March 2014 Version 1.0

2014 Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons:

Data Submission Guidance



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1. PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE

This document provides information to Continuums of Care (CoCs) on how to successfully submit their 2014 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Staff should review this guidance and use it as a reference when preparing their data for submission. For information on what information needs to be submitted and how to collect such data, please see CPD-13-011 <u>Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program.</u>

All CoCs must submit HIC and PIT Count data through <u>HUD's Homelessness Data Exchange</u> (HDX). CoCs will be able to enter HIC and PIT data beginning **Tuesday April 1, 2014** and must submit final data by **Wednesday April 30, 2014, by 12:00 am (Midnight) Eastern Standard Time**. Submitting the HIC and the PIT data in HDX is a **2 PART SUBMISSION** process. CoCs must submit both the data entered into the HIC module and the data entered into the PIT module in the HDX by the submission deadline in order for your submission to be considered complete.

The Primary Contact for each CoC is responsible for ensuring that the 2014 HIC and PIT data is entered completely and accurately.

If you have any questions about entering HIC or PIT data that are not covered in this guidance or in CPD-13-011 <u>Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time Data Collection</u> for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program 2014, please visit the <u>Ask a Question</u> page on <u>HUD's OneCPD Resource Exchange</u>. To submit a question, select **HDX (PIT, HIC, AHAR, Pulse)** for the Program/System under *Your Details*, then under *Question Details*, choose either **HIC** or **PIT** as the topic and subtopic.

2. THE HUD HOMELESSNESS DATA EXCHANGE (HDX)

The HDX is an online tool designed to allow CoCs to submit data to HUD in three modules:

- The Housing Inventory Count (HIC);
- The Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count ; and
- The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR).

The HDX may be accessed at http://hudhdx.info/.

2.1 Accessing the HDX

A user account with a username and password is required to access the HDX. Once a user has an account, the CoC primary contact can assign rights to the various modules in the HDX. The CoC primary contact is the person listed in your most recent CoC registration for the CoC Program competition or the person identified by the CoC as the new primary contact through a written request submitted to HUD through the <u>OneCPD Ask a Question</u> page.

2.2 Create an Account

Read, write, and submit privileges for the HDX are managed by the CoC's primary contact directly in the HDX. All HDX users who need read, write, or submit privileges for the HDX must establish an account at the <u>HUDHDX.info Create an Account</u> webpage (<u>http://www.hudhdx.info/SignUp.aspx</u>). Users who already have an HDX.info account do not need to re-register.

2.3 Add User to HDX

Before any data can be entered the CoC primary contact will need to identify user rights to the relevant HDX modules. Your CoC may decide that multiple people should be involved with entering, reviewing, and submitting data. CoC primary contacts should follow the steps below to add, review or modify user rights.

To add users, the CoC primary contact will click on the Add User button on the HDX Admin tab.

This will bring up a form in which the CoC primary contact can enter the email address, first name, and last name for the new user.

The HDX will display an alert if it is unable to find an account associated with that email address. Contact users who have not yet created an account and ask them to register at the <u>HUDHDX.info Create an Account</u> site (<u>http://www.hudhdx.info/SignUp.aspx</u>). After creating an account, the user will be able to log in to the HDX.

2.4 Assign Access Levels for HDX Modules

The CoC primary contact can assign rights to each HDX module for each user by checking the box that corresponds to the appropriate level of access. The levels of access in the HDX rights are:

- **Read** can see the screens and any data that has been entered, but cannot enter or edit data;
- Write can enter and edit data, but cannot submit data; and
- **Submit** have the authority to approve and submit data to HUD.

2.5 Updating the List of Users

The primary contact for each CoC should verify that the list of authorized users for the CoC is accurate and up-to-date. If any of the users listed on the HDX Admin page no longer need access to the HDX, the CoC primary contact may remove users by clicking on the remove link in the far right column. A message will pop up asking for verification; click *OK* and the user will be deleted.

2.6 Updating Your Account Information

Users may update their account information by navigating to the Dashboard and clicking on the <u>Click here to update your account information</u> link.

Update your information and click on the blue Save or Change Password button to update your account details.

3. HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

3.1 Important Changes to HIC Reporting Requirements

The following three reporting requirements have been added to better align program components with the CoC Program interim rule.

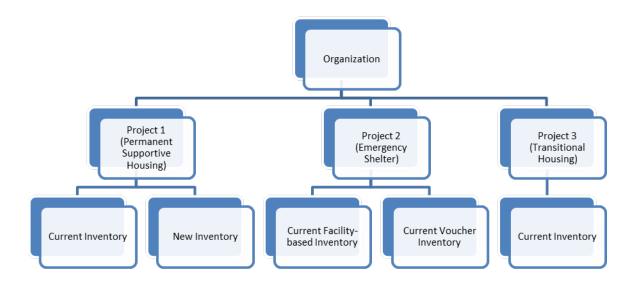
- 1. Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration Projects has been added in HDX as a specific project type. CoCs that have one of the 23 Rapid Re-housing Demonstration (RRHD) projects, funded in the FY2008 CoC Competition, will need to identify the Project Type as DEM.
- A new project component Permanent Housing (PH) has been added in HDX. Projects previously classified as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or Rapid Re-housing (RRH) will need to be reclassified as Permanent Housing (PH), and then the Project Sub-type identified as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-housing (RRH), or other Permanent Housing (OPH).
- CoCs will need to identify the number of beds within all Project Types that are dedicated to veterans and youth. This can be completed in the Project Inventory section of the Inventory Details page.
 - a. For dedicated youth beds, CoCs need to indicate the age group that the beds are dedicated to serve:
 - Only children under age 18
 - Persons ages 18 to 24
 - Persons up to age 24

3.2 Navigating the HIC Module in HDX

This section of the guidance document provides a general overview of the HIC Module components and structure. Specific data entry instructions for each HIC Component are further explained in <u>Section 3.3 Creating and Submitting 2014 HIC Data.</u>

HIC data in the HDX is made up of three basic components:

- **Organization records** Organizations only have one characteristic the organization name. In order to appear on the HIC, an organization must have at least one provider project, and a single organization may have many projects.
- Project records Projects belong to an organization and have several characteristics, including project name, project type, geocode, and target populations. Just as a project can have only one name, it can have only one project type, one geocode, and so on. A project must have at least one project inventory record, and it may have several project inventory records.
- Project Inventory records Project Inventory records belong to a project and include a number of data points about project beds and units, including inventory type, household type, bed and unit inventory, HMIS participating beds, etc., as well as a PIT count for the beds included in the project inventory record.



