

Ohio Human Services Data Warehouse

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE OHIO HUMAN SERVICES DATA WAREHOUSE

This document is intended to serve as a statement of guiding principles for the Ohio Human Services Data Warehouse (OHSDW). The participating CoCs are:

- Akron / Barberton / Summit County
- Balance of State
- Canton / Massillon / Alliance / Stark County
- Cincinnati / Hamilton County
- Cleveland / Cuyahoga County
- Columbus / Franklin County
- Dayton / Kettering / Montgomery County
- Toledo Lucas County
- Youngstown / Mahoning County

This statement of guiding principles documents the agreements made to date relating to the OHSDW project. It is intended to provide guiding principles and to document the CoCs' commitment to the project.

I. Project Overview

The HEARTH Act codifies in law the Continuum of Care planning process and certain data collection requirements and requires HUD to ensure operation of and consistent participation by recipients and subrecipients of programs authorized by Title IV of the McKinney- Vento Act in HMIS. The purpose of HMIS is to record and store client-level information about the numbers, characteristics and needs of persons who use homeless housing and supportive services and about persons who receive assistance for persons at risk of homelessness over time, to produce an unduplicated count of homeless persons for each Continuum of Care; to understand the extent and nature of homelessness locally, regionally and nationally; and to understand patterns of service use and measure the effectiveness of programs.

HUD envisions that by implementing an HMIS system within each Continuum of Care, homeless individuals, agency directors and program managers, as well as public policy makers will all benefit. The OHSDW project intends to leverage the core continuum-level systems to provide a richer, fuller picture of the homeless population and the services they receive, better enabling agencies to collaborate across continuum and jurisdictional boundaries, and allowing public policy makers to address homelessness issues on a statewide basis.

In response to this Congressional direction, the nine Continua of Care within Ohio have already

implemented HMIS systems within their jurisdictions. These CoC have come together as the OHSDW group to leverage learning across the multiple communities, and to facilitate the creation of a statewide system that initially brings HMIS data together for a composite picture of the homeless population and services across Ohio. This will be the first step toward the development and implementation of the Ohio Human Services Data Warehouse, which will incorporate data from multiple mainstream systems to provide a more comprehensive picture of the interrelated causes and symptoms of poverty.

II. Purpose

The vision of the OHSDW is to strengthen collaborative efforts to develop a statewide comprehensive strategy to alleviate the interrelated issues of poverty through the analysis of cross-system data related to homelessness and at-risk populations.

Beginning with a collaboration of all homeless Continuums of Care and their respective Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), the Ohio Human Services Data Warehouse will provide a single integrated source of information to respond to state and local needs on issues related to poverty. Additionally, this collaborative needs to expand to cross-system data sources necessary to develop a holistic picture of homelessness in Ohio furnishing reliable, comprehensive data to inform state, regional, and local plans and improve coordination, policy making and resource allocation.

The primary benefits foreseen in working with data at a statewide level include:

- Identify cross-system use of services, analyze trends, identify mobility patterns, and assess the impact of investments in housing and human services to inform funding and policy decisions on the state and local levels.
- Facilitate the identification of system gaps and opportunities for cross-system collaboration.
- Use data to educate the public, elected officials, and other policymakers on the cross-system issues that affect the stability of households and communities.

III. Guiding Principles

At its meeting on [insert date], the OHSDW Advisory Committee agreed to the following as minimum guiding principles for the OHSDW:

1. The individual Continua of Care retain responsibility for their strategic HMIS planning within their communities. They are ultimately responsible for the operation of the system within their respective communities.
2. Each Continuum of Care, and their respective agencies, will retain ownership of any and all data entered into OHSDW on their behalf.
3. Each Continuum of Care will be responsible for its own data analysis relating to its own specific community. Additional data analysis and reporting will be determined by the full Advisory Committee.
4. HUD's Universal Data Elements and Program Level Data Elements will initially form the

basis of collected data, to the extent that each Continuum of Care is able to provide such data.

5. All Continua of Care involved in the OHSDW project recognize that the long-term viability of the project depends on each participating CoC making on-going commitment to the project.
6. This statement of Guiding Principles as it stands pertains to the nine CoC and will be subject to change as other agencies, organizations, or partners are added to the OHSDW.

IV. Responsibilities of the Parties

The members of the OHSDW agree to undertake the following tasks by [insert date], in order to move towards project implementation:

1. Each Continua of Care agree to participate in the OHSDW project.
2. OHSDW Advisory Committee is to devise guidelines on data requirements and other technical functions.
3. OHSDW Advisory Committee agrees to work on a standard transference of data between the CoC HMIS systems and the OHSDW project, and to develop security standards involved with transference of data.
4. OHSDW Advisory Committee will decide guiding principles and conditions governing release, analysis, and reporting of aggregate regional data.
5. OHSDW Advisory Committee agree to participate in a joint steering committee forum (including the project consultant(s) or contractor(s)), which will meet on a periodic/regular basis to review program status, provide guidance around strategic issues that arise within the OHSDW project, and make policy decisions as needed.
6. OHSDW members will reach agreement through a consensus process, however when needed, voting will occur. Each Continuum will have one vote.

V. Modifications to the Guiding Principles

1. This Statement of Guiding Principles is an evolving document and will be subject to amendment by consensus of OHSDW Advisory Committee and all CoC.
2. Significant amendments to the OHSDW Guiding Principles will require signature or initialed from each participating CoC.

Guiding Principles approved, subject to future amendment, [insert date] meeting.