

## Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

Part 1: An Introduction to the Data Collection Process

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012







### **Partners**

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 Resource Advisor: Nichole Fiore, Abt Associates







### **Webinar Format**

- Webinar will last approximately one hour
- Call will be recorded, so audience members are "muted" due to the high number of participants
- Recording of webinar will be posted to the HUD HRE, at <u>www.HUDHRE.info</u>





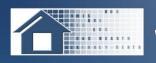


## **Submitting questions**

- Audience members who would like to pose a question can do so through the "questions" function found in the "GoToWebinar" toolbar
- Questions will be responded to directly by AHAR resource advisors standing by
- We will only be able to answer some questions. If you have a question after the webinar, please submit it to HUD's Virtual Help Desk at <a href="http://hudhre.info/helpdesk">http://hudhre.info/helpdesk</a>. Select "HDX" as your Program/System when asking the question





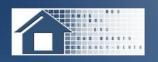


### Webinar Materials & Evaluation

- Materials referenced during this webinar can be found on HUD's Homelessness Resource Exchange at <a href="http://hudhre.info">http://hudhre.info</a> or the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) at <a href="http://www.hudhdx.info">www.hudhdx.info</a>
- Feedback survey will be emailed following this webinar; please complete it and help us improve our approach to providing AHAR technical assistance







## **Learning Objectives**

- Understand the importance and usefulness of AHAR data
- Understand the data quality thresholds for inclusion in the AHAR
- Understand how to navigate the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) and submit data for the AHAR







## **Agenda**

- AHAR Overview: Key Terms and Dates
- The AHAR Process: Overview of Data Collection
- Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) Overview: How to Submit Data in the HDX







## **AHAR Overview**







### What is the AHAR?

- Annual report to Congress that provides:
  - The number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families on a single night (Point-in-Time count)
  - A 12-month count of sheltered homelessness
  - A descriptive analysis of characteristics and service use patterns of sheltered persons, and those residing in PSH programs over the course of the year (HMIS data)
  - Nationwide trends in homelessness
  - The size and use of the U.S. inventory of residential programs for homeless persons (HIC)
- Data provided for several subpopulations: all persons, individuals, persons in families, and veterans
- Released annually
- Past reports available for download at www.hudhre.info







### **AHAR Data Sources**

#### HMIS Data

- Clients served between October 1 and September 30 of the following year
- Based on the universal data elements (some program specific—PSH only)
  - Examples: Age, Race, Veteran Status, etc.
- Data from emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing programs

#### CoC Exhibit 1 Data

- Housing Inventory data
- Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations data
- Sheltered and Unsheltered Subpopulations data
- All AHAR data is submitted and stored in the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX)







## Who reports to the AHAR?

- All CoCs nationwide provide Housing Inventory and Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data
- For HMIS data there are two types of communities reporting to the AHAR:
  - Sample Communities: 102
    - Sample communities are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) jurisdictions that were randomly selected to be representative of the nation (CDBG jurisdictions can be part or all of a CoC).
  - Contributing Communities: 349 in 2011 AHAR
    - Contributing communities are CoCs that volunteer to provide CoC-wide data
- All CoCs with adequate data quality can participate







## Why is the AHAR important?

- Primary source of data on the extent and nature of homelessness nationwide
  - AHAR data are being used to measure progress against the nation's plan to end homelessness
- Communities learn about their homeless population, and take greater stake in the quality of their HMIS data
- HUD considers AHAR participation a benchmark of a high-quality HMIS implementation
- HUD asks questions about AHAR participation in HUD's CoC funding application







## **AHAR Reporting Categories**

- ES-FAM: all persons in families served a smergency shelters
- ES-IND: all persons served in emergency shelters for individuals
- TH-FAM: all persons in families served in transitional housing
- TH-IND: all persons served in transitional housing for individuals
- PSH-FAM: all persons in families served in permanent supportive housing
- PSH-IND: all persons served in permanent supportive housing for individuals







## **AHAR Reporting Deadlines**

- October 1, 2012:
  - AHAR data collection begins in the HDX
- November 15, 2012:
  - First draft of data on All Persons
- December 14, 2012:
  - First draft of data on Veterans
- January 15, 2013:
  - Final draft of data on All Persons completed and confirmed by communities
- January 22, 2013:
  - Final draft of data on Veterans completed and confirmed by communities







## Reporting Veterans in the AHAR

- In 2012, communities will continue to contribute data separately on homeless veterans in addition to all homeless persons
- All questions in the Veterans questions are the same, just limited to homeless veterans







## Data Quality Thresholds

- CoCs can participate in all or a few categories—it's not all or nothing!
- Each reporting category is assessed independently for data quality, using three thresholds:
  - 1. 50% HMIS bed coverage
  - 2. Reasonable bed utilization rates
    - Typically between 65—105%
  - 3. Reasonable missing data rates







### The Sandbox Feature

- A special feature of the HDX is the HDX Sandbox.
- The Sandbox is a "dummy" HDX site which was designed for public viewing and testing the AHAR data collection screens and for generating and testing upload files
- To access the Sandbox site go to http://sandbox.hudhdx.info.
- Communities may use Sandbox year round to monitor AHAR data quality
- Changes and data entered into the Sandbox cannot be transferred to the live HDX site.







