

HMIS Lead / Sys Admin – Q&A

Questions from 10/21/20 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: How do we join the HMIS Lead Webinar distribution list?

A: If you are not a member of the hub, please send an email to hmis@cloudburstgroup.com to be added.

Q: For the HMIS Certificate from NHSDC, can those sessions be completed after the fact and viewed as a recording, or they must be attended live?

A: The requirement is to attend the sessions so individuals can benefit from interacting with the live presentation, Q&A, and chat. If you miss this chance, we will offer it again in the future.

Q: How will I get my NHSDC certificate?

A: There will be a survey distributed after NHSDC where you will indicate the courses completed, and certificates will be distributed (via email) shortly after the survey results are collected.

Q: Will there be an unsheltered PIT count in 2021?

A: Many CoCs have expressed concerns about the 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. HUD will continue to prioritize the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness and those who serve them. HUD has not made any decision regarding the 2021 PIT count requirements, but will notify CoCs via listserv as soon as they decide how to proceed.

Q: Will you penalize communities if they make the call and do not participate in an unsheltered count because of the short notice?

A: If an unsheltered count is included, not doing the count could impact your CoC application and local understanding of unsheltered trend data, among other things.

Q: We have been told that we will not be responsible for reporting on the new CE data elements until October 2021. If there are agencies who may not be able to fully implement these CE data elements from 10/1/2020. Is there going to be flexibility with this?

A: We anticipate that the first year of CE data will be of lower quality - if you have a CoC funded SSO-CE grant you are required to implement as of 10/1/2020 as best you are able.

Q: PATH question: our State is requiring PATH data to be entered into PDX by the beginning of Nov. Our vendor has notified us that they won't have the fix in place until 12/1. How do we handle compliance if we have the validation errors?

A: SAMHSA has notified the SPCs and let them know the data will not be able to be submitted until 12/1 by many grantees. The grantee should speak with their SPC about their issues.

Q: Where can I find the ESG-CV reporting guidance?

A: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/sage/esg-cv/>

Q: Would you be able to talk more about the new CoC/ESG waiver to the Homeless Definition?

A: ESG Waiver questions are being addressed in the COVID Office Hours. Please join this Fridays call or submit an AAQ: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/office-hours-covid-19-planning-response-for-homeless-assistance-providers-fridays/>

Q: Can HMIS leads / other interested parties join the vendor call?

A: The call is limited to HMIS and comparable database application vendors.

VASH questions:

Q: Where can we find the announcement about HUD VASH and data sharing?

A: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/increasing-hmis-participation-and-update-on-hud-vash-data-sharing/>

Q: Is the HUD VASH a requirement, and will vendors be required to implement?

A: This is not a requirement; it is an option to help communities increase their participation rates using VASH data. Vendors will not be required to implement. HUD leaves the requirements for vendors to be managed in local CoCs through contracting directly with the vendor. HMIS Vendors were notified in the last few Vendor calls - you can have your vendor reach out via the HMIS AAQ if they want to obtain more information from the HMIS Data Lab team.

Q: Who should we contact at the VA about the VASH data sharing?

A: Please start with your local VASH contact and reference the HUD Exchange message when you do.

Q: It's my understanding that HOMES does not collect household data. Is there a plan to expand VASH data collection to the whole household so that would be able to transferred/shared with HMIS Leads?

A: You're correct, the HOMES data is only available for the Veteran participant so only the Veteran's data will be provided. The FY 2022 or later data standard changes may continue to address these differences in other ways. HUD has no control over HOMES data collection requirements.

Q: Who has been a part of the HUD – VASH data decision making process?

A: HUD and the VA have been working on VASH - HMIS participation for years. This is not a new problem for CoCs that are missing out on HMIS participation from their VASH partners. The HOMES report and tool are intended to help address the issue.

Q: What is HUD's official stance on the HUD-VASH data inclusion in HMIS?

A: HUD's stance is that it is hard to make strategic planning decisions without a complete knowledge of your system. HUD-VASH is a key part of many CoCs' response, so including that data in HMIS is important. It will impact all data you use and report. Much of that is used for competitive purposes, but, more importantly, it is used to make your local decisions. HUD can't make it required, but there are repercussions for not having it. That's partly the issue this report and tool are trying to help address.

Q: What happens if a VAMC covers multiple CoCs?

A: You will work with the VAMC to identify the correct clients to be included in your HMIS.