A project will have more than one inventory record if it has more than one Inventory Type or, for Emergency Shelters, more than one Bed Type. In the chart above, Project 1 (Permanent Supportive Housing) has both current and new inventory, while Project 2 (Emergency Shelter) has current inventory consisting of both facility-based and voucher beds. Project 3 (Transitional Housing), however, has just current inventory, so it has only one inventory record.

The HIC module in the HDX is split up into tabs that are designed to help you enter organization, project, and project inventory data accurately.

The HIC module includes six tabs on the secondary navigation bar. To access any one of the tabs, click on its name in the gray navigation bar. Each of the tabs is described in detail in the following sections.

3.2.a Organizations & Projects Overview

On the Organizations & Projects tab, you can:

- Review a list of organizations included in your HIC (Organization View);
- Review a list of all organizations and projects included on your HIC (Project View);
- Search for organizations and projects using multiple search functions;
- Export the organizations and projects data to Excel;
- Sort the lists by any of the columns by clicking on the column header; and
- Filter the lists by year and project status.

From this tab, you can also:

- Add a new organization and/or project;
- Edit the basic characteristics of an existing project; and
- Edit the name of an existing organization.

3.2.b Inventory List Overview

On the <u>Inventory List</u> tab, you can:

- Enter the date of your 2014 HIC;
- Review a complete list of your CoC's housing inventory for 2014 and previous years;
- Choose which columns you would like displayed;
- Search for a particular record or records using multiple search functions;
- Sort the list by any of the columns by clicking on the column header;
- Filter the list of inventory by year or project type;
- Export your housing inventory data to Excel;
- Duplicate a record of an existing project to create a new project record; and
- Delete a project record.

If you click on the *Add Organization or Project* button on this tab, it will take you to a form on the <u>Organizations & Projects</u> tab where you can create a new project.

If you click on a project's name on this tab, it will take you to the <u>Inventory Details</u> tab for that project, where you can add or edit project bed and unit inventory data.

If you click on the *Export to Excel* button on this tab, it will allow you to export your housing inventory into an Excel file.

3.2.c Inventory Details Overview

On the Inventory Details tab, you can:

- Review, add, and edit 2014 data for individual projects, including:
 - Provider Project Characteristics;
 - Provider Project Inventory data on beds, units, and youth age categories; and
 - Point-in-time counts.
- Review inventory details data from previous years.

3.2.d Unmet Need Overview

On the Unmet Need tab, you can:

- Add, edit, and review unmet need data for 2014; and
- Review unmet need data from previous years.

Note: the Unmet Need tab must be completed in order to submit your HIC data.

3.2.e Reporting Status Overview

On the <u>Reporting Status</u> tab, you can:

- Submit your 2014 HIC data (Note: PIT data must be submitted separately from the PIT Reporting Status page);
- Review and change the date of you conducted your 2014 HIC;
- Access 13 different HIC reports;
- See when and by whom your HIC was last updated;
- See when and by whom your HIC was submitted for each year;
- Review validation errors that must be fixed in order to submit data;
- Review validation warnings; and
- Access messages related to your HIC.

3.2.f Import Data Overview

From the Import Data tab, you can:

- Duplicate the previous year's HIC data to populate the 2014 HIC; and
- Import comma separated value (CSV) files generated by your HMIS to populate some of the fields for your 2014 HIC.

3.3 Creating and Submitting 2014 HIC Data

Overall, the process for creating and submitting HIC data involves the following steps:

- 1. Duplicating the previous year's HIC data already in HDX or importing HIC data exported from your HMIS (optional);
- 2. Entering and reviewing or updating organization and project data;
- 3. Entering and reviewing or updating project inventory data;
- 4. Entering and reviewing PIT count data for each project inventory record; and
- 5. Submitting HIC data to HUD.

3.3.a Creating 2014 HIC Data

Duplicating the Previous Year's HIC Data

CoCs may choose to copy HIC data from the previous year to populate this year's HIC data. There are two ways to do this:

Copy data from link on the Dashboard – Click on the <u>Copy data from 2013</u> link in the Housing Inventory Counts box. This link will take you to the <u>Import Data</u> tab. Follow the instructions below for **Copy data from Import Tab**.

Copy data from Import Data tab – Navigate to the <u>Import Data</u> tab within the HIC module. Enter the date of your 2014 HIC, and click the *Copy Previous Year* button.

Importing HIC Data Generated by HMIS

You may choose to upload HIC data in CSV format that has been generated by your HMIS application, if your HMIS offers that functionality. To import CSV data, navigate to the <u>Import</u> <u>Data</u> tab on the gray toolbar and click on the <u>Upload CSV Files</u> tab.

The HMIS CSV Format Documentation defines 11 different files, including three that include data that identify and define projects. Each of those three files, described below, must be uploaded to the HDX in order to populate your HIC.

- AgencyProgram.csv includes a record with identifying information for each project in the CoC, including the organization name, the program name, the project type, and target populations.
- BedInventory.csv includes data related to the bed inventory for each project over time, including the number of beds, type of beds, availability, household types served, and HMIS participation; there may be multiple records for a single project identified in AgencyProgram.csv.

• SiteInformation.csv – includes data that describe the facilities in which provider projects offer housing, including physical address, geocode, and housing type; there may be multiple records for a single project identified in AgencyProgram.csv.

To upload CSV data, enter the date of your HIC and click the *Choose File* button to select each of the appropriate files from your computer or network. After you've selected all three files, click the Upload button to import the data.

