



FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS: LEARNING COLLABORATIVE



AB 977 and HMIS Implementation Update

October 19, 2023
9:00 am – 10:30 am

Moderator



Deme Hill

Principal Consultant

AHP

Moderator

Agenda

Introductions and Expectation Setting

AB 977 Background

Key Partners

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Overview

Timelines and Technical Assistance (TA) Activities

Q&A through Q&A box

Speakers



Ciara Collins

Research, Methods, and
Evaluation Associate
Abt Associates



Mary Schwartz

Senior Associate
Abt Associates



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AB 977 and HMIS Implementation Update

10/19/2023



Introductions and Expectation Setting

- Abt TA Team
 - Ciara Collins (she/her)
 - Mary Schwartz (she/her)
- Purpose of this meeting
 - Introduce ourselves
 - Provide general information on AB 977 and HMIS requirements
 - Hear your questions and concerns



Poll

Question: What statement best describes your experience with HMIS?

1. Have currently or previously had a user account and entered data into HMIS
2. Have currently or previously had a user account but **have not** entered data into HMIS
3. Have never had a user account, but have a solid understanding of what HMIS is and what data is entered into it
4. Have never had a user account, but have a general understanding of what HMIS is and what data is entered into it
5. Have heard of HMIS but do not know much about it
6. Have never heard of HMIS



Key Terms

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): A local information technology system used to collect client-, program-, and organization-level data on the provision of housing and services to individuals and families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS): A statewide data warehouse of data from the 44 local homelessness response systems in California.

Continuum of Care (CoC): A regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. It is responsible for carrying out the responsibilities required under the CoC Program Interim Rule, including selecting an HMIS software solution and an HMIS Lead.

HMIS Lead: The entity designated by the CoC, in accordance with the CoC Program Interim Rule, to manage the CoC's HMIS on the CoC's behalf.

Recipient: Grantees, subgrantees, or other entities receiving state homelessness funding.

Program: A funding source (i.e., BHBH).

HMIS Project: A distinct unit of an organization as set up in the HMIS in which clients are enrolled to track receipt of services or housing. Projects are categorized by type to help understand outcomes within the data.



AB 977 Background



AB 977 Background

- AB 977 requires grantees of state funded homelessness programs, including BHBH, to enter data into their local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- AB 977 requires grantees of these programs to enter the HMIS Universal Data Elements (UDEs) and Common Data Elements (CDEs) into HMIS.
- Projects should be set up in a timely manner so that client data can be entered as close to when clients started being served by the project/funding.
 - Ideally, projects will be set up in HMIS before the project starts serving clients (if it is a new project).



Program and Project Compliance

Recipients of the BHBH program are required to comply with AB 977 because DHCS has identified that the program meets the following conditions:

1. **New Program:** The program must have commenced on or after July 1, 2021.
2. **State Funded:** Any program that receives funding, in “whole or in part,” from state funding sources, is considered state funded.
3. **Express Purpose:** The program has the express purpose of addressing or preventing homelessness or providing services to people experiencing homelessness.
4. **Serving Individuals and Families:** AB 977 requires grantees or entities of state funded homelessness programs to enter data on the individuals and families they serve into HMIS.



AB 977 Exclusions

- Projects that are not housing, shelter, and/or services dedicated to people experiencing homelessness or people at-risk of homelessness with the intent of resolving or preventing their homelessness, such as:
 - Payment to compensate People with Lived Experience and Expertise (PLEE) to participate in CoC activities or Boards
 - Administrative costs to operate a CoC or HMIS
- Tribal grantees: HMIS participation is not required but TA is available
- Victim Service Providers (VSPs): Prohibited from entering client data in HMIS. VSP is an agency or organization-level designation





Poll (slide 13)

Question: Based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria, do you think your BHBH project is required to be entered into HMIS? I estimate that:

