



2014 HMIS Data Standards

Overview



Major Topics

2014 HMIS Data Standards

- Background
 - Key resources
 - Implementation Timeline
 - Revision Process
- Overview of Key Changes



KEY RESOURCES



Data Standards Main Publications

- **HMIS Data Dictionary**
 - Provides data element basics and instructions for HMIS software providers
- **HMIS Data Manual**
 - Includes explanations and instructions for HMIS administrators, CoCs, and HMIS users
- **Program-Specific Data Standards Manuals**
 - Federal partners will issue guidance related to data elements required for their programs for HMIS administrators, CoCs, and HMIS users
- **Project Descriptor Data Elements**
 - Detailed guidance on project descriptor data elements for HMIS administrators, CoCs, and HMIS users



Related Tools and Documentation

- Key Terms
- Crosswalks between 2010 data and 2014 standards
- Revised import/export specifications
- Updated programming specifications for the current APR to cover transition period
 - A revised APR will go into effect after a full year of data collection under the new standards
- Revised AHAR for 2015



IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE





Data Standards Timeline

March 2014

- Draft HMIS Data Dictionary released to HMIS vendors for programming

May 1, 2014

- Final HMIS Data Dictionary and HMIS Data Manual published



Implementation Day – 10/1/2014



- HMIS software updates live
- Projects collect and enter client data consistent with revised data standards and local policies/procedures



Data Standards Timeline

May – September 2014

- Software vendors program changes, update documentation, train clients (HMIS leads)
- HMIS leads update policies, procedures, forms and obtain CoC approval, as appropriate
- HMIS leads provide updated end user training
- Agencies update client data collection policies, procedures, forms



Data Standards Timeline

- 2014-2015 is a transition year
 - HUD and its federal partners understand there will be higher missing data rates
 - Federal Partner programs will be phased into using HMIS- not all are expected to be on HMIS on October 1st.



Timeline TBD

- Release of data standards public comments and HUD responses
- Final HMIS Rule
- Draft Notices for updated technical standards covering:
 - Governance
 - Privacy and Security
 - Software and Data Quality



REVISION PROCESS



Need for Revised Data Standards

- Comply with HEARTH Act
- Incorporate data collection requirements of federal partners
- Simplify and standardize reporting (e.g., counting households in AHAR vs. APR)
- Clarify and formalize implied requirements (e.g., identify data collected at entry vs. exit)



Inputs for Revision Process

- The HEARTH Act
- Feedback received in working with CoCs, HMIS implementations, TA providers, software providers, NHSDC Board of Directors, help desks
- Development of APR programming specifications
- HHS (SAMHSA & FYSB), VA, and HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing data collection requirements
- Vendor review/recommendations
- Public comment (1,900+ individual comments)



Public Comments on 2013 Draft

- In 2009, HUD received 46 submissions, which were split out into ~350 individual comments
- In 2013, HUD received 127 submissions, which were split out into ~1,900 individual comments; similar/identical comments combined into ~600 distinct comments
- Every comment was read and considered, many resulting in changes to draft standards



