

## **What is the AHAR?**

The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is a report to Congress about the number and characteristics of people who use homeless residential services and their patterns of use. Congress mandated this report in legislation for HUD McKinney-Vento funding. Originally, the report included data on emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. AHAR 5 also included a special report on homeless veterans. AHAR 6 will include data on emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and – for the first time – permanent supportive housing programs. The report’s two main sources of data are HMIS and the January point-in-time counts from each Continuum of Care’s Exhibit 1 HUD application.

## **How does Wilder collect the data?**

Wilder staff run reports in ServicePoint to collect the data. All of the data is automatically aggregated – no client level information is passed on to HUD. The summarized data is then uploaded to a HUD website for the analysis team to see.

## **When does Wilder collect the data?**

The reporting period for the AHAR is October 1 – September 30. HMIS staff will begin collecting the data on October 15. A draft of the AHAR is due by November 15 and the final AHAR is due on January 15.

## **Who participates in the AHAR in Minnesota?**

Six sites in Minnesota were selected prior to the first AHAR as sample sites, and these sites’ data is weighted more heavily in the report. These “sample sites,” which are CDBG jurisdictions, are the City of Rochester, the City of Moorhead, the City of St. Paul, Northwest Hennepin County, Washington County, and Norman County. There are 102 sample sites nation-wide. While only these sample sites are required to participate, Minnesota will be submitting data for each CoC in the state.

For more information on how the AHAR has been used in Minnesota, please see the most recent report Homeless service use in Minnesota: Emergency shelter and transitional housing federal fiscal year 2009: <http://www.wilder.org/download.0.html?report=2330> or the Homeless service use in Minnesota: Emergency shelter and transitional housing, federal fiscal year 2008: <http://www.wilder.org/download.0.html?report=2191>.

## **Is participation required?**

Participation in the AHAR is voluntary. However, participation in the AHAR continues to be a HUD priority. AHAR participation status is a question on the HUD CoC funding application.

## **What data elements are reported?**

The data elements included in the report are limited to HUD’s universal data elements, which include demographic information, veteran and disability status, previous housing situation and zip code, and length of stay.