Duplicating the previous year's data or importing HIC data from your HMIS only provides a starting point for completing the 2014 HIC. CoCs must carefully review each record and update as necessary to ensure that the data is correct and complete for this year's count. In addition to verifying bed and unit information and entering 2014 PIT counts for each project, CoCs should pay close attention to updated HIC requirements that may require updates or additions to copied or imported data. These include:

- Identifying project sub-types under the new Permanent Housing project component.
- For all projects, indicating the number of beds that are dedicated to serving veterans and youth; and
- For projects with inventory identified as "under development," indicating whether or not the inventory is expected to begin operations within the next 12 months.

Note: Please refer to CPD-13-011 <u>Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-</u> <u>Time Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions</u> <u>Grant (ESG) Program</u> for more information about updated HIC data collection and reporting requirements.

3.4 Organization and Project Information

3.4.a Adding a New Organization and Project to the HIC

To add a new organization and project, click on the <u>Organizations & Projects</u> link on the secondary gray navigation bar within the HIC module.

Once on the <u>Organizations & Projects</u> page, click the blue *Add Organization or Project* button. The system will take you to another screen where you can enter organization and project information.

Enter the required information about the new organization and project, including:

- Organization Name
- Project Name
- Status if the project should appear on this year's HIC, select 'Active'
- Project Type
- Geocode
- Target Population A (optional)
- Target Population B
- HUD McKinney-Vento funded?

You may also enter optional project address information, including:

- Street address of the project
- City
- State
- Zip Code

Note that the address is specific to the project, which may be different than the administrative address of the organization. Do NOT enter address information for Domestic Violence projects. The system will also run an address validation check to standardize the format provided by the United States Postal Service. For more information about the optional collection of address information please refer to CPD-13-011 <u>Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program posted on the OneCPD site.</u>

Remember to click the *Save* button in the lower right corner of the page. After you have added a new organization and project from the <u>Organization & Projects</u> tab, you will need to visit the <u>Inventory Details</u> tab to enter bed and unit inventory information about the project. This process is described in more detail in <u>Section 3.5 Project Inventory Details</u>.

3.4.b Adding a New Project to an Existing Organization

To add a new project to an existing organization, navigate to the <u>Inventory Details</u> link on the gray secondary navigation bar within the HIC module.

From the Organization option list, select the name of the organization that the new project belongs to. After you've selected the organization, click *Add new project*.

This will bring up a form in which you can enter the project's basic characteristics, including:

- Project Name
- Status if the project should appear on this year's HIC, select 'Active' indicating that the project is operating and available for occupancy or currently under development.
- Project Type
- Geocode
- Target Population A (optional)
- Target Population B
- HUD McKinney-Vento funded?

After you click *Save*, you will be returned to the <u>Inventory Details</u> page, where you can enter bed and unit inventory data, and PIT count data for your new project.

3.4.c Editing an Existing Organization

The only characteristic of an organization included in the HIC is the name of the organization. To change the name of an organization, click on the organization name on the <u>Organizations &</u> <u>Projects</u> tab.

This will bring up a screen where you can edit the name of the organization. After you click *Save*, the organization name will change for all of the projects that share the same organization.

3.4.d Editing an Existing Project Record

If you need to edit any of the basic characteristics of a project, go to the <u>Organizations &</u> <u>Projects</u> tab in Program View and click on the project's name. Clicking on the project name will bring up the edit page.

This page will allow you to edit:

- **Organization Name** If you change the organization name as you are editing a project record, you will change the name **ONLY** for that project. This is useful if the administration of a project is transitioned from one organization to another. However, please note that if an organization has multiple projects and needs to change the organization name for all of the projects it will need to follow the instructions under <u>Section 3.3.c Editing an Existing Organization</u>.
- Project Name
- **Status** Setting a project's status to 'Closed' will remove it from the 2014 HIC. If the project closed and should not appear on this year's HIC, selecting 'Closed' will indicate that the project is no longer operating and available for occupancy. If for some reason, the project re-opens in another year, you will be able to change the status back to 'Active'.
- Project Type
- Geocode
- Target Population A (optional)
- Target Population B
- HUD McKinney-Vento funded?

Some of the project's characteristics – name, project type, geocode, target populations, and McKinney-Vento funding status – are also shown on the left-hand side of the <u>Inventory Details</u> tab. These characteristics can also be edited in the <u>Inventory Details</u> tab. Updates made on the <u>Inventory Details</u> tab or on the *Edit Project* page will be updated for both locations. For example, if you edit the project's geocode on the <u>Inventory Details</u> tab, the geocode will change on the <u>Organizations & Projects</u> tab, too. If you edit the geocode on the <u>Organizations & Projects</u> tab, it will also change on the <u>Inventory Details</u> tab. Each of these data points has only one value per project even though the value may be editable in two different places.

3.5 Project Inventory Details

Special Instructions for Emergency Shelter (ES) Projects

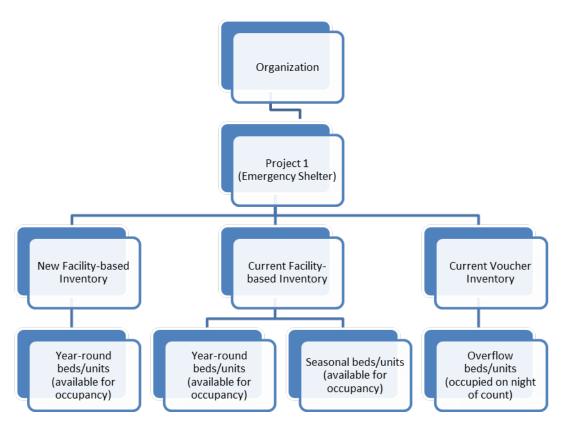
Emergency Shelter Projects will need to identify both the *type* and *availability* of beds offered by the emergency shelter project. Please follow the instructions below, from page 12 the CPD-13-011 <u>Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, to correctly document bed type and availability.</u>

Bed Type (Emergency Shelter Only):

- A. **Facility-based:** Beds (including cots or mats) located in a residential homeless assistance facility dedicated for use by persons who are homeless.
- B. **Voucher:** Beds located in a hotel or motel and made available by the homeless assistance project through vouchers or other forms of payment.
- C. **Other:** Beds located in a church or other facility not dedicated for use by persons who are homeless.

