HMIS 101

What is HMIS?

- Nashville's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a locally administered web-based software application that serves as the primary database for projects intended to prevent and end homelessness in Nashville.

- A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is the information system designated by a local Continuum of Care (CoC) to comply with the requirements of CoC Program interim rule 24 CFR 578.

- Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) as its comprehensive data response to the congressional mandate to report annually on national homelessness.

- Measures project performance and participate in benchmarking of the national effort to end homelessness.

HMIS is used to…

- **Report to funders.** Program-level reporting via HMIS is required by several federal and state funders.

- **Assess community-wide responses to homelessness.** Individual program data is aggregated to identify trends such as changes in characteristics of people experiencing homelessness, length of time people experience homelessness, or returns to homelessness after exiting a program.

- **Facilitate service delivery.** Coordinated Entry referrals are made using HMIS and Coordinated Entry priority lists (By-Name Lists) are maintained using HMIS.

- **Support research and advocacy efforts.** Aggregate HMIS data is used at the national level to assess the state of homelessness in the US and the country's response to it.

What is the HMIS Lead?

- The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County government response to issues of homelessness are coordinated by the Metropolitan Nashville Homeless Impact Division of Metropolitan Social Services. This includes serving as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead entity, leading Coordinated Entry, and staffing for the Homelessness Planning Council and committees.

- The System Lead is responsible for managing the system and administering the HMIS database iteration for the Continuum of Care's geographic area, in accordance with the requirements of the Program Interim Rule and any requirements prescribed by Housing and Urban Development.

Capacity building

- Since becoming the HMIS Lead Agency, the HMIS team has been working to build capacity for a more robust and functional system.

- In 2018, the Metro Homeless Impact Division began their work as the HMIS Lead Agency.

- The HMIS Lead published a new HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual in 2019 that positioned the system to work toward secure data sharing for the first time in our CoC's history.

- In <u>2019</u>, the HMIS Lead Agency received a System Capacity grant from HUD. This grant has provided Technical Assistance (TA) from HUD that has been especially helpful in the creation of compliant and functional governance documents.

- In August <u>2020</u>, the Homelessness Planning Council approved a new Client Release of Information that the HMIS Oversight Committee had worked on for the past year. This document allows clients for the first time to consent to their data being securely shared with other HMIS Participating Agencies.

- In June <u>2021</u>, the HMIS Lead introduced and implemented a Data Quality Plan and Data Quality and Monitoring Plan, effective immediately.

System Performance Measures

- HMIS data is be used to measure progress toward HUD System Performance Measures (SPMs), which are required to be reported annually.

- HUD has developed seven system-level performance measures to help communities gauge their progress in preventing and ending homelessness. These measures include:

    1. Length of time persons remain homeless;

    2. Returns to homelessness after exiting to permanent housing destinations;

    3. Number of persons experiencing homelessness;

    4. Jobs and income growth for persons experiencing homelessness in CoC-funded projects;

    5. Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;

    6. Homelessness prevention and housing placement of persons defined by Category 3 of HUD's homeless definition in CoC-funded projects (currently not applicable for Nashville-Davidson County CoC); and

    7. Successful housing placements.

Reporting

- **HMIS serves as of the primary source of homelessness data in Nashville-Davidson County.** As such, HMIS data are critical to assessing progress toward preventing and ending homelessness.

- As homelessness services agencies continue to increase their participation HMIS (whether they are required [funded by federal dollars]), the HMIS Lead is able to report more and more accurate data back to the community about the state of homelessness in Nashville.

- Engaging Nashville's large emergency shelters as HMIS Participating Agency will be critical to the accuracy of our unduplicated numbers.