The reason(s) why the AHAR is important is it's:

- a) The nation's primary source of information on homelessness
- b) An overview of homelessness within each community.
- c) A good gauge of each CoC's HMIS implementation.
- d) Helpful on a CoC's funding application.
- e) All of the above.







The data quality thresholds for participation in the AHAR are:

- a) 50% HMIS bed coverage.
- b) Reasonable bed utilization rates, typically between 65—105%.
- c) Reasonable missing data rates.
- d) All of the above.







True or False:

Data must be useable across all six AHAR reporting categories for a CoC's data to be accepted?







## **The AHAR Process**







## **Preparing for the AHAR**

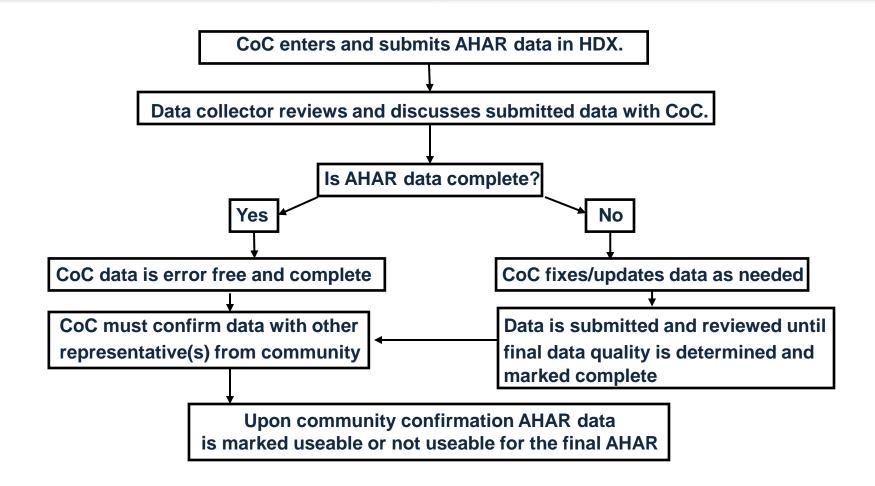
- Run local HMIS reports and begin cleaning data
  - Check bed utilization rates
  - Find missing data
  - Test data in the HDX Sandbox
- Attend trainings (like this one) about how to use the HDX and submit data
- Download and read AHAR guide and FAQs from the HDX
- Confirm HIC bed numbers and bed coverage in the HDX
- Prepare notes for AHAR data collector
- Be aware of the reporting deadlines







## **Submitting HMIS data to AHAR**









# Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX)







### Registration and Login Process

- Website: <a href="http://hudhdx.info">http://hudhdx.info</a>
- Logging in: To access the HDX, you use the same username and password as you did for <u>www.HMIS.info</u>.
- If you do not have an existing account at for the HDX, you can obtain one from the HDX:



Welcome to the Homelessness Data Exchange website

 Rights: The CoC Primary must assign "rights" to appropriate people. Every CoC has a primary contact for the HDX, usually the CoC lead person (as identified in the Exhibit 1).







## Tips for Using the HDX site

- Be sure you know who has submit rights for your CoC before the deadline!
- Check the validation report at the end of each reporting category before submitting
- FAQs on how to use HDX: <a href="http://www.hmis.info/ClassicAsp/documents/HDX%20FA">http://www.hmis.info/ClassicAsp/documents/HDX%20FA</a>
   <a href="Qs.pdf">Qs.pdf</a>







