



HUD-VASH HMIS Manual Federally-Funded Programs for Homeless Veterans

A GUIDE FOR HMIS USERS AND SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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Revision history

Date	Version	Description
9/2017	1.0	First Release
9/2019	2.0	Second Release <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="500 426 1377 457">• Updated data element numbers to match FY 2020 Data Standards<li data-bbox="500 468 938 499">• Updated resource hyperlinks

Introduction

This manual is intended to support data collection and reporting efforts of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agencies and U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veteran Affairs (VA) programs administering HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers. The HUD-VASH program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating Veterans at VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and community-based outpatient clinics.

HUD-VASH staff are required to use the VA's Homeless Operations Management and Evaluation System (HOMES) database. Any HUD-VASH use of HMIS is voluntary. However, there are a select few HUD-VASH Other Than Honorable (OTH) projects, called "HUD-VASH Continuum," that have been in operation since FY 18 that are not able to use HOMES and therefore are required to participate in HMIS for data collection purposes.

This manual provides information on HMIS setup for HUD-VASH projects, including HUD-VASH Continuum. While local data collection instruction from HMIS Leads and the [FY 2020 Data Standards Manual](#) will help with HUD-VASH data collection for HMIS users, this HUD-VASH Programs HMIS Manual is meant to help system administrators and HMIS Lead staff ensure that HUD-VASH programs are properly set up in HMIS.

HUD-VASH Resources

Additional information about the HUD-VA homeless programs and requirements can be found online at the [VA Homeless Programs](#) page.

Additional HMIS Resources

- There are a variety of documents available on the HUD Exchange [HMIS](#) page that detail all HMIS Data and Technical Standards, Federal Partner Information, and information about HMIS forums for HMIS Leads, System Administrators, and Vendors.
- The [2020 HMIS Data Standards](#) page contains a suite of HMIS Data Standard resources, which are briefly described below. Each of the documents has a specific purpose and intended audience. The HMIS Lead should be familiar with all the documents and collectively use them as their HMIS reference materials along with specific materials provided by the software provider.
 - [FY2020 HMIS Data Manual](#) represents the foundation for the data contained within an HMIS, project setup instructions, and data collection instructions.
 - [FY2020 HMIS Data Dictionary](#) Table Shells contain the data element tables with relevant programming instructions, system logic and other issues to be used by vendors for HMIS programming. The information in the tables shells aligns with the information contained herein.
 - [FY2020 CSV Specifications](#) This document provides specifications for a standard set of comma-separated values (CSV) files that include all data elements and fields defined by the FY2020 HMIS Data Standards, along with information that describes an exported data set.

- [FY2020 XML Schema](#) The HUD HMIS XML Schema specifies a format for transferring HMIS data. This XML format can be used for data migrations between systems, or the data types defined within it could be individually referenced in custom web methods.
- [HMIS Federal Partner Participation Resources](#) Each link on this page contains resources and materials for following the HMIS requirements of HUD and other federal partners.
- [HMIS Project Setup Tool](#) provides a general framework to support project setup in HMIS by system administrators. It assists system administrators in ensuring that all HMIS participating projects are set up using the appropriate HMIS project types and are collecting the required data elements.

To ask a question about any VA Program HMIS requirement, go to the Ask A Question section of the HUD Exchange. Please be sure to select “HMIS” for your question under “My Question is Related To.” Federal HMIS and VA Program staff are working together to answer questions submitted on Ask A Question related to VA and HMIS.

HMIS Project Setup Steps

It is important to be sure that communities understand the difference between a program and a project because they have distinct meanings in this document and for the purposes of data collection in HMIS. A program is the source of funding that the organization is receiving to run its homeless intervention whereas project refers to a distinct unit of an organization as set up in the HMIS (e.g., HUD-VASH Program funding for ABC Permanent Housing Project).

Identify Projects for Inclusion in HMIS

Identify all of the projects within the HMIS implementation that are operating HUD-VASH programs. Asking local Housing Authorities in your area may help complete the picture of HUD-VASH programs operating in the CoC.

Identify the Federal Partner Program Funding each Project

The HUD-VASH program combines HUD-funded Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by Veteran’s Affairs. VA provides these services for participating veterans at VAMCs and community-based outpatient clinics. These permanent supportive housing projects have been encouraged by the VA to participate in HMIS.

Every HUD-VASH project must be included in a continuum’s HIC and PIT Count. All projects must have project descriptors recorded in HMIS, regardless of whether client level data is collected in HMIS.

Set Up Projects in HMIS

One of the most critical steps in accurate data collection and reporting is ensuring that a project is set up properly in an HMIS. Incorrect project setup will jeopardize recipients' ability to produce accurate, reliable reports and will affect the community's ability to generate community-wide reports including System Performance Measures.

HMIS System Administrators should follow the procedures established for their particular HMIS when setting up projects in the HMIS. These setup procedures must include, at a minimum, that:

1. The HMIS includes project descriptor information for all ESG projects participating in HMIS; and
2. The HMIS Lead, in consultation with the CoC, review project descriptor data at least once annually and update that data as needed.