Bed and Unit Availability:

- A. **Year-Round Beds/Units:** Year-round beds and units are available on a planned year-round basis.
- B. Seasonal Beds (*Emergency Shelter Only*): Seasonal beds (during a defined period of high demand) are not available year-round, but instead are available on a planned basis, with set start and end dates, during an anticipated period of higher demand. For the HIC, identify only the total number of seasonal beds *available for occupancy* on the night of the inventory count.
- C. **Overflow Beds** (*Emergency Shelter Only*): Overflow beds are available on an ad hoc or temporary basis during the year in response to demand that exceeds planned (year-round or seasonal) bed capacity. For the HIC, identify only the total number of overflow beds that **were occupied** on the night of the inventory count.



An Emergency Shelter project may have more than one Bed Type. For example, a shelter may have beds located in a dedicated facility and use vouchers to address demand during overflow periods. In the chart above, Project 1 has new and current facility-based beds/units that are available year-round, current facility beds/units that are available seasonally, and voucher beds/units that are available on an overflow basis. CoCs should include the total number of year-round and seasonal beds that are available for occupancy (i.e., whether or not occupied on the night of the count). However, for beds/units available on an overflow basis CoCs should only count beds/units that were occupied on the night of the count.

3.5.a Adding an Inventory Record for an Existing Project

Adding and updating project inventory information is completed through the <u>Inventory Details</u> page. There are two ways to access the <u>Inventory Details</u> page. To access a specific project directly, navigate to the <u>Inventory List</u> page using the gray secondary navigation bar in the HIC module.

Click on the Project Name and the system will take you directly to the project <u>Inventory Details</u> for that specific project. You may also navigate directly to the <u>Inventory Details</u> tab by selecting the link for this tab from the gray secondary navigation bar in the HIC module.

From the drop-down arrows, select the organization and project for which you need to add or edit inventory data. If the project does not have any inventory details records, a blank Project Inventory form will be displayed on the right-hand side of the page.

If the project already has at least one inventory detail record and you need to create another, click on the *Add Inventory* button to display a blank form. Enter the required data and click *Save* to create a new inventory record.

Note that the fields required for an inventory details record depend on *the Project Type*. In the example below, the provider project type is Emergency Shelter, so specifying a *Bed Type* is required. In addition, CoCs need to record information about any seasonal and/or overflow beds that were available and/or occupied on the night of the HIC and PIT count. Please consult CPD-13-011Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program for detailed information about HIC data collection requirements based on the identified *Project Type*.

Each inventory record will need a Point-in-Time count of the number of people utilizing the beds included in the inventory record on the night of the CoC's HIC and PIT count. **Note that the sum total of people included in PIT counts from all emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Haven projects in the HIC module must match the total number of sheltered people reported in the PIT module.** Any discrepancies between the number of sheltered persons counted on the HIC and the number of sheltered persons counted on the HIC and the number of sheltered persons counted on the HIC and the number of sheltered persons counted on the PIT will result in a validation error requiring the CoC to fix the discrepancy prior to being able to submit the PIT in HDX.

3.5.b Entering PIT Count Data in the HIC

In order to determine project bed utilization rates, every project on the HIC will need to include a count of the number of people utilizing the beds on the night of the CoC's HIC and PIT count. Prior to entering a project PIT count, the PIT count date needs to be set in the PIT module. If the PIT count date has not yet been set, you (or someone with write access to the PIT module) will have to set it. To do this, click the <u>Set Date</u> link in the dark blue box on the bottom right of the page.

The <u>Set Date</u> link will take you to the PIT Counts module, where you can enter the date of your PIT count, the populations included in your count, and click *Save*. The system will then take you back to the <u>Inventory Details</u> page in the HIC module where you can finish entering data and saving the record.

If you do not have write permission for the PIT module, you will have to ask the CoC primary contact (or the CoC representative with write access to the PIT module) to set the date of the PIT count before you are able to enter PIT count data for Project Inventory records. Note that the PIT Count Module includes an option to indicate whether you conducted a Sheltered and Unsheltered Count or just a Sheltered count in 2014.

3.5.c Editing an Existing Project Inventory Record

To edit an existing project inventory record, go to the <u>Inventory Details</u> page, select the name of the organization and the name of the project for which you want to edit existing inventory or select the project name from the <u>Inventory List</u> page.

For example, a project has two Project Inventory records that were copied from 2013. One record shows 100 beds of 'current' inventory, and the other record has an additional 50 beds of 'new' inventory. The 50 beds are no longer new in 2014, so the records need to be consolidated into a single Project Inventory record representing 'current' inventory.

To do this, first click on the record showing 100 beds of current inventory and add the 50 beds from last year's new inventory. Next click on the record with 50 beds of new inventory and delete it by clicking on the trash can icon in the far right column.

The Project Inventory record will now be updated with the project's current inventory.

Remember that each inventory record will need a Point-in-Time count of the number of people utilizing the beds included in the inventory record on the night of the count.

If the Point-in-Time Count date has not yet been set, you (or someone with write access to the PIT module) will have to set it. See the previous section for detailed guidance on this.

3.6 Entering Unmet Need Data

All CoCs are required to complete and submit estimated unmet need data for their CoC. CoCs can access the Unmet Need section by clicking on the <u>Unmet Need</u> tab on the gray toolbar. Every cell on the unmet need tab requires that a value be entered. If the value is zero, enter zero. For further guidance on calculating unmet need, please review <u>Calculating Unmet Need</u> for Homeless Individuals and Families.

3.7 Addressing Validation Warnings and Errors

The HDX will display validation warnings and errors to assist you in identifying and addressing any inconsistencies in your HIC data. The validation errors and warnings will be shown on the <u>Inventory Details</u> page and can also be viewed on the <u>Reporting Status</u> page.

- Validation errors **MUST** be corrected before the HDX will permit you to submit your data.
- Any form that has a validation warning should also include a note of explanation in its *Notes* box.

