



The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) & Fall Updates

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It's AHAR Season! [Back to top](#)

The Annual Homeless Assessment report (AHAR) reporting process will begin in November. This report is presented to congress annually as a snapshot of homelessness trends around the country. Your HMIS admin staff at Wilder will compile and submit this report, using the data that you enter into HMIS. Even if you don't receive HUD funding for a program, this report is used both federally and in Minnesota to better understand clients served.

What you need to know -

Types of programs included:

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Shelter

(NOTE: Prevention and Services only programs are not included in the AHAR at this time)

Wilder staff will begin running reports at the end of October to check data on clients served between 10/1/2010 and 9/30/2011.

How you can help -

- By October 31: Complete your data entry for the period ending September 30
- Respond: Wilder staff may contact you - we may need help understanding your data or ask that you update your records
- Here's what we're looking for when running the AHAR (please make sure these are entered correctly):
 - Households recorded correctly
 - Entries & Exits recorded correctly (all but ESP and ESGP) - households connected correctly
 - Service start & end dates recorded correctly (ESGP and ESP) - households connected correctly
- Data quality for:
 - Gender
 - Ethnicity
 - Race
 - Date of Birth
 - Does client have a disability of long duration?
 - Ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces?
 - Living situation last night (HUD)
 - Length of Stay
 - How long since client had permanent place to live?
 - Zip Code of Last Permanent Address

Why you should care about the AHAR -

- CoC Participation in the AHAR is considered when HUD scores NOFA applications - if your data quality is low, you cannot participate in the AHAR. This could affect fund distribution, and ultimately homeless services in your area.
- Your participation helps improve the accuracy of the AHAR report, which HUD will use to plan future programming.
- It helps with your own data quality, which will improve your own reports.

ServicePoint 5 Update and Computer Verification [Back to top](#)

We have been gathering information about your computers and asking you to test ServicePoint 5 for a number of months now, and we are nearing the deadline for having that collected. ServicePoint 5 will be rolling out in spring 2012, and it is very important

that your agency be prepared. If you have not yet completed this process yet, please contact Sharon Arch at sharon.arch@wilder.org.

HMIS 2011 User Award Winners Announced [Back to top](#)

MN's HMIS staff announced the 2nd annual HMIS User Award honorees during lunch at the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless conference in St. Cloud on Monday, Sept 12, 2011. Agencies, CoCs, and individuals received awards for their hard work and commitment this past year to using data to end homelessness in MN.

We'd like to thank to all of you for your hard work and contributions to HMIS over the past year. The full list of 2011 HMIS honorees is below. Please join us in congratulating them!

- CoC Data Quality Award - Northeast MN CoC
- ESGP: Amanda Golden, Ours to Serve, Bemidji
- ESP: Dana Hays, Face to Face, St. Paul
- THP: Crystal Frank, Our Saviours Outreach Ministries, Minneapolis
- HPRP: Colleen Hansen, Three Rivers Community Action, Zumbrota
- DHS Youth: Tanya Marais, AEOA
- FHPAP: Ramsey County FHPAP Project, St. Paul
- LTH MN Housing: Gary Lloyd, Mental Health Resources
- LTH DHS: Paul Horn, Southwestern Mental Health Center
- Most Improved: Vue Vang, Simpson Housing Services
- Productivity Award: Laurie Maher, Catholic Charities Twin Cities

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Report due dates:

- DHS Youth - Oct 14, 2011
- ESGP - October 31, 2011 TBD
- LTH (DHS) quarterly - Nov 1, 2011
- LTH (MN Housing) quarterly - Nov 1, 2011
- HPRP APR - Mid-Nov 2011 - TBD (OEO - Nov 14)

Trainings:

- HPRP APR Report Preparation Webinar - Thurs, Oct 20 - 9:30am to 11:00am
- HMIS Metro Full-Day Training - Thurs, Nov 10 - 8:30am to 5:00pm

Meetings:

- HMIS Governing Group Meeting - Thurs, Dec 8, 2011

Please see our online calendar for more information: <http://www.hmismn.org/events>.

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Welcome to New HMIS Staff!

Katie Kossef will assist with data management, reporting and user support for HMIS. She comes to us after work as a fund-raising database manager and grant writer at Lifetrack Resources and a data management specialist at the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging. Katie is interested in bridging the gap between data collectors and end users in social services and in improving the effectiveness of social service data collection systems. She has a B.A. in Women's Studies from the University of Minnesota.

Teresa Howard comes to the HMIS team from Two Rivers Community Land Trust, where she worked with low- and moderate-income families to achieve and maintain stability in homeownership. Teresa will provide training, support, and reporting expertise for HMIS. She is interested in affordable housing, foreclosure, homeless prevention, and homeownership. She holds a Masters of Social Work degree and a certificate in Housing Studies from the University of MN and a B.A. in Social Work and minor in Social Justice from University of Wisconsin.

Please join us in welcoming Katie and Teresa to the HMIS team!

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2011 Data Standards Changes Revisited

We have been receiving many questions through the HMIS Helpdesk about the new HMIS data standards changes that became effective on July 1, 2011.

If you have not yet had a chance to, please take a moment and review our online [July 2011 Change Document](#).

The July 2011 Data Standards Changes have many implications for your programs and your reporting and data collection procedures. New forms for all of the HMIS-applicable funding sources can be found on our website at <http://www.hmismn.org/forms>.

Please call or email the HMIS Helpdesk (contact info below) with any questions that you might have.

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