

HMIS Glossary

Key Terms	Acronym	Brief Definition
Administrative Qualified Services Organization Business Associates Agreement	QSOBAA	The Agreement signed by each Agency, local Lead HMIS Agency, MCAH, and MSHDA that governs the privacy standards for all those that can see multiple organization data.
Balance of State CoCs	BOS	MSHDA/MHAAB have organized local planning bodies throughout Michigan that make up the "Balance of State" IJ. These groups are called BOS CoCs as they are organized like Independent Jurisdictions with many of the same rules, however they have no legal status with HUD.
Continuum of Care	CoC	Planning body charged with guiding the local response to homelessness.
Contributing HMIS Organizations	CHO	Organization that participate on the HMIS.
Coverage Rate		For MSHMIS - The percent of the Homeless Population that is measured on the HMIS. Coverage estimates are used to project to a total homeless count that includes those served in Domestic Violence Providers or other non-participating Shelters or Outreach Programs. See Coverage Memo for guidance.
Department of Human Services Emergency Services Program	DHS ESP	DHS general fund and TANF dollars designated for homeless services primarily sheltering. The dollars are managed through the Salvation Army and require HMIS participation.
Homeless Definition		See Homeless Definition Crosswalk. HEARTH defines 4 categories of homelessness. Not all programs can serve all categories and some may utilize a different definition when delivering services. MSHMIS has adopted the HUD definition for counting the homeless.
Homeless Management Information System	HMIS	Data systems that meet HUD requirements and are used throughout the nation to measure homelessness and the effectiveness of related service delivery systems. The HMIS is also the primary reporting tool for HUD homeless service grants as well as other public money's related to homelessness.
Housing Assessment and Resource Agencies	HARAs	Michigan has implemented HARA's across the state to serve as "single points of entry" for homeless persons. HARAs work with other service providers to insure that access to homeless resources is optimized and based on assessment of need.
Housing Inventory Chart	HIC	All residential programs (both HMIS and non-participating) must specify the number of beds and units available to homeless persons. The numbers are logged into related Provider Pages where the corresponding person data is recorded (for participating programs).

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	HOPWA	Lead by the Michigan Department of Community Health, provides housing assistance and related supportive services for persons with HIV/AIDs and family members who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This program has different program reporting requirements than the other HUD funded programs in this document.
Independent Jurisdictions	IJs	CoCs that are recognized by HUD usually organized around the higher population counties. Detroit is its own IJ.
Joint Governance Charter		The Agreement between Michigan's IJ CoCs and MSHMIS that supports a statewide HMIS operating in a single system environment.
Length of Stay	LOS	The number of days between the beginning of services and the end of services. It is calculated using entry and exit dates or shelter stay dates. The HMIS offer calculations for discrete stays as well as the total stays across multiple sheltering events.
Michigan Homeless Access Accountability Board	MHAAB	The BOS IJ CoC Governance Board. The Statewide HMIS reports to MHAAB – the BOS IJ CoC Planning Group
Michigan State Housing Development Authority	MSHDA	MSHDA is the grantee for the Statewide HMIS and subcontracts with MCAH for administration of the System.
Participation Agreement		The Agreement between all participating agencies and MCAH that specifies the rights and responsibilities of MCAH and participating agencies.
Point in Time Count	PIT	An annual count during the last week in January that is required for all CoCs. Every other year, that count also included an “unsheltered” or street count.
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness	PATH	PATH is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health. It provides services to mentally ill homeless people, primarily through street outreach, to link them to permanent community housing. This program has different reporting requirements than HUD funded programs and uses HMIS to collect this information.
Release of Information		An electronic ROI must be completed to share any persons data within the HMIS. A signed (paper) ROI giving informed client consent for sharing is also required to share data between agencies.
Sharing	ROI	Sharing refers to the sharing of data between agencies. It does not refer to basic entry into the HMIS. Sharing data requires a signed client Release of Information. Basic entry does not require an ROI as there is implied consent for the agency to keep records when a client provides information..

Sharing Qualified Services Organization Business Associates Agreement	QSOBAA	The Agreement between agencies that elect to share information using the HMIS. The Agreement prevents the re-release of data and, in combination with the Participation Agreement, defines the rules of sharing.
Shelter Plus Care	S+C	Lead by the Michigan Department of Community Health, provides Permanent Supportive Housing to disabled persons throughout the State of Michigan and reports to the HMIS.
SOAR Across Michigan	SOAR	Using the nation “best practice” curriculum, the SOAR project, lead by Department of Community Health, reduces the barriers and supports the application for Social Security Benefits for Michigan’s disabled homeless.
User Agreement & Code of Ethics		The document each HMIS User signs agreeing to the HMIS standards of conduct.
Visibility		Refers to the ability to see a client’s data between provider pages on the HMIS. Visibility is configured on the HMIS system in each Provider Page.
Visibility Groups		Visibility Groups are defined groups of Provider Pages where data is shared. Internal Visibility Groups control internal sharing. External Visibility Groups control sharing with other agencies and are defined with a Sharing QSOBAA.