

2026 Data Standards Overview

September 25, 2025



Overview Agenda

- Data Standards Overview
- HMIS Requirements
- Roll out of Data Standards
- Retired Data Elements
- Updated Data Elements
- New Data Elements
- Reporting (Federal Reports)
- Next Steps
- Resources
- Q&A

What Are HUD Data Standards

- The HUD Data Standards were established by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2004 to create a consistent national framework for collecting data on homelessness.
- The standards ensure that all Continuums of Care (CoCs) collect and report data in a consistent way, allowing for national analysis and comparison.
- The standards include both universal data elements (required for all projects) and program-specific elements, which are based on funding source and project type.
- HUD typically updates the Data Standards approximately every two years, at the start of the federal fiscal year on October 1.



HMIS and Data Standards

- The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a secure, locally managed database mandated by HUD to track services, housing, and outcomes for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- The standards define what the HMIS is, how it operates, and what types of data must be collected.
- HMIS Vendors and CoCs may not alter HUD defined questions or response options in any way.
- Custom questions and responses may be added locally, but they must not interfere with federally required data elements.
- HUD does not label questions as “required” or “optional”. If a Question falls under those defined for your funding and project type, HUD expects that it will be completed



Typical Timeline

- **September 30 of the Year PRIOR:** Final updates submitted to Data Standards Mini Team
- **Mid-October of the YEAR PRIOR:** Final change recommendations to HUD from the Data Standards Mini Team
- **October 31 of the Year PRIOR:** Final approval by Federal Partners of all updates
- **December 31 of the Year PRIOR:** Provide vendors with draft versions of Data Dictionary, Reporting Glossary, and reporting specifications
- **February 1:** Provide vendors with final versions of Data Dictionary, Reporting Glossary, and reporting specifications
- **April 1:** Release Data Standards Manual, Data Dictionary, Reporting Glossary, and reporting specifications on the HUD Exchange
- **September 1:** Vendors provide test/sandbox sites to customers
- **October 1:** Updated data standards go live



This Year's Timeline

- **September 30, 2024:** Updates submitted to Data Standards Mini Team
- **Mid-October, 2024:** Change recommendations to HUD from the Data Standards Mini Team
- **October 31, 2024:** Approval by Federal Partners of all updates
- **December 31, 2024:** Provide vendors with draft versions of Data Dictionary, Reporting Glossary, and reporting specifications
- **January-June, 2025:** HUD had the draft versions of all documents supporting the FY 2026 data standards for review
- **June 2025:** Released updated FY 2024 Data Standards Manual, retiring Gender and Sexual Orientation, but not adding any new data elements
- **August 14, 2025:** HUD shared with vendors that they would not be collecting the Sex data element for their funding sources
- **August 20, 2025:** HUD shared with vendors that they will require the collection of the Sex data element for their funding sources and will retire the Translation Assistance Needed data element
- **August 22, 2025:** Updated documents shared with HUD to go through their review
- **September 1, 2025:** Vendors provide test/sandbox sites to customers
- **September 19, 2025:** HUD provided messaging to vendors about the FY 2026 data standards and confirmed go live for October 1
- **October 1, 2025:** Updated data standards go live



FY 2026 Updates



Retired Data Elements

- Gender (3.06)
- Sexual Orientation (R3)
 - These data elements will **no longer be available in HMIS to view or report on** starting October 1st,2025. In addition, these data elements will **no longer be included in Helpdesk documentation or CoC system reports / dashboards.**
 - This is to ensure that the CoC and HMIS are in full compliance with the 2026 Standards and Federal Executive Order
- Translation Assistance Needed (C4)
- HUD: ESG-CV and HUD: HOPWA-CV Funding Sources



Updated Data Elements

3.04 Race and Ethnicity

- Picklist value wording was updated from

“Hispanic/Latina/e/o”

A screenshot of a software interface for 'Race and Ethnicity'. It features a vertical scrollable list of options. The option 'Hispanic/Latina/e/o' is highlighted with a red rectangular box. Below the list is a 'Clear All' button. The list includes the following options: American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black, African American, or African; Hispanic/Latina/e/o; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; White; Client doesn't know; Client prefers not to answer; and Data not collected.



“Hispanic/Latina/o”

A screenshot of the same 'Race and Ethnicity' picklist interface, but with the updated option 'Hispanic/Latina/o' highlighted by a red rectangular box. All other elements, including the 'Clear All' button and the other list items, remain the same as in the previous screenshot.

Clients currently enrolled who have “Hispanic/Latina/e/o” selected will be automatically updated to “Hispanic/Latina/o” on October 1st



Updated Data Elements

3.20 Housing Move-In Date

- Now required for projects receiving “**VA: Grant Per Diem – Case Management/Housing Retention**” funding

Housing Move-in Date / /    G

4.13 Date of Engagement

- Now required for all **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)**

Date of Engagement / /    G



Updated Data Elements

R4, R6, R7 RHY “common” questions

- R4 Last Grade Completed
- R6 Employment Status
- R7 General Health Status

- Data collection requirements for HUD VASH are updated to clarify that this data element is only required for HUD VASH Collaborative Case Management.
- Data collection requirements for other funders remain the same.



