

# Minnesota's HMIS

*Managing information  
to help end homelessness*



**Wilder Research**

# Background

## ■ Wilder Research

- Wilder Research has been a leader in homelessness research through the homeless survey
- Past housing and homelessness database projects lead to role in HMIS

## ■ Homelessness in Minnesota

- Track over time using homeless survey data
- HMIS data can complete picture

# Homelessness in the SE CoC

## Estimates from the 2006 statewide survey

- **342 people in shelters and transitional housing**
  - 34 men
  - 119 women
  - 8 youth
  - 181 children

# What is HMIS?

## Homeless Management Information System

- **Region-wide (statewide in Minnesota)**
- **Client-level data**
- **Unduplicated count**

# What types of programs are involved?

- **Homeless prevention**
- **Drop-in centers**
- **Emergency shelters**
- **Transitional housing**
- **Permanent supportive housing**
- **Support services**

**To date: 215 agencies and 552 users**

**Over 147,926 unique client records**

# Why does Minnesota have to do this?

**\*\*Protects HUD McKinney-Vento funding\*\***

**\$20.2 million awarded in 2007**

|                     |                     |                   |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Hennepin</b>     | <b>\$ 7,338,897</b> | <b>St. Louis</b>  | <b>\$ 1,919,783</b> |
| <b>Ramsey</b>       | <b>\$ 3,871,710</b> | <b>Central</b>    | <b>\$ 1,058,854</b> |
| <b>Dakota</b>       | <b>\$ 761,329</b>   | <b>Southeast</b>  | <b>\$ 1,133,477</b> |
| <b>Washington</b>   | <b>\$ 118,665</b>   | <b>W. Central</b> | <b>\$ 330,231</b>   |
| <b>Scott/Carver</b> | <b>\$ 237,825</b>   | <b>Northeast</b>  | <b>\$ 242,396</b>   |
| <b>Anoka</b>        | <b>\$ 344,469</b>   | <b>Northwest</b>  | <b>\$ 172,076</b>   |
| <b>Southwest</b>    | <b>\$ 230,389</b>   | <b>ESG</b>        | <b>\$ 2,527,170</b> |

# HUD funding increasingly linked to HMIS points

- **Participation in HMIS, not just by HUD funded agencies linked to HMIS points**
  - Bed coverage important
  - HUD is looking for 75% coverage
- **As of June 2007**
  - 39% of emergency shelters
  - 88% of transitional housing
  - 35% permanent supportive housing

# SE CoC and HMIS

- **Currently 20 agencies use HMIS for a variety of funding sources**
- **Hearth Connection part of upload to add data from Copilot to ServicePoint**
  - Will improve permanent supportive housing coverage

# Why does Minnesota want to do this?

- **Goal:**

To provide standardized and timely information to improve access to housing and services, and strengthen our efforts to end homelessness

- **Other reasons:**

- State and local plans to end homelessness
- To enter data in fewer places

# Who does what?

- Oversight: HMIS Governing Group
- Administrator: Wilder Research
- Trainer: Minnesota Housing Partnership
- Software: Bowman Systems-ServicePoint
- Funders: HUD, State Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, participating agencies

# How does it (ServicePoint) work?

- **Internet-based application**
  - Login to secure website
  - Start using (no software to install)
- **Allows data sharing**
  - Between different sites of the same agency
  - Between different agencies  
(**IF** both agencies and clients agree)

# How are the data protected in ServicePoint?

## System-level protections:

- Internet communications are encrypted (Versign SSL)
- Database is encrypted
- Servers stored in a vault

## End-users:

- Must attend formal HMIS/ServicePoint training
- Must sign an agreement committing them to protecting data
- Users can only see the data that they have rights to see
- “Audit trail” follows user’s actions in the system

# How are the data protected?

## Agencies:

- **Must sign agreements that commit them to protecting data privacy**

## Clients:

- **Control what is done with their data (Notification to enter data, Signed Release to share data)**

# How do agencies get involved?

- **Figure out who will use HMIS at your agency**
  - Identify users – case managers, program managers, data entry personnel
  - Train end-users on basic computer use
- **Sign up for training**
  - look for suitable place & time at [www.hmismn.org](http://www.hmismn.org) “events and training”
- **Sign agency agreements & pay fees**
- **Help Wilder set up your agency in ServicePoint**
  - Understand your programs, funding streams, and reporting needs

# AHAR

- **What is the AHAR?**
- **How does HUD/Congress use the AHAR?**
- **How do local communities use their AHAR?**
- **What are HUD's expectations for future AHAR participation?**

# Minnesota's importance in AHAR

# (out of 4) Useable Table Shells in:

|               | AHAR 1 | AHAR 2 | AHAR 3 |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| ■ Moorhead:   | 1      | 4      | 4      |
| ■ Hennepin:   | 1      | 3      | 3      |
| ■ Rochester:  | 1      | 2      | 3      |
| ■ Washington: | 0      | 1      | 3      |
| ■ St. Paul:   | 1      | 1      | 3      |
| ■ Norman:     | ZP     | ZP     | 0      |

**Contact Minnesota's HMIS:**

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**651.280.2780 or 1.800.328.2972**

**[www.hmismn.org](http://www.hmismn.org)**

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