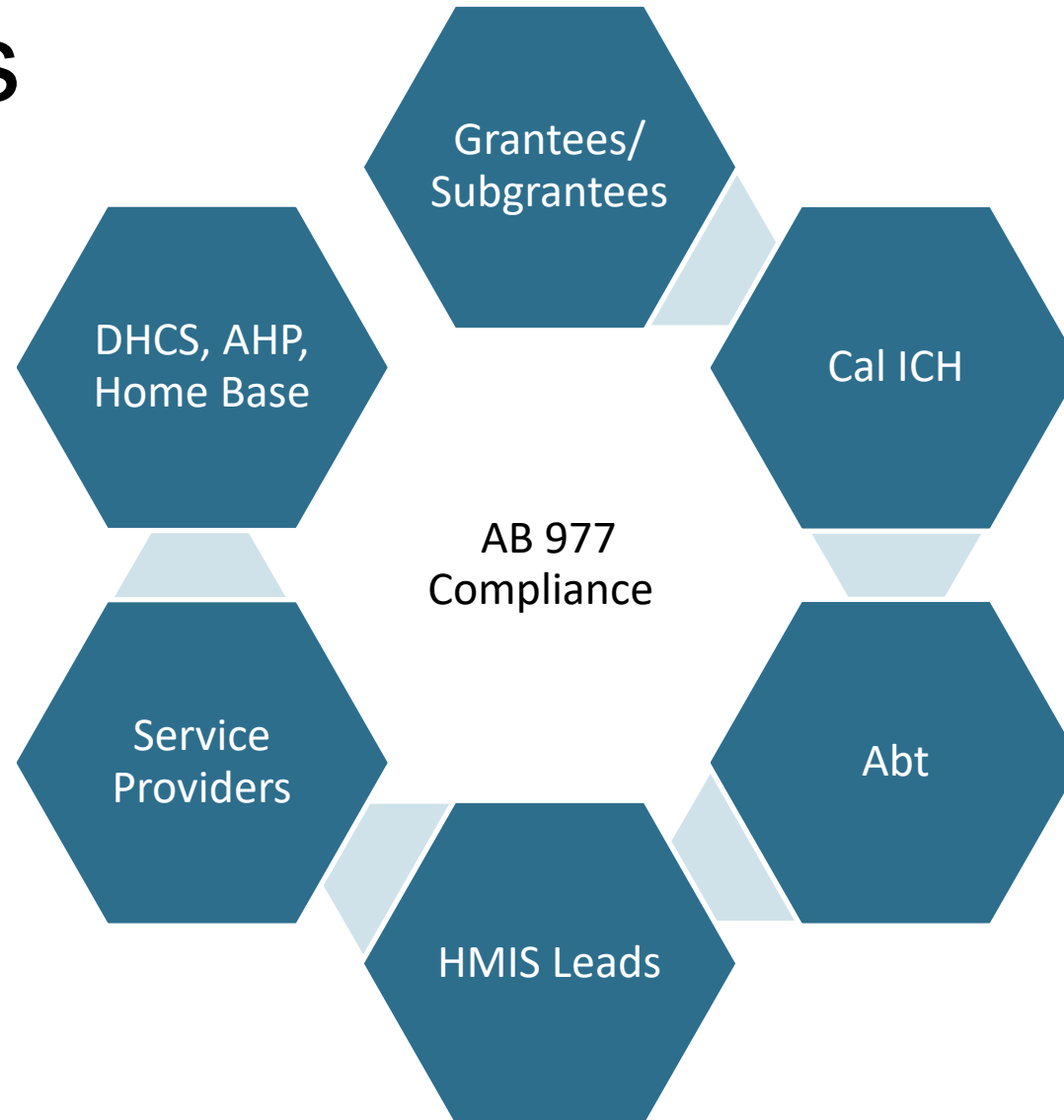
1. Yes – all of our grantee/subgrantee’s BHBH funding is being used for projects required to comply with AB 977
2. No – none of our grantee/subgrantee’s BHBH funding is being used for projects required to comply with AB 977
3. Mixed – some of our grantee/subgrantee’s BHBH funding is being used for projects required to comply with AB 977, and some funding is not
4. Not sure



Key Partners

for AB 977 Implementation

Key Partners





Roles and Responsibilities

Cal ICH: Strategic advisor. Funder of technical assistance (TA) effort for AB 977 implementation.