Principles of Revision Process

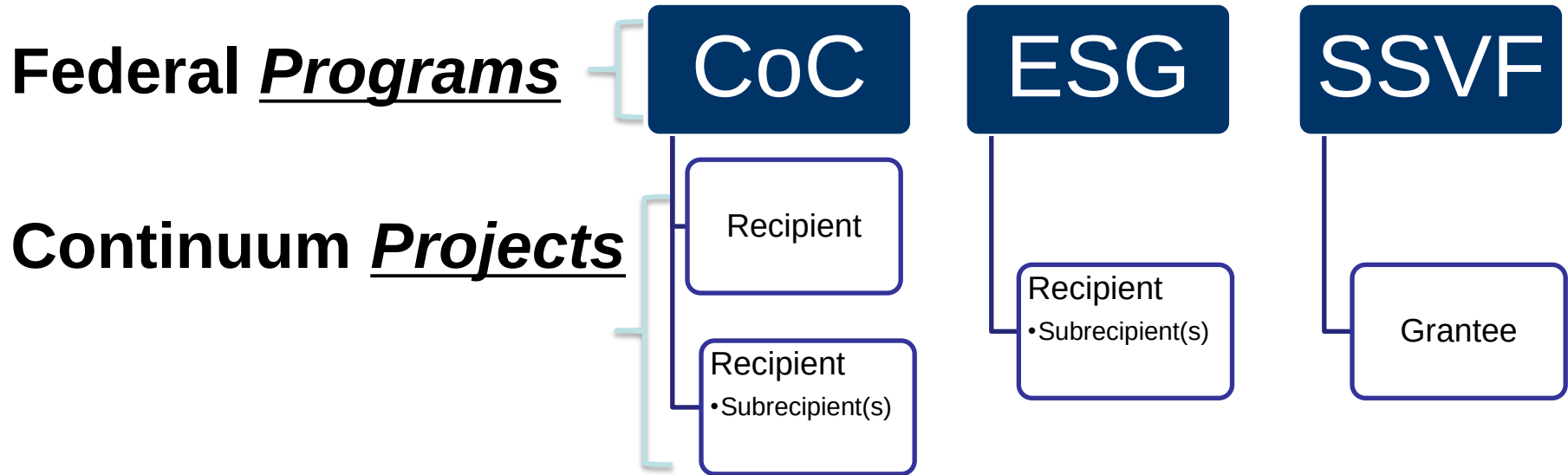
- The HMIS Data Standards establish *minimum requirements* for HMIS data collection
- Increased federal partner participation enriches HMIS but increases the burden on vendors and HMIS administrators
- Every field should meet a need
- Adding ‘potentially useful’ or ‘nice to have’ data elements at the national level reduces community capacity to build out HMIS in locally meaningful ways



OVERVIEW OF KEY CHANGES



Language: Program v. Project



- *Program Name and Program Entry Date are now Project Name and Project Entry Date*
- *Category of Program-Specific Data Elements hasn't changed; each element is relevant for one or more federal programs / funding streams*