3.8 Submitting HIC Data to HUD

HIC data **MUST** be submitted to HUD in the HDX by midnight on **Wednesday, April 30, 2014**. To submit HIC data, click on the <u>Reporting Status</u> tab on the gray toolbar.

If you have any validation errors or unexplained warnings, the *Submit Data* button will be light gray and you will not be able to click it until any errors have been corrected and/or there are notes to explain any warnings.

If your HIC data is error-free, the *Submit Data* button in the top right corner of the table will be blue. Click it to submit your HIC data to HUD.

Submitting the HIC and the PIT data in HDX is a **2 PART SUBMISSION** process! CoCs must submit both the data entered into the HIC module and the data entered into the PIT module in the HDX by the submission deadline in order for your submission to be considered complete.

A reminder message will appear when you submit your HIC data if the PIT data has not yet been submitted.

REMEMBER: ONLY THE PERSON WITH SUBMIT RIGHTS FOR THE **HIC** MODULE CAN SUBMIT THE DATA TO **HUD.** PLEASE MAKE SURE TO REVIEW WHO HAS SUBMIT RIGHTS BEFORE THE DEADLINE, AS EXTENSIONS WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR PROBLEMS WITH SUBMISSION PRIVILEGES.

4. POINT-IN-TIME COUNT DATA SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

4.1 Important Changes to PIT Reporting Requirements

The following reporting requirements have been added for the PIT count this year.

- 1. CoCs are required to report race, ethnicity, and gender data for all persons counted.
- 2. CoCs are required to report population data for veteran households. Because CoCs are reporting the population data for veteran households the veteran subpopulation requirements have been removed.
- 3. The subpopulation categories for "chronic substance abuse" and "severely mentally ill" have been revised to "Adults with a Chronic Substance Use Disorder" and "Adults with a Serious Mental Illness."
- 4. The sum total of persons reported in emergency shelter, Safe Havens, and transitional housing projects in the PIT fields of the HIC is required to match the sum total of sheltered person reported in the PIT count.

4.2 Accessing the PIT Module in HDX

There are two ways to access the PIT module to enter PIT count data.

- The PIT count module can be accessed from the Dashboard by clicking on the <u>View</u> <u>PIT</u> link in the bottom right corner of the *Point-in-Time Count* box.
- The PIT count module can also be accessed by clicking on the <u>PIT</u> tab on the blue toolbar at the top of the page.

4.3 Creating a New Count

To enter 2014 PIT count data, click on the blue *New Count* button in the top left corner of the screen.

4.4 PIT Count Date and Populations

Once a new count is created, the CoC can begin to enter information about their 2014 PIT count.

4.4.a Date of PIT Count

Prior to entering PIT count population and subpopulation data, CoCs must provide some background information on their count. Enter the date your CoC conducted the PIT count in the upper left portion of the module. Click on the calendar icon to the left of the data entry field to select the day, month, and year the PIT count was conducted.

If the PIT count was conducted outside of the last ten days in January, indicate whether the CoC received a waiver from HUD to conduct the count outside the HUD-designated time period.

CoCs must indicate the type of PIT count that was conducted in 2014: a sheltered and unsheltered count or a sheltered-only count.

4.5 Navigating the PIT Count Module

The PIT module includes seven links on the secondary navigation bar. To access any one of the links, click on its name in the gray navigation bar. Each of the links is described in detail in the following sections.

Data to be reported in the PIT module is made up of four basic components:

- **Homeless Populations** Total number of persons and households counted and their demographic characteristics.
- Homeless Subpopulations Number of chronically homeless individuals and families and data on adults with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, HIV/AIDS, and victims of domestic violence.
- Veteran Populations Total number of veterans, veteran households, persons in veteran households, and the demographic characteristics of veterans.
- **Methodology** Reporting on the methodologies that were used to conduct your sheltered and unsheltered counts.

Click on links in the gray navigation bar to navigate through the data entry screens.

4.6 Entering Homeless Population Data

The second link in the PIT module is for reporting on <u>Homeless Populations</u>, CoCs should enter their data on the number of persons and households by household type enumerated during the PIT count.

As in prior years, CoCs must collect and report information on the following three household types and each household type is reported on a separate tab.

- **Persons in households with at least one adult and one child -** This category includes households with at least one adult and one child under age 18.
- **Persons in households without children -** This category includes single adults, adult couples with no children, and groups of adults.
- **Persons in households with only children -** This category includes persons under age 18, including children in one-child households, adolescent parents and their children, adolescent siblings, or other household configurations composed only of children.

For *households with at least one adult and one child* and *households without children*, CoCs must report the total number of households.

For *households with only children*, CoCs must report both the number of one-child households and the number of multi-child households.

In order to better understand homelessness among transition-aged youth, CoCs also will need to report the total number of persons by age category and household type, per the following age categories:

Persons in households with at least one adult and one child

- The number of children under age 18;
- The number of adults ages 18 to 24; and
- The number of adults over age 24.

Persons in households without children

- The number of adults ages 18 to 24; and
- The number of adults over age 24.

Beginning in 2014, for each household type, CoCs must also report the **race**, **ethnicity**, **and gender** data for all sheltered and unsheltered persons counted.

Race

- White;
- Black or African-American;
- Asian;
- American Indian or Alaska Native;
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and
- Multiple Races

Gender

- Female
- Male
- Transgender

Ethnicity

- Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino
- Hispanic/Latino

Please consult CPD-13-011 <u>Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time Data</u> <u>Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)</u> <u>Program for detailed information about PIT data collection requirements.</u>

Make sure to click the blue *Save* button in either the top or bottom right corner of the screen to ensure that the data is saved in the HDX.

4.7 Entering Homeless Subpopulation Data

On the third link in the PIT module, <u>Homeless Subpopulations</u>, CoCs should enter data on the number of sheltered and unsheltered persons counted in each of the following subpopulation categories:

- Chronically Homeless Individuals
- Chronically Homeless Families (total number of chronically homeless families)
- Persons in Chronically Homeless Families (total number of persons in chronically homeless families)
- Adults with a Serious Mental Illness
- Adults with a Substance Use Disorder
- Adults with HIV/AIDS
- Victims of Domestic Violence (optional)

Only adults should be included in the counts for this chart, except for total number of persons in chronically homeless families. Make sure to click the blue *Save* button in either the top or bottom right corner of the screen to ensure that the data is saved in the HDX.