## Live Demonstration of HDX







### **HDX Admin**

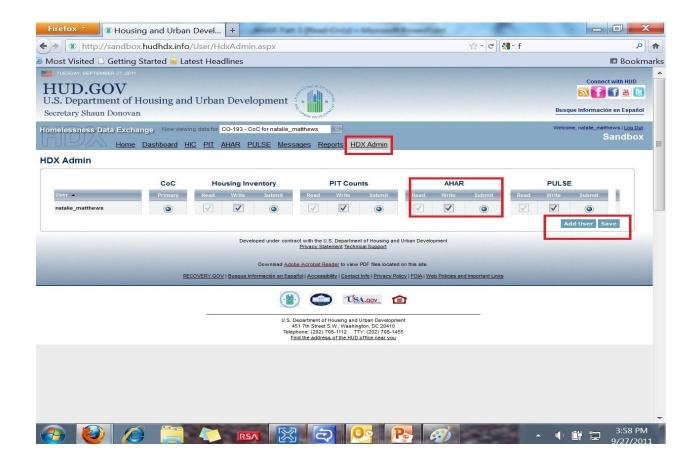








## **HDX Admin (cont'd)**

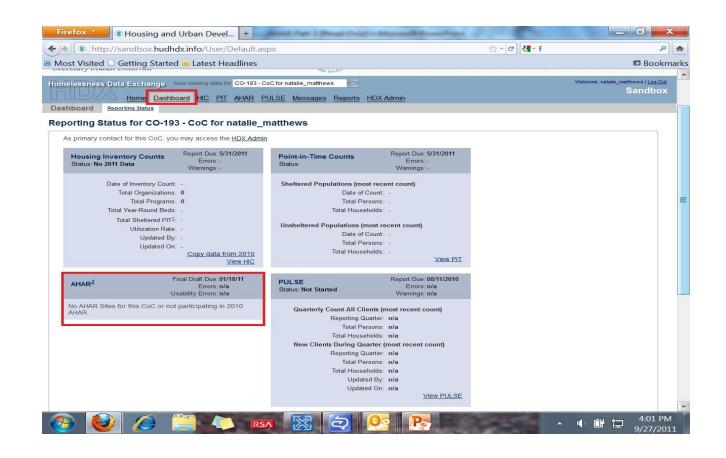








### **Dashboard**

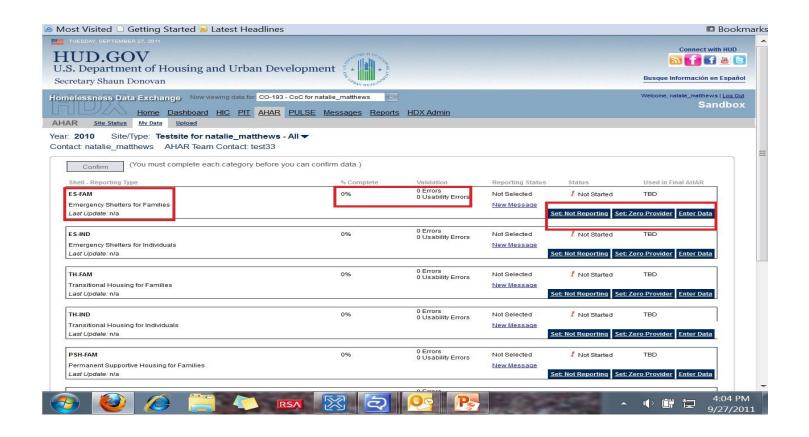








### **AHAR**









## **Entering Data**

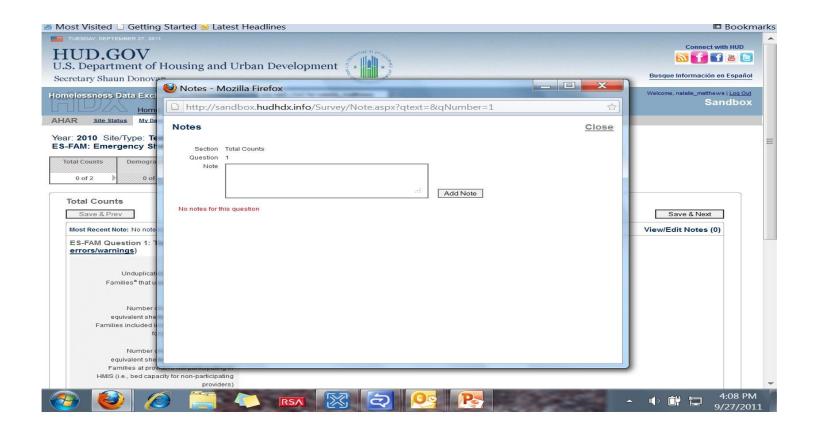








### Notes

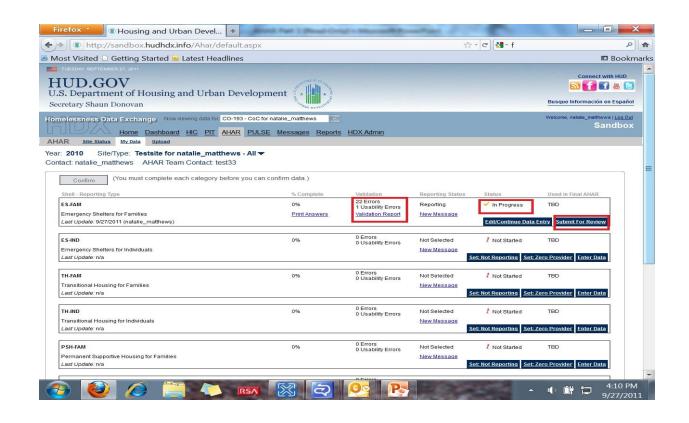








## In Progress

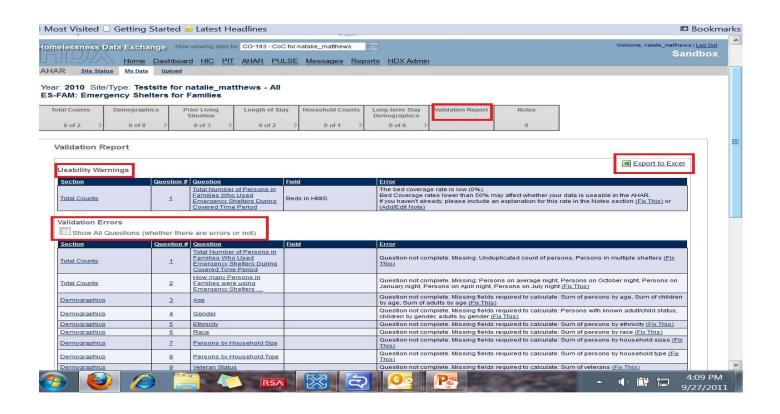








### Validation Report

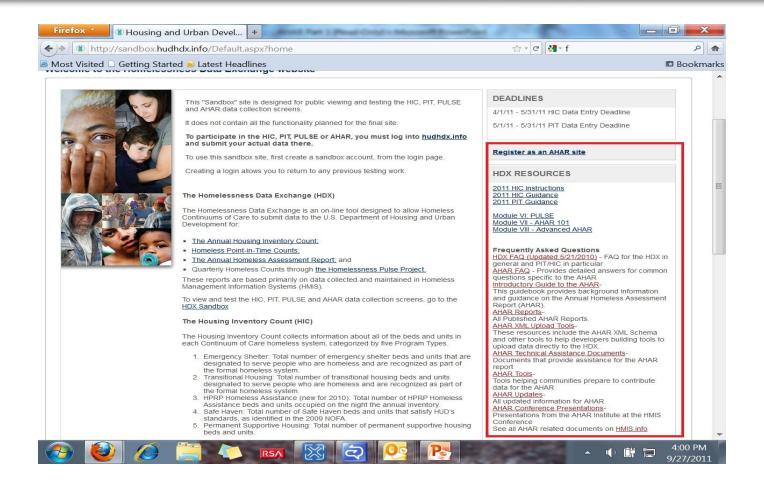








#### Resources









## **HDX AHAR Reports**

- The Reports option in the HDX provides access to various reports for your community.
- These reports include:
  - Data Summary
  - Extrapolated Counts
  - Demographics Report
  - Prior Living Situation
  - Length of Stay
  - Long Term Stay







Which of the following websites must you have a login username and password before you can use the HDX?

- a) HUDHRE.info
- b) HMIS.info
- c) e-snaps







What is the first thing that you should do in HDX for the AHAR?

- a) Enter your data
- b) Ensure CoC contacts are correct on the HDX Admintab
- c) Change your password



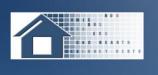




## Next Steps and Resources







## AHAR Part 2: Steps to a Successful Data Submission

- Webinar on Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30pm-4:30pmEDT
- Separate registration is required
- Topics to be covered: HUD guidance for the 2012 AHAR; tips for reviewing and proofing your data; and how to work with your AHAR Data Collector







### The 2012 AHAR

- Data collection for the 2012 AHAR has already begun!
   Check to see if your CoC has:
  - Expanded HMIS Bed Coverage?
  - Improved Data Quality?
  - Simplified the AHAR reporting process?
  - Identified CoC data review process?







### **Questions/Comments?**

 Submit question through the Virtual Help Desk at <a href="http://hudhre.info/helpdesk">http://hudhre.info/helpdesk</a>. Select "HDX" as your Program/System when asking the question.







## **Survey and Mark Course Complete**

- Please complete the online survey and mark the course as complete in the LMS to add it to your transcript!
- Both are now hosted in the LMS; you'll receive link via email later today.