Updated Data Elements

R13 Family Critical Issues

- The set of questions listed below will now have an updated picklist to include additional options: "Client doesn't know, Client prefers not to answer, and Data not collected".

Family Critical Issues			
	Unemployment - Family member	-Select-	▼ G
	Mental Health Disorder - Family member	-Select-	▼ G
	Physical Disability - Family member	-Select-	▼ G
	Alcohol or Substance Use Disorder - Family member	-Select-	▼ G
	Insufficient Income to support youth - Family member	-Select-	▼ G
	Incarcerated Parent of Youth	-Select-	▼ G

1. Unemployment – Family member
2. Mental Health Disorder – Family member
3. Physical Disability – Family member
4. Alcohol or Substance Use Disorder – Family member
5. Insufficient Income to support youth – Family member
6. Incarcerated Parent of Youth – Family member



Updated Data Elements

V2 Services Provided – SSVF

- Add new picklist value – “Healthcare Navigation”

V7 HP Targeting Criteria - SSVF


- Inside the conditional logic of Targeting Criteria, two questions have wording changes
 1. “Household size of 5 or more requiring at least 3 bedrooms (due to age/gender mix)” will be updated to “Household size of 5 or more requiring at least 3 bedrooms (due to household composition)”
 2. “Household includes one or more members of an overrepresented population in the homelessness system when compared to the general population” will be updated to “Households which may include one or more members meeting other criteria for targeting prevention determined by the CoC”




New Data Elements

4.21 Sex

- Data for this element will be collected at Record Creation
 - This question will not be available on any assessments and will only be accessible via the Client Profile
- This data element is **required for All Project Types**
- Data collection for the Sex field begins on October 1st and should be completed for all clients, new and ongoing, who are receiving services on or after that date.

Client Information		Service Transactions	
Summary	Client Profile	Households	ROI
		Entry / Exit	Case Managers
		Case Plans	Assessments
 Client Record		Issue ID Card	
Name	Parker, Peter AC		
Name Data Quality			
Alias			
Social Security			
SSN Data Quality			
U.S. Military Veteran?			
Sex			
Client ID	2581 🔍		
Age			


Change **Clear**



New Data Elements

4.21 Sex

Sex will be collected for these funders:	
HUD CoC	Collection required for all components
HUD CoC YHDP	Collection required for all components
HUD CoC Builds	Collection required for all components
HUD ESG	Collection required for all components
HUD ESG RUSH	Collection required for all components except Emergency Shelter
HUD HOPWA	Collection required for all components
HUD Unsheltered Special NOFO	Collection required for all components
HUD Rural Special NOFO	Collection required for all components
HUD VASH	Collection required for HUD VASH Collaborative Case Management
HUD Pay For Success	Collection required for all components
HHS PATH	Collection required for all components
HHS RHY	Collection required for all components
VA SSVF	Collection required for RRH and HP
VA GPD	Collection required for all components
VA Community Contract Safe Haven	Collection required for all components
VA CRS Contract Residential Services	Collection required for all components



New Data Elements

4.21 Sex

- Only one option can be selected from the following picklist values:
 1. Female
 2. Male
 3. Client doesn't know
 4. Client prefers not to answer
 5. Data not collected
- Gender and Sex are distinct concepts and cannot be mapped from one to the other.
 - In the FY2024 Data Manual, Gender is defined as a client's self-identification with one or more gender categories.
 - In contrast, in January 2025, Sex is defined by Federal Executive Orders as an individual's immutable biological classification as either Male or Female.

Client Record

⚠ Editing the Client Record Information could affect the U

Client Record

Name	First	Middle
	Peter	AC
Name Data Quality	-Select-	
Alias		
Social Security	- - -	
SSN Data Quality	-Select-	
U.S. Military Veteran?	-Select-	
Sex	-Select-	
Client ID	-Select-	

Date of Birth

Date of Birth Type

Male
Female
Client doesn't know
Client prefers not to answer
Data not collected

CONTINUUM

of Care

New Data Elements

V3 Financial Assistance – SSVF

- A new date field was added for “Start Date of Financial Assistance”
- This new required date will be conditional logic so that it only displays when “SSVF Financial Assistance Type” is populated with a picklist value.
- Start Date of Financial Services is the date the financial assistance is supposed to begin. The Date Provided is the date that the financial assistance was identified as a need. These dates can be the same date.