Abt Associates (Abt): Support AB 977 implementation through TA to state agencies, grantees, and HMIS leads.

DHCS: Leads BHBH Program. Issuer of project setup instructions in collaboration with Cal ICH and Abt. Thought partner with Abt on implementation support, including providing information about program and grantees and monitoring compliance. Will assume implementation support responsibilities after initial roll-out.

AHP: DHCS Administrative Entity for the BHBH Program. Provides program development and implementation TTA to DHCS and funding recipients. Partners include: Homebase, Aurrera Health Group, Perch Projects and Native Americans for Restorative Stewardship.

Funding recipients (grantees): Responsible party for ensuring their participant data is collected and entered into HMIS. Recipients can determine whether subrecipients or service partners should oversee data entry, but recipients are ultimately responsible for compliance. Recipients must understand what HMIS is, what it is used for, and how to access it. They must adhere to local HMIS policies, including participating in local HMIS required trainings. Grantees do not enter data directly into HDIS.

HMIS Lead/System Administrator in each CoC: Responsible for providing project setup services for funding recipients, training opportunities locally for HMIS users, and technical support to help recipients and subrecipients use and understand the local HMIS. HMIS Leads will upload HMIS data into Cal ICH's HDIS on a quarterly basis.



HMIS Overview



HMIS Overview

Who is required to use it?

Recipients of

- HUD's homelessness assistance grants - ESG, CoC, YHDP, and HOPWA
- Veterans Administration(VA) - SSVF, GPD
- Health and Human Services (HHS) - PATH Program and RHY Program
- California grantees subject to HMIS requirements in AB 977

Why it matters?

The primary goal of HMIS is to better understand the scope and dimensions of homelessness locally and nationally in order to address the problem more effectively. HMIS also allows for providing more efficient and coordinated services.

HUD and the federal partners use HMIS data to better inform homeless policy and decision making at the federal, state, and local levels. HUD is required to submit Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress.



HMIS Overview cont.

- HMIS must be able to collect all the data elements defined within the HMIS Data Standards (<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HMIS-Data-Standards-Manual.pdf>).
- No information by the AB 977 TA is meant to supersede guidance in the HMIS Data Standards or CoCs' HMIS policies.
- Every HMIS software functions a little differently. CoCs can add data elements or functionality beyond what is covered in the Data Standards.

Universal and Common Data Elements

	Number	Element Name(s)	Collected About	Collection Point(s)
Universal	3.01-3.06	Name, SSN, DOB, Race, Ethnicity, Sex	All Clients	Record Creation
	3.07	Veteran Status	All Adults	Record Creation
	3.08	Disabling Condition	All Clients	Project Start
	3.10	Project Start Date	All Clients	Project Start
	3.11	Project Exit Date	All Clients	Project Exit
	3.12	Destination	All Clients	Project Exit
	3.15	Relationship to Head of Household (HoH)	All Clients	Project Start
	3.16	Client Location	HOH	Project Start, Update
	3.20	Housing Move-in Date (PH project only)	HOH	Occurrence Point
	3.917	Prior Living Situation	HOH and Adults	Project Start
Common	4.02	Income and Sources	HOH and Adults	Project Start, Update, Annual Assessment, and Project Exit
	4.03	Non-Cash Benefits	HOH and Adults	
	4.04	Health Insurance	All Clients	
	4.05	Physical Disability	All Clients	Project Start, Update, and Project Exit
	4.06	Developmental Disability	All Clients	
	4.07	Chronic Health Condition	All Clients	
	4.08	HIV/AIDS	All Clients	
	4.09	Mental Health Disorder	All Clients	
	4.10	Substance Use Disorder	All Clients	
	4.11	Domestic Violence	HOH and Adults	

Data flow



Each CA CoC uses a different software implementation for collecting data about persons served by housing assistance dollars

Homeless Data Integration System

Each CoC submits data from HMIS quarterly to HDIS for combined statewide analysis of housing assistance recipients



