




707 Wilshire Blvd., 10th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Ph: 213 683.3333  
Fax: 213 892.0093  
TTY: 213 553.8488  
www.lahsa.org

## MEMO

**To:** Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council

**From:** Emily Vaughn Henry, Deputy Chief Information Officer, LAHSA   
Emily Vaughn Henry (Nov 7, 2023 09:32 PST)

**Date:** November 2, 2023

**CC:** Abby Miller, Chief Program Officer, LAHSA  
Nathaniel VerGow, Deputy Chief Program Officer, LAHSA  
Paul Rubenstein, Deputy Chief External Relations Officer, LAHSA

**Re:** **Report on HDIS Data Integration for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (Council File 22-0261)**

This memorandum is submitted in response to [Council File 22-0261](#) approved by the Los Angeles City Council (Council) on April 6, 2022. Among other actions, the motion requests the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to report on its participation in the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS), including service providers not participating in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other parallel data systems.

### I. INTRODUCTION

When Assembly Bill 977 (Assemblymember Gabriel) was passed on September 9, 2021, it amended Sections 8256 and 8257 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to require any grantees operating specified State of California-funded homeless services programs to enter Universal Data Elements and Common Data Elements into a HMIS. The bill also renamed an existing statewide homelessness data system, managed by the existing Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), as the Homeless HDIS. Under the law, grantees are required to complete any changes to HMIS projects as necessary for alignment with AB 977 by July 1, 2023. The updated data requirements apply to the following programs:

- Project Home Key (PHK)
- Housing for a Healthy California
- Multifamily Housing Program
- No Place Like Home
- Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014 (VHHP)
- Bringing Families Home
- CalWORKS
- Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program (HDAP)
- Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP)



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### II. LOS ANGELES CONTINUUM OF CARE DATA INTEGRATION

LAHSA, as the lead agency in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), already complies with federal HMIS Data Standards as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).<sup>1</sup> However, some partner agencies within the LA CoC do not use HMIS, so they must adapt their data collection and reporting to comply with the new requirements. Many of these are small organizations without significant data collection burdens, such as Community Colleges and Intimate Partner Violence Survivor service providers. LAHSA worked quickly with those contractors to streamline their data for submittal to the State to meet the July 2023 deadline. It was more complex, however, for LAHSA to work with large entities such as the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) to modify their systems toward compliance because they carry out many activities in the LA CoC and track their program data through the non-HMIS Comprehensive Health Accompaniment and Management Platform (CHAMP).

LAHSA, DHS, and Los Angeles County Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) worked together over the last year to map all 175 grants administered between HMIS and CHAMP, align the CHAMP data fields to HUD Data Standards, update technical formatting, and build a process of exporting the data from CHAMP to the CIO, which transforms the data and submits it to LAHSA. LAHSA tracks any updates to HUD data standards and works with all partners to adjust collection methods and processes as needed to ensure compliance. LAHSA has submitted its own quarterly reports for all HMIS projects for the last four years. With non-HMIS contractors now in alignment with the bill's requirements, there is no change to the submittal process other than a higher quantity of data. The quarterly reports are uploaded and transferred to HCFC via a secure file transfer platform. LAHSA is prepared to submit the first required quarterly report, including all service providers' data, on November 10, 2023. There are no compliance issues at this time, and LAHSA will continue to facilitate HDIS data transfers on behalf of the LA CoC in compliance with AB 977.

Signature:   
Emily Vaughn Henry (Nov 7, 2023 09:32 PST)

Date:

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<sup>1</sup> Baldwin, J. (2022, January 4). *2021 Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan Letter of Conditional Approval*. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CMS-Conditional-Approval-1-4-2022.pdf>