SSVF Financial Assistance Type	Rental assistance ▾							
SSVF Financial Assistance Start Date *	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
SSVF Financial Assistance End Date *	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If the Service is Financial Assistance for SSVF, then the SSVF Financial Assistance Start Date should be the date the Service was provided (or the date the Need was identified)



New Data Elements

V10 Mental Health Consultation – SSVF & GPD

- Data element will be “Mental Health Consultation Status” with picklist values:
 - Mental health consultation completed
 - Mental health consultation being coordinated/arranged with VA provider
 - Mental health consultation being coordinated/arranged with other provider
 - Offer declined
- This data element is required for Veterans at Project Entry for SSVF RRH, SSVF HP, and VA Grant Per Diem - Case Management/Housing Retention

Mental Health Consultation Status	-Select- ▼ G
	-Select-
	Mental health consultation completed
	Mental health consultation being coordinated/arranged with VA provider
	Mental health consultation being coordinated/arranged with other provider
	Offer declined



FY 2026 Reporting



CoC APR/ESG CAPER

- Q6a Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
 - Remove Gender row
- Q6f Inactive Records – Contact
 - Remove Emergency Shelter Night-by-night from count of Contacts
 - Add PATH Funded SSO projects to count of Contacts (based on Funding Source on HUD Standards tab)
 - Update wording in row for contact to read “Contact (Adults and Heads of Household in Street Outreach or PATH-funded SSO)”
- Q24e new table for Sex

24e - Sex					
	Total	Without Children	With Children and Adults	With Only Children	Unknown Household Type
Female	1	1	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0
Client Doesn't Know/ Prefers Not to Answer	0	0	0	0	0
Data not collected	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	0	0	0



CoC APR/ESG CAPER

The following tables have been removed

- Q10a Gender (APR/CAPER)
- Q10d Gender by Age Ranges (CAPER)
- Q24c Sexual Orientation of Adults in PSH (APR)
- Q25c Gender - Veterans (APR)
- Q26c Gender of Chronically Homeless Persons (APR)
- Q27c Gender - Youth (APR)
- Q24d Translation Assistance Needed (APR/CAPER)



Other Federal Reports

Path

- Q26a Gender - Removed
- Q26l Sex - Added
- Update "Hispanic/Latina/e/o" to "Hispanic/Latina/o"

HUD CSV (including VA, Hashed)

- Updates to various files as indicated below:
 - Expanded allowable character set (UTF-8)
 - SourceType and SourceID clarifications
 - Updates to Client, Enrollment, Service for picklist changes, retired data elements and new data elements



Reporting Timelines

- Sage will be updated on October 1, 2025, to only accept the FY 2026 CoC APR, ESG CAPER and Coordinated Entry APR
- PATH Annual Report expected to be due in mid-December 2025
- RHY will use the FY 2026 Hashed CSV starting in October 2025
- VA will use FY 2024 CSV for the annual reporting due October 2025 and transition to FY 2026 for the November upload.
 - We recommend providers submit VA reports due in October as early as possible to avoid any complications once the update to FY 2026 goes into place in November.



Next Steps

- The HUD 2026 Data Standards will go into effect at the start of the federal fiscal year, October 1, 2025.
- On that date, the HMIS System will be updated to reflect the new standards, including changes to data elements, response options, and system logic.
- The HMIS Team will send out an email the morning of October 1 confirming that the updates have been successfully applied.
- At this time, HUD has not finalized the public documentation; it is expected to be posted to the HUD Exchange 2–3 weeks after the standards go live.
- We will host a follow-up webinar on October 6 to provide detailed guidance on how to complete the new Sex field and best practices.
 - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8889191320964680535>



Various HUD Resources

Various HUD and CoC Resources:

- HUD Exchange: <https://www.hudexchange.info>
- HUD HMIS Data Standards: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3824/hmis-data-dictionary/>
- CoC Program HMIS Manual: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4445/coc-program-hmis-manual/>
- PATH Program HMIS Manual: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4446/path-program-hmis-manual/>
- HOPWA Program HMIS Manual: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4449/hopwa-program-hmis-manual/>
- VA Programs HMIS Manual: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4450/va-programs-hmis-manual/>
- YHDP HMIS Manual: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6178/yhdp-hmis-manual/>
- RHY Program HMIS Manual: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4448/rhy-program-hmis-manual/>
- HUD-VASH Program HMIS Manual: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5613/hud-vash-program-hmis-manual/>

Currently, some links may appear to be broken. We expect these links to be restored once the new standards are finalized. If any links change after the release of the 2026 standards, we will notify providers via email with the updated link information.



Office Hours

Agencies can book dates to meet with the HMIS Team from October 1st - October 10th to address any questions regarding the 2026 Data Standards.

Before booking a session, please note the following:

- Sessions will be done online via Microsoft Teams
- We encourage agencies to include all staff who would benefit from the meeting

Please book an available time here:

<https://outlook.office.com/book/HMISTeamCopy@allchicago.org/s/p2YuMDfOaUiUYp-TwsAtxw2>



Q & A



Thank you!

