or not those beds are operational – whether or not they could be occupied on the night designated for the count. Okay, and one other question, we would like to include a new joint component project. The TH-RRH portion is funded through the joint component program. I assume that means the CoC program and the rapid re-housing funding will come from the program ESG-CV. Since the RRH funding is coming from ESG-CV, do we need to establish just one rapid re-housing project with two funding sources, or should to two rapid re- housing projects be set up one for the joint component? Rapid re-housing and one for ESG-CV RRH.

01:28:05.760

William Snow: So, my inclination is the things you actually could choose, but it probably makes most sense to treat it as one rapid re-housing project. That's just my first take on it. Aubrey or Megan, I think that's consistent with what we said for all of the reporting with joint. Does that sound right to you.

01:28:32.699

Aubrey Sitler: The TH and RRH definitely need to be separated into different projects. In terms of whether there should be one or two RRH projects for that joint component project, I think it honestly should reflect how it's set up in HMIS. So, if you're using both funding streams for all clients, then I would imagine that there's one rapid rehousing project in HMIS attached to both of those funding sources. But if, for some reason, some clients are being served with CoC rapid re- housing for that joint component project and some are being served with ESG-CV then it's probably a little more nuanced and complicated. So work with your HMIS folks and honestly submit an AAQ if there's something super nuanced going on there. How does that sound?

01:29:05.699

Meghan Henry: That sounds great, right?

01:29:12.060

Aubrey Sitler: Okay, well we are at 1 minute left and I want to be respectful of everyone's time. We've gotten through a ton of questions today. But I know you all probably have a lot more; you can always feel free to submit questions through the ask a question desk on the HUD exchange make sure that you submit you select HDX homeless data exchange as your topic on that 2nd page when you're submitting AAQ will stick the linked to that in the chat in just a 2nd but thank you all for all your hard work. We know that this season is always stressful and this year it's particularly stressful. So, thank you on behalf of the Abt's team and Williams you have any other closing words you want to offer.

01:29:50.069

William Snow: Thanks for all you guys do. We're excited to see your questions and get the data in.