

HMIS Lead / Sys Admin – Q&A

Questions from 07/20/2022 Webinar

For any questions that were not addressed on the webinar, or if there are specific questions to your own systems, please submit an HMIS AAQ to receive a thorough answer:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

Q: Are there going to be changes to the Data Standards coming this October 2022?

A: Data standards are updated bi-annually, and the next update will be in place October 1, 2023. The update process is underway now, and any input folks have on changes they would like to see are encouraged to submit them to the AAQ: <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

Q: What is stellavizification?

A: It is a made up term used to describe the process of being able to run Stella visualizations from an LSA upload.

Q: When are the next quarterly ESG-CV uploads due?

A: Reports are due by the Recipient on July 30th.

Q: Should a current living situation be recorded for all contacts with a client, regardless of if the contact is initiated by an outreach worker or the client themselves?

A: Yes, anytime there is an interaction between the worker and the client.

Q: Who holds agencies accountable for PATH data entry?

A: The State PATH Contact would probably be who would hold the agency accountable. Please submit an AAQ, and we can direct your question to the PATH HMIS SME for further clarification:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

Q: To confirm, PATH outreach contacts should include phone contacts?

A: Please see the PATH HMIS Manual: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PATH-Program-HMIS-Manual.pdf> - There is a section on page 11 that discusses the allowability of providing services virtually, including by telephone.

Q: CE APR clarifications - does the universe clarification also mean that clients don't have to have a response to 4.19 or 4.20 to be included? It's really about whether the element is available to be collected?

A: The CE APR Specs contain ordered steps which indicate first which projects should be included in the CE APR (any project that collects 4.19 and/or 4.20, regardless of type) and then from those projects, which client(s) should be included based on the client universe defined in each of the CE APR questions. See pages 5-7 in the [CE APR Specs](#) for additional information about project and client universe for the CE APR.

Q: When will the CE report spec required to be in the HMIS system?

A: For most vendors, there are no changes required. Those that may have misinterpreted the guidance were asked to make corrections as soon as possible. If you think this may be impacting your CE APR, you may want to reach out to your vendor to inquire about their timeline.

Q: If the elements 4.19 and 4.20 are in another program type entry (besides Coordinated Entry), will this cause problems with reporting? Will it pull in all the data elements from these other programs?

A: That is not a problem. It is expected that based on the way some communities have structured their CES, that these data may be collected in a variety of project types (i.e. shelters, outreach projects, etc.) The report is designed to include any project, regardless of type, that is set up to collect 4.19 and 4.20.

Q: Will the expanded universe for the CE APR have data quality allowances for the missing data that will come with including projects that have 4.19 or 4.20?

A: There are no plans to make any changes to the data quality reporting on the CE APR. Keep in mind, the CE APR only includes the PII table, not all of the DQ tables that are in the full CoC APR.

Q: Can Agencies that are partially DV use our local HMIS?

A: Please review the comparable database decision tree, and submit an AAQ if there are further questions: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5743/hmis-when-to-use-a-comparable-database/>

Q: What governing body would authorize an HMIS as being certified comparable database?

A: There is no approval, certification or endorsement process for HMIS or comparable database software or software vendors. HMIS / comparable database users are responsible for verifying that any software they use meets their needs, including federal reporting requirements. CoCs are responsible for ensuring that a comparable database is implemented for DV service providers operating within the CoC.

Q: Can DOJ and HUD keep working together to message to VSPs that data collection is no against VAWA?

A: Yes. This is ongoing work between the two agencies.

Q: Is there a requirement for the VSP's comparable database to be able to generate a CoC APR?

A: Yes, comparable databases are required to produce the CoC APR and ESG CAPER (assuming the VSP is a recipient of those funds). Check out the comparable database check list for more info.

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Homeless-System-Response-Comparable-Database-Vendor-Checklist.pdf>

Q: Is there a written resource to guide the involvement of VSP clients in coordinated entry (in this case within the HMIS)?

A: Yes: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/coordinated-entry-management-and-data-guide.pdf>

Q: Do comparable databases collect SSN?

A: Yes. Comparable databases should be programmed to collect the Universal Data Elements in the same way as an HMIS.

Q: Wouldn't read-only access for a VSP to HMIS still present an issue because HMIS' are supposed to be auditable, so you'd be able to see that the case manager from a VSP was viewing specific records, and it would be reasonable to conclude that the client is being served at a VSP?

A: If the intent of access to the HMIS is to locate survivors served by their organization, and the audit reveals the accessed records, then you are correct.