HMIS Lead / Sys Admin – Q&A

Questions from 12/16/20 Webinar

For any questions that were not addressed on the webinar, or if there are specifics questions to your own systems, please submit an HMIS AAQ to receive a thorough answer: https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/

Q: How do we join the HMIS Lead Webinar distribution list?
A: If you are not in a member of the hub please send an email to hmis@cloudburstgroup.com to be added.

Q: Where can we submit our 2022 data standard suggestions?
A: All data standard suggestions can be made through the HUD AAQ portal here:
https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/

Q: Do vendors have a deadline for making reports available for submitting FY2020 SPMs?
A: No, there is not a specific deadline for SPMs, though there were minimal changes to the programming specifications this year, so it shouldn't require much re-programming for this year's submission. If your vendor has a specific concern, please have them submit an AAQ.

Q: Is there somewhere we as HMIS leads are supposed to update the contact information for HMIS Leads?
A: https://www.hudexchange.info/sites/onecpd/assets/File/Grantee-Information-Change-Request-Instructions.pdf

Q: Can you please post the link to guidance to low utilization during COVID-19 in the chat?
A: https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HMIS-Project-Setup-and-Inventory-Changes-during-an-Infectious-Disease-Outbreak.pdf

Q: Our vendor has not resolved the LSA errors marked under Flags-HMIS Vendor, even though we sent them the request to do so. Some flags marked as Flags-CoC also seem to be result of the LSA export process. What else can we do to resolve these flags?
A: Please reach out to your data liaison on this matter.

Q: Our inventory changes regularly-RRH Units and Beds are created as needed and vary greatly throughout the year. Are you saying this should be updated whenever there is a change?
A: RRH inventory solutions can be found here: https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Record-Report-RRH-Bed-Inventories.pdf

Q: Question about CE SSO projects in HMIS, and the CE APR. The data that is submitted on the SSO CE project APR should only be local CE data, and not the entire BoS, correct?
A: The APR Specs are on the HUD Exchange here and cover your whole CE system:
https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HMIS-Programming-Specifications-for-Coordinated-Entry-APR-CE-APR-CSV.pdf

Q: Can you share a link for where we can submit comments/suggestions for data standards updates?
A: Please submit them to the HMIS AAQ desk.

Q: Any updates/changes on the PIT/HIC submission timeline?
A: HUD has not addressed changes to the HIC/PIT submission timeline.

Q: Are bed night stays only required for Night By Night program entry types? or are they required for all ES/TH/PH projects?
A: Only required for NBN shelters.

Q: Housing Move In Date is only collected from HoHs, correct?

A: Correct.

ESG-CV questions:

Q: Do we need to create new projects in HMIS for Emergency Shelter (ES) and Street Outreach (SO) projects funded with ESG-CV?
A: New ES projects do not need to be created, with the possible exception of Temporary Emergency Shelters (TES). To understand the difference between an existing ES project and a TES, review the definition of TES on page 2 of the ESG-CV Reporting Guidance. You may need new SO projects depending on if you're trying to mix multiple funding sources in the project. Check out the ESG Manual for specifics.

Q: In the ESG Program HMIS Manual it states, 'HUD will publish additional Sage ESG-CV reporting guidance when the ESG-CV Notice is published that will provide further details about ESG-CV reporting requirements.'   Can you provide a link to this additional reporting guidance?
A: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/sage/esg-cv/

Q: Our CoC Lead was awarded ESG-CV funding for RRH from State and County. The funding is for Housing Locators whose primary roles are engaging landlords and building a listing of housing opportunities, but they were also funded to pay some rental application fees and security deposits. Do they need their own RRH projects in HMIS, or can they enter their services under the ESG-CV RRH projects they're partnering with?
A: A separate project would need to be set up for each funder; you should not mix the state and the county funds into one RRH project.

Q: If a project is receiving both Round One and Round Two ESG-CV funding, can we continue using the same HMIS project?
A: Yes.

VASH questions:

Q: Our vendor is charging an additional cost to be able to import the HUD-VASH report data into our HMIS. We did not expect to have an additional cost for this functionality. Is there an expectation from HUD on cost for this functionality?
A: HUD understands that CoCs have limited resources and therefore invested in the HUD-VASH Translator Tool to ease the burden this data integration may have on vendors and communities. HUD does not address vendor fees related to this functionality. Please use your existing contracting mechanisms to ensure that your CoC is utilizing the available tools and guidance for this work and that any fees assessed to complete the integration are reasonable and can be justified per local contracting terms and conditions.

Q: Will Household members be included in the VASH CSV?
A: The VA is not sending household member information.

Q: Who should we contact at the VA about the VASH data sharing?
A: Please start with your local VAMC HUD-VASH point of contact, and reference the October 7th, 2020 HUD Exchange message to provide context around roles and responsibilities associated with HUD-VASH data sharing..

Q: We have heard our vendor is waiting on HUD to move forward with being able to import. What else will HUD be providing to the vendors to facilitate the import?
A: Vendors are not waiting on anything else from HUD for use of this tool and importing VA data into HMIS. Some communities have already begun this work.

Q: What happens if a VAMC covers multiple CoCs?
A: Data in HOMES, the VA's database, is recorded by VAMC catchment area and not by CoC geography. However,

the data can be filtered by Public Housing Authority or at individual Veteran level. CoCs should work with their VAMC to correctly identify which Veterans should be included in the export from the VA.

Q: If our HUD-VASH projects already directly enter into HMIS do they need to use this tool?
A: No. If there is an existing process in place for getting HUD-VASH data into HMIS, communities do not need to change any processes that are in place and already working.

Q: Can my HMIS vendor complete the HUD-VASH download?
A: Please address vendor specific questions directly with your vendor.

Q: Would data coming from HOMES qualify as "participating in HMIS"?
A: Yes, so long as it is updated at least once annually.

Q: Can the VA modify the HOMES report to include a County filter for those cases when their HUD-VASH covers multiple CoC jurisdictions?
A: The VA has no plans to modify anything else at this time.

Q: If the HUD-VASH client data is to be incorporated by the 2021 HIC/PIT submission, this means we can complete this integration after the PIT/HIC night of reference, correct?
A: Correct. The process should be completed by the time 2021 HIC/PIT data is submitted.
Q: Is this limited to HUD-VASH clients, or is it for all VA clients?
A: Limited to HUD-VASH participants.

LSA Questions:

Q: Our vendor is having issues with the LSA report in our system and because of that, we have not been able to actively engage in the data review process.
A: Please submit an AAQ with any active vendor concerns.

Q: We have a flag stating that our NBN projects don't have a bed night stay the night before an exit date. Do NBN shelters need to exit persons on the last day of their bed night stay?
A: It is required that the exit date be the day following the final bednight. See HMIS Data Manual beginning on page 27.

Q: What was the criterion used in used in extending the deadline? It would be helpful to know that so I can anticipate if there may be another future extension (criteria: vendor issue, upload issue, feasibility, etc.)
A: This is a case-by-case basis and not a standard set of criteria we can provide.

Q: most shelters keep beds assigned to the client and will only exit after 2 days of no show.. Sometimes clients stay at a NbN shelter for one night and come back (original shelter does not exit). Does the LSA count this as an overlap?
A: This would be considered an overlap. There are a handful of scenarios where an overlap does reflect what has actually occurred (vs a data entry error). Please provide this explanation to your liaison.

Q: What is considered long duration for the change is bed inventory?
A: That is a community defined length of time.