

Data Standards Changes Coming to HMIS October 1, 2019

There are some upcoming changes to the HMIS Data Standards, which will go into effect on **October 1, 2019**. We will be providing some more information in the next couple of weeks, especially for Street Outreach and Coordinated Entry projects.

Changes to Enrollment, Update and Exit Screens for All Programs

Disabling Condition

Disabling Condition is currently collected on enrollment, status/annual update, and exit screens. After October 1, this element will *only* be collected on enrollment screens. We may be reaching out to you to update any active clients who have different disabling conditions documented at status or annual update to ensure that the correct information is updated on the enrollment screen.

Prior Living Situation and Exit Destination

The picklists for these two fields are being aligned, which means you'll see some minor language changes to the items, as well as a couple of additional changes:

- *Interim Housing* is being removed as an option. Instead, users should select the type of residence that most accurately reflects a client's living situation. We may be reaching out to you to update this information for any active clients who currently have *Interim Housing* selected for Prior Living Situation.
- Four new options are being added: *Host Home (non-crisis)*; *Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy*; *Rental by client, with HCV voucher (tenant or project based)*; *Rental by client in a public housing unit*.

Housing Move-in Date

Like Disabling Condition above, Housing Move-in Date is currently collected on enrollment, status/annual update, and exit screens in Clarity. After October 1, this element will **ONLY** be collected on enrollment screens. For clients who have Housing Move-in Dates entered on annual/status update screens, or on exit screens, Bitfocus will be mapping those dates to the enrollment screens.

Changes for Outreach, Night-by-Night Shelter, and Services Only Programs

Current Living Situation

The biggest change this year is the introduction of **Current Living Situation** assessments, which will be used to document housing status during each client interaction for clients enrolled in

Street Outreach, Night-by-Night Emergency Shelter, and Services Only programs. These assessments are entered through the program-level Assessments tab and replace Outreach Contact services (which will be removed -- although all historic Contact service data will be mapped to Current Living Situation assessments). The questions on the Current Living Situation assessment are as follows:

- Date
- Current Living Situation (will match dropdown answer choices for Prior Living Situation and Exit Destination)
 - If client is **not** homeless: Is client going to have to leave their current living situation within 14 days?
 - If **yes** the following questions are asked:
 - Has a subsequent residence been identified?
 - Does individual or family have resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing?
 - Has the client had a lease or ownership interest in a permanent housing unit in the last 60 days?
 - Has the client moved 2 or more times in the last 60 days?
- Living Situation Verified By
- Location Details

Street Outreach and Night by Night Emergency Shelter projects' Current Living Situation screens will be brief, due to serving homeless persons (which will not generate follow up questions).

Although a Current Living Situation assessment needs to be completed at each client encounter (including at client enrollment), data will cascade from the most recent previous Current Living Situation assessment, which should help ease the data entry burden.

NOTE: Like the Outreach Contact services they are replacing, Current Living Situation assessments will be used as documentation of homelessness when determining a client's chronic homeless status.

If you have questions or comments about any of these changes, please reach out to Marianne Colangelo at mcolangelo@cambridgema.gov or call 617-349-6966.