4.8 Entering Veteran Population Data

The fourth link in the PIT module is for reporting on veteran <u>Populations</u>. CoCs should enter their data on the number of veterans, veteran households, persons in veteran households and the demographic characteristics of veterans enumerated during the PIT count.

CoCs must collect and report information on the following two veteran household types. Each household type is reported on a separate tab.

- **Persons in households with at least one adult and one child -** This category includes households with at least one adult and one child under age 18.
- **Persons in households without children -** This category includes single adults, adult couples with no children, and groups of adults.

4.9 Completing the Methodology Tab

The PIT Methodology Module is organized into 5 sub-tabs. Tab 1 and Tab 2 focuses on identifying the methodology your CoC used to conduct a count of <u>sheltered</u> homeless persons. Tab 3 and Tab 4 focuses on identifying the methodology your CoC used to conduct a count of <u>unsheltered</u> homeless persons. Tab 5 asks you to compare your 2014 count against the previous applicable count.

Section	Description
Tab 1: Sheltered Population	Data on the numbers and characteristics of persons (including veterans) sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe havens.
Tab 2: Sheltered Subpopulation	Data on the number and characteristics of specific sheltered subpopulations, including: chronically homeless, serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and persons with HIV/AIDs. Data on victims of domestic violence is optional.
Tab 3: Unsheltered Population	Data on the numbers and characteristics of people (including veterans) sleeping on the streets, including places not meant for human habitation.
Tab 4: Unsheltered Subpopulation	Data on the number and characteristics of specific unsheltered subpopulations, including: chronically homeless, serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and persons with HIV/AIDs. Data on victims of domestic violence is optional.
Tab 5: Annual Comparison of Data	Identification of increase, decrease, or no change in sheltered and unsheltered count along with explanation of factors impacting results.

4.9.a Tab 1 and Tab 2: Sheltered Populations and Subpopulations

Accuracy of the data reported in the sheltered PIT count is vital. Data produced from these counts must be based on reliable methods and not on "guesstimates." CoCs may use one or more data source to gather information and conduct counts of sheltered homeless persons.

Question 1 (Sheltered Populations) and 7 (Sheltered Subpopulations)

Identify what data source(s) were used to gather information and conduct counts of sheltered persons during the PIT count.

- **Observation:** Enumerators conducted manual counts of people by observing the number of participants in sheltered locations for each required reporting category.
- HMIS: The CoC used HMIS to gather information on sheltered homeless persons.
- Interviews with sheltered homeless people: The CoC conducted interviews with homeless persons staying in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven project on the night designated for the PIT count.

- Interviews with provider staff: The CoC conducted interviews with shelter/housing providers to gather information for each required reporting category on the sheltered persons residing in their projects.
- **Distribution/collection of PIT forms to sheltered homeless people:** The CoC asked sheltered homeless persons to complete standardized survey forms to gather information for each required reporting category.
- **Distribution/collection of PIT forms to provider staff:** The CoC asked shelter/housing providers to complete standardized forms to gather information for each required reporting category on the sheltered persons residing in their projects.
- **Case manager records:** Providers used individual client records (e.g., case management files) to provide the CoC with data for each person living in a sheltered project on the night designated for the PIT count.
- **Other:** Please specify.

Question 2 (Sheltered Populations) and 8 (Sheltered Subpopulations)

Identify whether or not you collected the required information from all shelter/housing projects or whether a subset of providers was used to collect information.

Question 2a (Sheltered Populations) and 8a (Sheltered Subpopulations)

If a subset of providers was used, identify the process used to select the provider subset. Definitions as follows:

- **Providers were selected randomly.** A statistical effort was used to select participating providers randomly (e.g., through a simple random sample, a stratified sample, or a cluster sample).
- Providers were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to select a sample of providers that "represented" all emergency shelters, safe havens, and transitional housing providers in the CoC. A statistical approach was *not* used to select the sample, but rather local information was used about the types of providers in the CoC to handpick a group of providers that appear to "represent" the larger network of providers.
- Providers were not selected randomly, and the selection was driven by practicality or expediency (e.g., providers that were willing to participate). A statistical approach was *not* used to select the sample, but rather the selection of providers was determined by practical considerations (e.g., providers that were willing to participate in the count or had data readily available on the night of the count).
- Other. Please specify.

Question 2b (Sheltered Populations) and 8b (Sheltered Subpopulations)

If a subset of providers was used, identify whether or not the CoC used extrapolation or other statistical adjustments to account for all providers in the CoC.

Question 3 (Sheltered Populations) and 9 (Sheltered Subpopulations)

Whether data was collected from <u>all</u> CoC providers or a <u>subset</u> of providers, identify whether the required information was collected from all sheltered persons or from a subset of sheltered persons from those projects.

Question 3a (Sheltered Populations) and 9a (Sheltered Subpopulations)

If a subset of people was used, identify the process used to select those people. Definitions as follows:

- **People were selected randomly**. A statistical effort was used to select people randomly, e.g., through a simple random sample, a stratified sample, or a cluster sample.
- People were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to select a sample of people that "represented" all sheltered clients. A statistical approach was *not* used to select the sample, but rather local information was used about the types of people served in the CoC to handpick a group of people that appear to "represent" the broader homeless population.
- People were not selected randomly, and the selection was driven by practicality or expediency (e.g., whoever was available on the night of the PIT count). A statistical approach was *not* used to select the sample, but rather the selection of people was determined by practical considerations (e.g., people that were willing to participate in the count or were easily reachable on the night of the count).
- **Other** Please specify.

Question 3b (Sheltered Populations) and 9b (Sheltered Subpopulations)

If a subset of people was used, identify whether or not the CoC used extrapolation or other statistical adjustments to account for all homeless persons.