The HMIS Lead Agency must ensure that the HMIS includes project descriptor information for all residential continuum projects, regardless of their participation in HMIS.

The following are required Project Descriptor Data Elements:

Organization Information (2.01)

Organization Information includes fields for 'Organization Name,' 'Organization ID' and 'Victim Service Provider' status of the agency or organization that operates the HUD-VASH program. The name of the agency/organization operating the HUD-VASH program must be entered. An identification number will be generated by the HMIS. There may be only one record in HMIS for each agency/organization, regardless of how many projects they operate. In the HMIS Data Standards, HUD strongly recommends that the name of the organization is the entity's legal name - not an abbreviation or other derivative since the name is transmitted in reports.

Project Information (2.02)

Project Information includes the 'Project ID,' 'Project Name,' 'Operating Start Date,' 'Operating End Date,' 'Continuum Project,' 'Project Type,' 'Residential Affiliation,' 'Method for ES Tracking,' 'Housing Type,' 'HMIS Participating Project' and 'Target Population' for the project being established in HMIS to record client data about clients served with HUD-VASH vouchers. Note the special project set up guidance below for HUD-VASH projects:

- **Project Name:** The name of the project providing the HUD-VASH vouchers must also be entered or identified with the HUD-VASH project. HMIS administrators should note that the name of the project on the Public Housing Authority's (PHA) contract with HUD often differs from its common name at its administrative organization or how it is known within the community and often not the same name as is used on the HIC. System administrators should maintain mapping information to correlate operating entity names, HIC names, and common names with the project identifiers either within the HMIS itself or separately.
- **Continuum Project:** All HUD-VASH projects in HMIS should be set up as 'Continuum Project' = "Yes."
- **Project Type:** HMIS Project Types are critical to the CoC's ability to produce system wide performance measures. HUD-VASH Project Types should be set up as follows:

Component	Project Type #	Project Type Name
HUD: HUD/VASH	3	PH – Permanent Supportive Housing
HUD: HUD/VASH-Continuum	3	PH – Permanent Supportive Housing

Continuum of Care Information (2.03)

Select the CoC code based on the location in which the project operated. HUD-VASH projects may be funded to operate in a single CoC or they may be funded to operate in a wider geographic area that covers multiple CoCs. Projects funded to operate in multiple CoCs should be associated with all of the CoC codes for which they will be entering client-level data into the HMIS. For example, if a HUD-VASH project is expected to provide financial assistance to everyone in the catchment area, then all of the CoC codes covering the area must be selected. However, if the HUD-VASH project only provides services to people in City X, and City X has a single CoC code, then select the code that applies to City X's CoC only. If a project is funded to operate in multiple CoCs and is participating in the HMIS implementations of each separate CoC with a separate project created in each, only the CoC Code relevant to the HMIS implementation need be entered.

Funding Sources (2.06) – Projects funded in whole or in part are to be identified based on the HUD-VASH program name below. Select the appropriate HUD-VASH program for each project:

Component	Funding Source #	Funding Source Name
HUD:HUD/VASH	20	HUD:HUD/VASH
HUD:HUD/VASH Continuum (OTH)	20	HUD:HUD/VASH

For HUD-VASH projects the **Grant Identifier** field should include the PHA-HUD contract number, along with the corresponding Contract Start Date and Contract End Date.

Bed and Unit Inventory Information (2.07)

HMIS administrators must complete the bed and unit inventory information for projects that provide lodging (Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-housing, and Safe Haven). This information should match the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). The bed and unit information is based on the number and type of beds in the entire project, which may be more beds/units than are provided by the HUD-VASH Program.

HMIS Leads should consult their HMIS vendor and the [HMIS Manual](#) regarding the specific way to complete this element to meet all of the requirements. Correct set-up is critical for accurate reporting in Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) which helps inform the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR).

Data Collection Requirements

Information on the rationale, collection point, subjects, and instructions for each element can be found in the [HMIS Data Standards Dictionary and Manual](#).

All HUD-VASH projects participating in HMIS are required to collect and enter Universal Data Elements and relevant Program-Specific Data Elements. The Program Specific Data Elements to be collected by HUD-VASH projects are shown below:

Data Collection Requirements by Program Component:

Data Element #	Name	HUD-VASH	HUD-VASH-Continuum (OTH)
3.01-3.917	Universal Data Elements	X	X
4.02	Income and Sources	X	X
4.03	Non-Cash Benefits	X	X
4.04	Health Insurance	X	X
4.05	Physical Disability	X	X
4.06	Developmental Disability	X	X
4.07	Chronic Health Condition	X	X
4.08	HIV/AIDS	X	X
4.09	Mental Health Problem	X	X
4.10	Substance Abuse	X	X
4.11	Domestic Violence	X	X
V1	Veteran's Information	X	X
V5	Last Permanent Address	X	X
V6	VAMC Station Number	X	X
V8	HUD-VASH Voucher Tracking		X
V9	HUD-VASH Exit Information		X
R4	Last Grade Completed	X	X
R6	Employment Status		X
R7	General Health Status		X

X = Data collection required

Special Data Collection Instructions

None.