HMIS Project Set-up Requirements

- HMIS Leads will set up projects in accordance with the HMIS Data Standards, the CoC and HMIS Lead's guidance, and the *AB 977 Project Setup Instructions (coming soon)*.
- DHCS grantees will be instructed to reach out to HMIS Leads only after project set up guidance has been delivered to the HMIS Leads by the TA team.
- Key pieces of data needed
 - Organization information
 - Project information (e.g., project type, project start date, bed and unit inventory)
 - Funding codes and Grantee IDs
 - More info to come on this in the Project Setup Instructions



HMIS FAQs

- VAWA, HIPAA, and other “rules”
- Dual Enrollments
- Benefits to Clients
- Project Types



Data collected in HMIS

- For deduplication purposes: Name, SSN, DOB
- For descriptive reporting: Race/ethnicity, sex, veteran status, disabling condition
- For outcome reporting: project start, project end, prior living situation, destination at exit, household structure, income sources, abilities and health conditions, survivor information



Universal and Common Data Elements cont.

- UDEs and CDEs must be entered for all clients that are relevant to the specified project type and household member.*
 - Example: **Name** is required for all household members for all project types, but **Housing Move-in Date** is only required for Heads of Households in Permanent Housing projects.
- Some data elements are collected at different stages of the enrollment; for example, **Prior Living Situation** is only collected when at the client's project start.
- Data must be entered for all clients and households actively enrolled in the project when the project is set up.



Timelines and TA Activities



Activity	Details	Anticipated Timeframe
Instructions Document	<i>AB 977 HMIS Project Setup Instructions for BHBH Grantees</i> released	After January 1, 2024
Training for BHBH Grantees	Training on the Project Setup Instructions document, Funding codes, Grant IDs, and specific deadlines	January – February 2024
Email Helpdesk	Email-based assistance from Abt for grantees	Ongoing
Frequently Asked Questions Document	Questions and answers collected during office hours, via the inbox, and 1:1 TA	Monthly – incorporate BHBH questions after January 1, 2024
Office Hours	Monthly office hours for grantees	February 2024 – ongoing
Focused Grantee Support	1:1 meetings between Abt and grantees on an as needed basis	January 2024 – ongoing
HMIS 101 Training	Recorded webinar available now	Posted now
Additional Recorded Trainings	Recorded webinars on Trauma-Informed Data Collection and Data Quality	Being prepared now



Immediate Next Steps

- DHCS and Abt will create project setup instructions specific to BHBH programs
- Instructions will be disseminated to funding recipients (and subrecipients as applicable)
- Office Hours and Trainings will be scheduled to review instructions doc and go over next steps
- Questions? Reach out to Abt at AB977_TA@abtassoc.com
- Want more information on HMIS? Watch this [HMIS 101 video!](#)



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Q & A

Email:

AB977_TA@abtassoc.com

Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Resource Library

The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo on the left and a navigation menu on the right. The main content area features a dark blue banner with the word "Resources" in white. Below this is a section titled "Search the Library" with a paragraph of introductory text and a search input field. The "Featured Resources" section contains three cards: a blue circular graphic for "Reimagining Interim Housing", a photo of hands holding keys for "ACTION PLAN", and a teal graphic for "Whole-Person Care for People Experiencing Homelessness and Opioid Use Disorder: Toolkit Part 2".

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Bridge Housing

Home | [I'm Seeking Help](#) | [County Behavioral Health Agencies](#) | [Tribes/Tribal Entities](#) | [Resources](#) | [News](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Resources

Search the Library

This library contains documents that may be useful to counties and/or Tribal entities as they design and implement behavioral health bridge housing. The search function allows you to search by keyword and resource type. Although BHBH staff has reviewed all resources for relevance to behavioral health bridge housing and to categorize them by topic, please note that external links and resources may not fully reflect the views of DHCS or AHP.

Search Keyword Here..

Featured Resources

- Reimagining Interim Housing**
Stages and Action Areas for Transforming Approaches to Sheltering People Experiencing Homelessness
December 2022
- ACTION PLAN**
for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California
- Whole-Person Care for People Experiencing Homelessness and Opioid Use Disorder: Toolkit Part 2**
MAY 2022