Structural Changes

2010 Data Element Groups

- Program Descriptor
- Universal
- Program-Specific
- **Optional**

2014 Data Element Groups

- *Project* Descriptor
- Universal
- Program-Specific
- **Metadata**

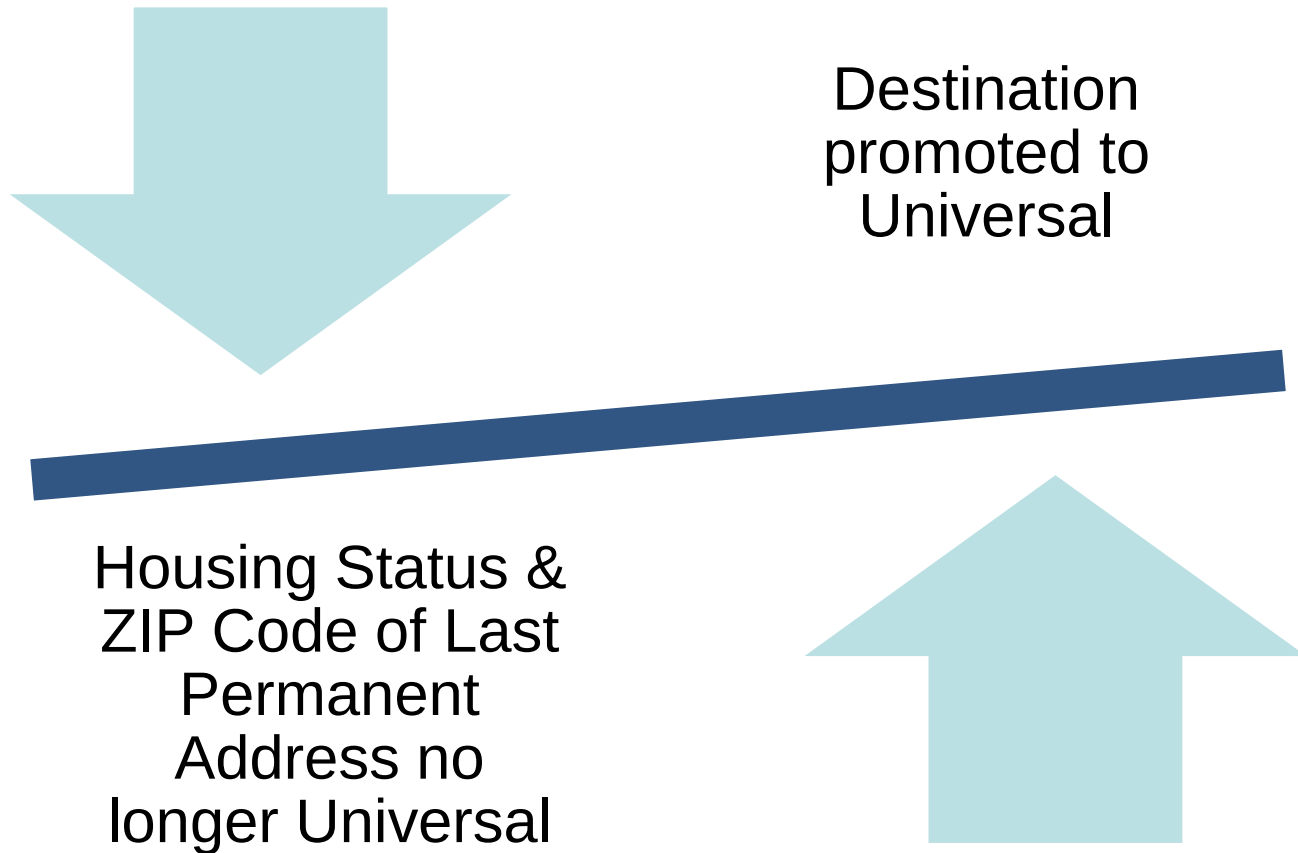


Project Descriptor Major Changes

- Elements required only for HIC are optional
- New Federal Funding Source data element
- Projects can be associated with more than one CoC to facilitate HMIS participation for projects that operate in multiple CoCs
- New separate Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing project types; HPRP retired
- New project types for Coordinated Assessment, PH with Services, PH only, Day Shelter



Universal Data Elements Changes





New Universal Data Elements

- **Relationship to Head of Household**
 - One HoH per enrollment
 - HoH may be thought of as ‘household representative,’ ‘primary client,’ ‘eligible individual,’ etc.
 - CoC must establish guidelines for identifying the HoH where a funder hasn’t provided specific guidance
 - Will serve as the basis for a standardized method (APR and AHAR) to count households over time
 - In response to public comment, one field identifies both the HoH and household relationships



New Universal Data Elements

- **Client Location**

- Identifies the location of each client by Continuum of Care code
- Corresponds to CoC Code project descriptor
- HMIS may auto-populate values for projects that operate in only one continuum
- Will enable projects operating in multiple continuums to enter data into a single HMIS without compromising data integrity



New Universal Data Elements

- **Length of Time on Street, in an Emergency Shelter, or Safe Haven**
 - Enables identification of chronically homeless persons in an HMIS (in combination with other data)



Other UDE Changes

- New field to collect data quality for Name
- 'Transgendered' categories will become 'Transgender' (public comment)
- Veteran Status collected once per client rather than at every project entry (public comment)
- Disabling Condition collected for adults only
- Updated response categories for Residence Prior and Destination
 - Rental by client with VASH subsidy added back after being removed from draft



Program-Specific Major Changes

- Many new elements to meet HUD, HHS, VA program reporting needs
- Although new to HMIS, the majority do not represent new data collection for grant recipients
- Charts will show which PSDEs are applicable to which federal program and must be collected for each
- Program manuals will offer additional guidance



Program-Specific Major Changes

- **Housing Status**
 - Revised to align with federal homeless, at-risk definitions
 - No longer required at exit
- Service elements updated or added, consistent with specific requirements of federal funders
- New **Residential Move-In Date** element for RRH will identify the date on which clients move into permanent housing



Program-Specific Major Changes

- **Income & Sources, Non-Cash Benefits**
 - HoH and adults only
 - Record only current sources vs. all for last 30 days
 - Clarified guidance to improve data quality and reduce burden
- New **Health Insurance** data element includes insurance-related items from old Non-Cash Benefits element and additional sources
 - All clients



Metadata Elements

- Metadata is data about data
- The majority of metadata elements have always been required by implication
 - E.g., reporting on income at entry vs. income at exit
- Adding them to the data standards simplifies programming specifications, clarifies expectations



Metadata Elements

5.1 Date Created

5.2 Date Updated

5.3 Data Collection Stage

5.4 Information Date

5.5 Project Identifier

5.6 Project Entry Identifier

5.7 User Identifier



Information Date (Metadata)

- Many public comment requests for clarification
- Information Date for data collected at project entry / exit must match entry / exit date
- Information Date for annual assessments must be ± 30 days of the anniversary of project entry
- Responses must be accurate as of the Information Date, regardless of when data are collected



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