

# HMIS SUPPORTS A VISION FOR DATA AND PERFORMANCE SUCCESS

THE HMIS LEAD AGENCY ENABLES COMMUNITIES TO USE DATA FOR SYSTEM PLANNING, COORDINATING CARE, AND PRIORITIZING RESOURCES

Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a web-based database used by homeless service organizations across the state to collect client-level data on households experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The administration of an HMIS is a mandate from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs outlined a set of goals for the field of homelessness assistance, and three strategy areas where communities should examine their current state and track progress toward an advanced state. HMIS plays an important role in communities' achievement of these goals.

This document covers **Strategy 3: Continuums and partners use data to improve efforts to end homelessness.**

## ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO USE DATA FOR SYSTEM PLANNING

**How does Minnesota's HMIS enable communities to use data to plan an end to homelessness?**

### Federal Mandates

In the Housing Inventory Count, Point-in-Time Count, Longitudinal Systems Analysis, and System Performance Measures projects, ICA's goal is to support communities in the timely submission of packaged HMIS data to HUD. Beyond the mandate, communities can use data from these efforts for system planning.

### Local Support

Regional staff provide on-the-ground expertise directly to communities through active engagement in their governance. Staff are voting members in several CoCs' Boards, and provide training, technical assistance, and strategic direction in Data and Evaluation, Racial Equity and Data Disparities, and funding Advisory Committee meetings. ICA also provides custom data collection tools so agencies can easily share information with their regions.

### Performance Monitoring Tools

ICA maintains several HMIS-based tools for community leadership and other partners to use data from the system. These tools are designed with community input and frequently updated to include users' requested enhancements.

### Custom Data Requests

When partners need custom datasets to answer their questions about homelessness, ICA can deliver a package of data to their specifications. In 2021 and 2022 ICA fielded more than twenty custom requests, at no cost to the customer.

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*ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO USE DATA FOR COORDINATION OF CARE AND TO PRIORITIZE RESOURCES*

How does Minnesota's HMIS supports communities' efforts to use data for care coordination and resource prioritization? [Through project-based work.](#) Below is a list of recent projects with deliverables in these areas.

Project Name	Description
<b>West Central CoC Housing Assessment</b>	This project supported the West Central CoC in the implementation of new prioritization criteria for their Coordinated Entry (CE) housing resources by building those criteria into a report and providing TA on the anticipated impact of the new criteria to support any needed adjustment.
<b>Comparing the HYA and THP Follow-Up Workflows to HMIS Returns Data</b>	This project assessed the feasibility of replacing existing cumbersome workflows with reporting on existing HMIS recidivism data, and resulted in time-saving for agencies and better data for programs.
<b>Emergency Housing Voucher Implementation in HMIS</b>	This project ensured CoCs and agencies were prepared to utilize the required components of HMIS for documenting Emergency Housing Voucher referrals and to utilize HMIS for PSH project participation.
<b>VFMN Homicide Data Request</b>	Violence Free MN compiles a Homicide Report annually on domestic violence homicide victims in MN, which honors those lost and discusses recommendations for reducing intimate partner violence. ICA delivered HMIS data on IPV homicide victims to track potential intersections between housing insecurity and fatality risks.
<b>Supporting the ASC to Monitoring Equity in Turnaways and Bans from Shelter</b>	This project developed tools for the Hennepin County Single Adult Shelter Collaborative's Anti-Racism workgroup to understand racial and other disparities within the implementation of turnaways and bans from shelter.
<b>Data Standards Changes for Coordinated Entry Navigation</b>	This project set up HMIS projects for Coordinated Entry Navigation in alignment with the HUD Coordinated Entry Data Standards.
<b>Covid-19 Vaccine Distribution Trends Data Match</b>	HMIS data is delivered monthly to monitor COVID-19 vaccine administration trends among people experiencing homelessness, to track and respond to areas where populations experiencing homelessness are not receiving vaccine at the same rate as others and respond accordingly. This data tracking system has served as a national model.
<b>Housing Stabilization Services Coordinated Entry Pilot</b>	This project's goal was to incorporate the DHS Housing Stabilization Question Series and Coordinated Entry Eligibility Document into HMIS.
<b>Minn-Link Data Match</b>	University of Minnesota and Minneapolis Public School District research team requested data for children and their families who accessed shelter and housing services (as documented in HMIS records) in Minnesota. HMIS data was used to calculate the timing and duration of homelessness from birth through the third grade.