

HMIS Lead System Administrator Webinar Q & A

October 23, 2019

Budget and Staffing Toolkit

Q: When will the new toolkit be released?

A: It is part of forthcoming guidance. We anticipate it will be ready in the next several months.

LSA / SPM

Q: How do you join the LSA listserv?

A: If you have an HDX 2.0 account you will get LSA messages. Also, any important information is sent via HUD Exchange, HMIS Admin lists (this call) and vendor lists.

Q: Is there a plan to require vendors to provide a client-level companion report for LSA data clean up?

A: There is not a requirement for such a report at this time.

Q: What is the LSA/SPM timeline?

A:

System-wide Report	Open Date	Completion Date
FY 2019 System Performance Report submission in Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) 1.0	Mid October, 2019	February 28, 2020
FY 2019 LSA Preparatory Work with HMIS Software Providers	Mid November, 2019	Mid March, 2020
2020 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) submission in HDX 1.0	Mid March, 2020	April 30, 2020
FY 2019 LSA Submission in HDX 2.0	Mid March, 2020	Mid May, 2020
FY 2019 LSA Data Cleaning and Confirmation in HDX 2.0	Mid May, 2020	Mid July, 2020

Q: Will there be tools available for LSA similar to what Abt used to provide feedback?

A: There will still be errors and warnings this year, yes. All of the flags that are triggered by report programming errors will be imported into the HDX 2.0 this year as "upload errors" (i.e. they will prevent you from uploading your file and will generate a report to give back to your vendor). All the other errors/warnings will be imported into HDX 2.0 as "warnings" or "data errors" that will require you to leave a note. While there may be a handful of warnings we will not be able to import into HDX 2.0, the vast majority will be in the system and will not require a supplemental excel file send after the upload process is complete. All vendors will be provided with all the possible upload errors, data errors, and warnings during the programming process along with test scripts to validate their results.

Q: When will the updated SPM specs be available for us (non-vendors) to review?

A: SPM specs are now available on the Sys Admin hub - Resources/Federal Partner Programs/CoC. They are also available on the HUD Exchange at

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/System-Performance-Measures-HMIS-Programming-Specifications.pdf>

Q: What changed in SPM's?

A: General update: element numbers updated to match FY2020 Data Standards. Include project selection guidance to only include data from projects which are participating in the CoC for which the report is being run: [Continuum Project] (element 2.02.5) = 1 and [Continuum Code] (element 2.03.1) = the CoC for the report run.

Measure 1 Update: added general clarification that length of time homeless cannot extend prior to a client's date of birth.

Measure 1b Update: updated list of living situations to match FY 2020 Data Standards.

Measures 2a and 2b Update: updated list of destinations to match FY 2020 Data Standards.

Measure 4 Update: added new funding sources when determining list of applicable projects.

SSVF / Rapid Resolution

Q: VA requested SSVF providers for the new CE data elements but the timeline we have from HUD for CE is April 1. Is there any discussion between HUD and VA about this?

A: SSVF Grantees were informed on Friday, October 4th of new data collection requirements regarding Rapid Resolution conversations that must be captured by all SSVF grantees for all conversations being had. The VA has agreed to a 2-month grace period to allow HMIS Leads to perform the appropriate project set up for all SSVF grantees in local HMISs to accommodate this requirement. The HMIS Lead project set up information can be found in the VA Program HMIS Manual on the HUD Exchange, and the SSVF Grantee guidance for data capture can be found in the NEW VA Data Guide posted to the VA's website. Any questions you have as HMIS Leads can be entered as an HMIS AAQ on HUD Exchange, and SSVF grantees can email questions to ssvfhmis@abtassoc.com.

Q: Are communities expected to have one central RR project, or multiple projects?

A: Depends on the number of SSVF grantees in the CoC – data needs to be uploaded to the repository separately for each grantee. In other words, we can't combine VA SSVF grant numbers into one single repository slot. Therefore – you will have at a minimum at least the number of SSVF grantees to set up with RR data capture in your implementation.

Q: Can Veterans be enrolled in both RR and either RRH or HP at the same time, or should Veteran be exited from RR before entry into the RRH or HP project?

A: Clients should be exited before entry into HP or RRH.

Q: Can you please explain what you mean by a RR project? Or point us in the direction of how that's supposed to be set up in HMIS so that it meets the SSVF repository requirements?

A: The VA HMIS Program Manual and VA Data Guides are most helpful:

https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/?page=/official_guide/homeless_management_info_system is the VA Data Guide. Any questions you have as HMIS Leads can be entered as an HMIS AAQ on HUD Exchange, and SSVF grantees can email questions to ssvfhmis@abtassoc.com.

Q: Should Rapid Resolution exist concurrently with a coordinated entry project entry, if a client is homeless at the time of the rapid resolution conversation?

A: Yes.

Q: Can Start and End date be the same for a Rapid Resolution program?

A: Yes.

Resources

Q: Where can I find a copy of the comparable database decision tree?

A: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5743/hmis-when-to-use-a-comparable-database/>

Q: How can I find the interactive data standards?

A: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3824/hmis-data-dictionary/>

Data Standards

Q: For current living situation, what if Street Outreach don't know where their client will sleep that night?

A: There is a "Worker unable to determine" option when a SO worker cannot determine.

Q: Any guidance for the best Exit date for Street Outreach projects - other than if they move into Housing?

A: Check out the Data Standards Manual and Federal partner Manuals for specifics but, generally speaking: the exit date must represent the last day a contact was made or a service was provided. In a street outreach services project, clients may be exited when the outreach worker has been unable to locate the client for an extended length of time and there are no recorded contacts. The CoC must be involved in what "extended length of time" means.

Q: Should a Move In date be entered if a client is housed but not by your project? Self resolve, perm with friends/family, etc.

A: It depends. Per the Data Standards:

"For RRH projects only, a Housing Move-in Date must be entered regardless of whether or not the RRH project is providing the rental assistance for the unit. For example, if an RRH project provides supportive services, but is not providing the rental assistance for the unit, a Housing Move-in Date must still be entered to differentiate RRH clients in housing from those still experiencing homelessness.

For any other project types that are typed as 'Permanent Housing' in the HMIS, clients who are receiving pre-housing placement services but are ultimately housed by another project or subsidy source should be exited from the PH project to the appropriate permanent Destination. If the client exits the permanent housing project for a different housing opportunity without physically moving into a housing unit associated with the project, do not enter a housing move- in date, simply exit the client and record the exit destination."