Question 4 (Sheltered Populations) and 10 (Sheltered Subpopulations)

Identify the method(s) used to de-duplicate the count of sheltered populations. Definitions as follows:

- **Comparisons of Personally Identifying Information (PII).** The CoC compared a combination of personally identifying information such as name, date of birth, age and Social Security Number to de-duplicate its records.
- **Comparison of Unique Client Identifiers (not PII).** The CoC used unique identifiers assigned to sheltered homeless persons to de-duplicate its records.
- Blitz Count of persons in shelter. The CoC used a "blitz approach" among participating providers in which all participating providers were targeted for the count in a relatively short timeframe (e.g., a few hours on the night of the count). The blitz count assumes that a homeless person can be in one place at one time, and thus the approach minimizes the possibility of duplicate records by conducting the count quickly.
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions. The CoC asked specific survey question(s) of each participant (e.g., have you already completed a count survey) to de-duplicate its records.
- No specific approach was used. The CoC did not attempt to systematically deduplicate its records.
- Other. Please specify.

Question 5 (Sheltered Populations) and 11 (Sheltered Subpopulations)

Identify the methods the CoC used to work with providers in the community to obtain quality data and counts of the sheltered population. Select all methods that apply.

- **Reviewed** HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting a PIT count
- Written instructions to providers
- Written instructions to interviewers

- Trained providers on the data collection requirements/forms
- Trained interviewers on the data collection requirements/forms
- **Pilot tested** the data collection forms and process prior to the PIT count
- Reminded/followed-up with providers about the count to maximize participation
- **Used** survey or statistical experts to support the count
- **Compared** the counts to other internal data sources and resolved inconsistencies
- **Compared** the counts to last year's counts and explained the changes
- Other Please specify

Question 6

Indicate whether or not the approach that your CoC used to collecting PIT counts of sheltered <u>populations</u> and sheltered <u>subpopulations</u> was different. If you used different methods and procedures answer Yes and respond to all the questions in Section 2. If you used the same methods and procedures answer *No* and skip to Section 3.

4.9.b Tab 3 and Tab 4: Unsheltered Populations and Subpopulations

The unsheltered PIT count assists communities and HUD in understanding the characteristics and number of people sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, including the streets, encampments, vehicles, and abandoned buildings. CoCs are required to conduct an unsheltered PIT count every two years (biennially) during the last 10 days in January; however, CoCs are strongly encouraged to conduct the unsheltered PIT count annually, at the same time that it conducts the sheltered PIT count. Data produced from these counts must be based on reliable methods and not on "guesstimates." CoCs may use one or more data source to gather information and conduct counts of unsheltered homeless persons.

You will not be able to complete the two unsheltered tabs if you did not conduct an unsheltered count in 2014.

Question 12 (Unsheltered Populations) and 19 (Unsheltered Subpopulations)

Indicate what method(s) were used to gather information and conduct counts of unsheltered persons during the PIT count.

- **Public places count:** The CoC conducted a PIT count based on observation of unsheltered homeless persons, but without interviews.
- **Public places count with interviews on the night of the count:** The CoC conducted a PIT count and either interviewed all unsheltered homeless persons encountered during the public places count or a sample of these people.
- **Public places count with interviews at a later date:** The CoC conducted a PIT count during the last 10 days of January and then conducted interviews with unsheltered homeless persons at a later time.
- Service-based count: The CoC interviewed people using non-shelter services, such as soup kitchens and drop-in centers, screened for homelessness, and counted those that self-identified as unsheltered homeless persons. In order to obtain an unduplicated count, every person interviewed in a service-based count must be asked where they were sleeping on the night of the most recent PIT count.
- **HMIS:** The CoC used HMIS in some way to collect, analyze, or report data on unsheltered homeless persons. For example, the CoC entered respondent information

into HMIS in an effort to check personal identifying information to de-duplicate and ensure persons were not counted twice.

• **Other:** Please specify.

<u>Question 13 (Unsheltered Populations) and 20 (Unsheltered Subpopulations)</u> Identify whether or not you canvassed the CoC's entire geography to collect the required information about unsheltered persons or whether you canvassed a subset of the CoC's geography.

<u>Question 13a (Unsheltered Populations) and 20a (Unsheltered Subpopulations)</u> If a subset of areas was used, identify the process used to select the areas.

- Areas were selected randomly.
- Areas were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to select a sample of areas that "represented" the larger community.
- Areas were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to use local knowledge to target known locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of unsheltered homeless people).
- **Other** Please specify.

<u>Question 13b (Unsheltered Populations) and 20b (Unsheltered Subpopulations)</u> Identify whether or not the CoC used extrapolation or other statistical adjustments to account for the CoC's entire geography.

<u>Question 14 (Unsheltered Populations) and 21 (Unsheltered Subpopulations)</u> Whether you canvassed the entire geography or a subset of the geography, identify whether the required information was collected from <u>all</u> unsheltered persons or from a <u>subset</u> of unsheltered persons within that geography.

Question 14a (Unsheltered Populations) and 21a (Unsheltered Subpopulations)

If a sample of people was used, identify the process used to select those people.

- **People were selected randomly**. A statistical effort was used to select people randomly (e.g., through a simple random sample, a stratified sample, or a cluster sample).
- People were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to select a sample of people that "represented" all unsheltered clients. A statistical approach was *not* used to select the sample, but rather local information was used about the types of people served in the CoC to handpick a group of people that appear to "represent" the broader homeless population.
- People were not selected randomly, and the selection was driven by practicality or expediency (e.g., whoever was available on the night of the PIT count). A statistical approach was *not* used to select the sample, but rather the selection of people was determined by practical considerations (e.g., people that were willing to participate in the count or were easily reachable on the night of the count).
- **Other** Please specify.

Question 14b (Unsheltered Populations) and 21b (Unsheltered Subpopulations)

Identify whether or not the CoC used extrapolation or other statistical adjustments to account for all homeless persons.

