Overview of HEARTH Performance Measures

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Broadening Federal Performance Emphasis

- McKinney-Vento as amended by HEARTH Act
  - CoC: increasing focus on CoC performance as a system
  - ESG: performance impacts CoC performance

- FY2012 CoC NOFA:

  “CoCs will be evaluated on previous performance regarding homelessness, including performance for projects funded through the Emergency Solutions Grants program in the geographic area.”
HEARTH Selection Criteria

HEARTH Act: 427(b)(1)(A)

- Length of time people remain homeless.
- Extent to which people leaving homelessness experience additional spells of homelessness.
- Thoroughness in reaching homeless people.
- Reduction in homelessness.
- Jobs and income growth for homeless people.
- Reduction in number of people who become homeless.
- Prevention of homelessness or achievement of independent living for those defined as homeless under other federal laws (if applicable).
Potential Measures: HEARTH

- Length of homelessness
  - Length of enrollments in ES, SH, and TH (project types in which clients are, by definition, homeless)

- “Additional spells” of homelessness
  - Returns to homelessness (i.e. enrollment in ES, SH, or TH) after a placement into permanent housing

- Thoroughness of “reach”
  - May be narrative
Potential Measures: HEARTH

- Reduction in homelessness (System)
  - Change in PIT (sheltered, unsheltered)
  - Change in annual count (sheltered)

- Job and income growth (System/Program)
  - Likely limited to McKinney-Vento programs
  - APR methodology
Reduction in number who become homeless (System)
- PULSE methodology

Success of services to families and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes
- Likely limited to those projects approved to serve that population
Potential Measures: HEARTH

- Successful placements in permanent housing (system/project)
- Permanent housing retention (system/project)
- Mainstream benefits (system/project)
- HMIS participation and data quality
Timing

Don’t wait for standardized performance reporting. You have opportunity now to establish what is important for your community to measure…

Anticipated guidance from HUD:

- General guidance at draft data standards release
- Detailed reporting specifications at final data standards
- Initial reporting implemented when standards take effect
- Measures requiring one or more years of data collection incorporated into CoC application over time
Why Measure Performance Across the CoC?

- Ensure common understanding of system intent and goals, along with the projects that make up the CoC
- Understand how individual projects (via ‘outputs’) result in positive change for persons served (‘outcomes’)
- Understand how individual projects impact overall CoC performance
- Understand how well CoC prevents & ends homelessness & contributes to Federal goals
- Identify areas for improvement
- HEARTH readiness
What’s the CoC?

Housing
(ES, SH, TH, RRH, PSH)

Services
(Outreach, Prevention, etc.)

CoC

BOTTOM LINE:
WHAT’S REPORTED TO HUD
System Fundamentals

Start by defining boundary of local system, assessing and improving the quality of your HMIS data and HMIS coverage… the basics:

- Start inventorying projects that your CoC considers the universe of CoC projects – lodging and services.
- Ensure that projects are classified in your HMIS using project descriptor data elements.
- Review and increase HMIS participation rates.
- Monitor and report data quality on a regular basis to projects and CoC.
Moving To System Performance

Identify Indicators

Set Targets

Make Improvements

Measure Performance

Report Performance
Measure and Report Performance

- Share project-level results
- Take it up a level: look at measures at the system level
- Be thoughtful about how you interpret the results:
  - Use first as a tool for focusing on project performance…
  - As you get more confident that the data is representative, use to inform system planning and resource allocation
Additional Resources:

- What Gets Measured, Gets Done: A Toolkit on Performance Measurement for Ending Homelessness
  
  http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2039

- HUD Homeless Resource Exchange
  
  www.HUDHRE.info
  