Q: My vendor is stating that they are waiting on HUD guidance on developing that import process.

A: Please have your HMIS Vendor submit an HMIS AAQ, so we can get them the resources they might be missing.

Q: Could HUD include the VASH upload in the data standards/required reporting?

A: We will add that for consideration for future data standard updates.

Q: What is the date range of the VASH data set, and with what frequency can we expect the data?

A: VAMC staff will be able to set a start and end date. The frequency in which the data are provided to the CoC will be something the CoC and VAMC determine together.

Q: Will there be a data guide or specifications for the HUD-VASH export/tool?

A: Yes, there will be additional information coming out soon.

Q: If VASH housing is provided in our CoC but originates from another CoC (vouchers are ported into our CoC),

would those beds be recorded on our HIC?

A: Please see: <https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/834/how-should-vash-vouchers-be-reported-on-the-hic/>

LSA Questions:

Q: We are getting a federal funding source warning for all projects that are not federally funded and therefore do not have a federal funding source selected. Is HUD now requiring admin data on projects that they do not fund?

A: Funding Source 2.06 is applicable to all projects, not just HUD funded projects.

Q: Should our two initial uploads be marked for official use or local only?

A: Official use.

Q: When are the initial uploads due?

A: Uploads are due at the end of October.

Q: Our LSA export is showing errors and will not allow us to export the file. Are these the errors our vendor is expected to fix by 10/30, and we don't need to worry about changing anything in our system to accommodate them?

A: You need to log those errors with your vendor. You should be able to get the export from your vendor prior to the reporting deadline.

Q: Uploads are being rejected because of the ESG-CV funding source, is this a known issue?

A: Yes – this should be resolved shortly.

Q: Can clients served by Homeless Prevention Programs have the same entry and exit date?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the flag format be the same as last year?

A: No, the format is being updated and you will see the updated format during office hours.

Q: When will the LSA office hours be?

A: 10/28/20 from 2:30-4:00 ET – this will be in addition to the traditional Friday office hours, and will be LSA specific. A link to the office hours will be coming through the HUD Exchange listserv.

Q: How will communities get the LSA error files? Will it be within HDX 2.0, or will liaisons be emailing them?

A: Files within HDX.

Q: Will we get error messages on the LSA once it is uploaded?

A: HDX will not generate any errors or warnings. Those are generated by a separate system so there will be a delay.

Q: If a project or inventory is still active, does it truly need an End Date?

A: End dates are not needed if the project is still active.

Q: How does the LSA data quality checks interpret an "Other" exit destination?

A: "Other" is counted as "unknown," just like "don't know" or "refused."

Q: Are all of the new CV projects going to require inventories?

A: Yes, the ESG-CV funded projects should be set up with the bed and unit inventory PDDE data completed, per the usual Data Standards guidance.

Q: Do vendors have access to HDX2.0 to see community uploads?

A: CoC leads are responsible for granting LSA/HDX 2.0 access to interested stakeholders (including HMIS Vendors if appropriate) in their communities.

The Vendors are working with HDX/LSA TA providers to address their end of the LSA effort. This started several months ago and will be ongoing through the submission process.

Q: The LSA Listserv message says an upload attempt is due by October 30 - does that mean that an 'attempt' that could be rejected with upload errors, or does that mean an attempt that is accepted to HDX 2.0?

A: It means an attempt that is accepted. We would expect that if the file is rejected you would work with your vendor to resolve any issues and be able to successfully upload a file.

Q: How would I set up the Bed/Inventory on an RRH when no one has used the project yet?

A: You can follow the guidance in the HMIS Data Standards Manual. Also - this RRH specific guidance may be helpful: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5910/record-report-rrh-bed-inventories/>

Q: We have a significant number of projects with no HUD or federal funding source. If we use "Local or Other Funding Source," do we also need grant start and grant end dates?

A: That is correct.

Q: For the LSA uploads, do we need to run two separate LSA exports for each of the two years? What dates do we use as the start and end date on the export for each year?

A: Yes, one upload per year. The date range is 10/1 to 9/30 for each year.

Q: If there are households that are excluded from the LSA for data validation errors, such as not-exactly-one HoH, will those households be flagged in the error file, so we can identify and correct them? Or do those need to be identified through some other means beforehand?

A: You should do both things: try to resolve any general DQ issues now using local reporting and data quality protocols, and you should also clean up any errors identified by the LSA upload process.