Question 15 (Unsheltered Populations) and 22 (Unsheltered Subpopulations)

Identify the method(s) used to **de-duplicate the count of unsheltered populations**. Definitions as follows:

- **Comparisons of Personally Identifying Information (PII)**. The CoC compared a combination of personally identifying information such as name, date of birth, age and Social Security Number to de-duplicate its records.
- **Comparison of Unique Client Identifiers (not PII)**. The CoC used unique identifiers assigned to unsheltered homeless persons to de-duplicate its records.
- Blitz count of persons in unsheltered locations. The CoC used a "blitz approach" among participating providers in which all participating providers were targeted for the count in a relatively short timeframe (e.g., a few hours on the night of the count). The blitz count assumes that a homeless person can be in one place at one time, and thus the approach minimizes the possibility of duplicate records by conducting the count quickly.
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions. The CoC asked specific survey question(s) of each participant (e.g., have you already completed a count survey) to de-duplicate its records.
- No specific approach was used. The CoC did not attempt to systematically deduplicate its records.
- Other. Please specify.

<u>Question 16 (Unsheltered Populations) and 23 (Unsheltered Subpopulations)</u> Identify the method(s) used to **unduplicate counts between the sheltered and unsheltered populations**. Definitions as follows:

- **Comparisons of Personally Identifying Information (PII)**. The CoC compared a combination of personally identifying information such as name, date of birth, age and Social Security Number to de-duplicate its records.
- **Comparison of Unique Client Identifiers (not PII)**. The CoC used unique identifiers assigned to homeless persons to de-duplicate its records.
- Blitz count of persons in sheltered and unsheltered locations. The CoC used a "blitz approach" among participating providers in which all participating providers were targeted for the count in a relatively short timeframe (e.g., a few hours on the night of the count). The blitz count assumes that a homeless person can be in one place at one time, and thus the approach minimizes the possibility of duplicate records by conducting the count quickly.
- Interview/survey questions with screening questions. The CoC asked specific survey question(s) of each participant.
- No specific approach was used. The CoC did not attempt to systematically deduplicate its records.
- Other. Please specify.

<u>Question 17 (Unsheltered Populations) and 24 (Unsheltered Subpopulations)</u> Identify the methods the CoC used to work with providers in the community to obtain quality data and counts of the unsheltered population. Select all methods that apply.

- Reviewed HUD guidance and/or trainings on conducting unsheltered counts
- Written instructions to canvassers

- **Trained** canvassers on the data collection requirements/forms/process
- **Developed** maps and/or used Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to support the count
- **Pilot tested** the data collection process prior to the PIT count
- Reminded/followed-up with canvassers about the count to maximize participation
- Used survey or statistical experts to support the count
- Included formerly homeless people to support the count
- **Compared** the counts to other internal data sources and resolved inconsistencies
- **Compared** the counts to last year's counts and explained the changes
- **Other** Please specify

Question 18

Indicate whether or not the approach that your CoC used to collecting PIT counts of unsheltered populations and subpopulations was different. If you used different methods and procedures answer *Yes* and respond to all the questions in Section 4. If you used the same methods and procedures answer *No* and skip down to Section 5.

4.9.c Tab 5: Annual Comparison of PIT Data

Question 25a (Sheltered Count Comparison)

Compare the total number of sheltered persons counted in 2013 to the total number of sheltered persons counted in 2014. Indicate whether the 2014 <u>sheltered</u> count increased, decreased or did not change. In the narrative box, please describe the specific factors that may have resulted in the increase, decrease, or no change in the number of sheltered persons counted.

Question 25b (Unsheltered Count Comparison)

Compare the total number of unsheltered persons counted in 2014 to the total number of unsheltered persons counted during your last unsheltered count. Indicate whether the 2014 <u>unsheltered</u> count increased, decreased, or did not change. In the narrative box, please describe the specific factors that may have resulted in the increase, decrease, or no change in the number of unsheltered persons counted.

4.10 PIT Reporting Status Overview

On the <u>PIT Reporting Status</u> tab, you can:

- Submit your 2014 PIT data (Note: HIC data must be submitted separately from the HIC Reporting Status page);
- Access PIT summary report in PDF or Excel Format;
- See when and by whom your PIT was last updated;
- See when and by whom your PIT was submitted for each year;
- Review validation errors that must be fixed in order to submit data;
- Review validation warnings; and
- Access messages related to your PIT.

4.11 Addressing Validation Warnings and Errors

The HDX contains validation errors and validation warnings to assist CoCs in identifying and addressing any inconsistencies in their PIT data. These errors and warnings will appear once data is saved in the HDX, and will be displayed on each sub-tab.

The validation errors and warnings can also be viewed on the <u>Reporting Status</u> link. CoCs will not be able to submit their data until all validation errors are addressed. CoCs can submit data with validation warnings; however, an explanation about the warning must be provided in the *Notes* field (explained below).

4.12 Entering Explanations/Additional Information on the Data

On the sixth link in the PIT module, <u>Notes</u>, CoCs should enter any information that they think might be relevant to help HUD staff better understand the submitted data. This space should also be used to explain any validation warnings that remain at the time that data are submitted.

4.13 Submitting the PIT Count Data to HUD

PIT count data **MUST** be submitted to HUD by midnight **Wednesday, April 30, 2014**. To submit PIT data, click on the <u>Reporting Status</u> tab on the gray toolbar within the PIT Module.

If you have any validation errors or unexplained warnings, the *Submit Data* button will be light gray and you will not be able to click it until your errors have been corrected and there are notes to explain the warnings.

If your PIT data is error-free, the *Submit Data* button in the top right corner of the table will be blue. Click it to submit your PIT data to HUD.

Submitting the HIC and the PIT data in HDX is a **2 PART SUBMISSION** process! CoCs must submit both the data entered into the PIT module and the data entered into the HIC module in the HDX by the submission deadline in order for your submission to be considered complete.

A reminder message will appear when you submit your PIT data if the HIC data has not yet been submitted.

REMEMBER: ONLY THE PERSON WITH SUBMIT RIGHTS FOR THE **PIT** MODULE CAN SUBMIT THE DATA TO **HUD.** PLEASE MAKE SURE TO REVIEW WHO HAS SUBMIT RIGHTS BEFORE THE DEADLINE, AS EXTENSIONS WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR PROBLEMS WITH SUBMISSION PRIVILEGES.