

Minnesota's HMIS Data Privacy Notice

We collect personal information about the people we serve in a computer system called Minnesota's HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). Many social service agencies use this computer system, including street outreach, shelters, and housing programs. The HMIS Governing Board may amend this Data Privacy Notice and the Release of Information, at any time without notice or consent. The Data Privacy Notice and Release of Information currently available can be found on the MN HMIS website at hmismn.org.

What kinds of information are collected in HMIS? There are two types of information collected in HMIS:

- **Basic Information:** This is information that rarely or never changes for an individual. This includes, but may not be limited to, Full Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, demographics, basic contact information. Collection of this information makes sure duplicate client records are not created in HMIS. *This information is visible by default to all HMIS participating agencies.*
- **Transactional Information:** This is information about services a client receives, specific programs they are enrolled in, and more in-depth personal history about their experience of homelessness and barriers. *This information is only visible to all HMIS participating agencies if the client grants consent.*

Why do we collect this information?

- To help keep this program and others like it going. We are required to use HMIS.
- So we know how many people we serve and the types of people we serve at our agency and in the state.
- So we all understand what people need and can plan services to meet these needs.

Who can see information that is in Minnesota's HMIS?

- People who work for this agency will use it to help provide services to you or your family.
- Other agencies like this agency that provide services and have received permission from you to see your information. The agencies that participate in Minnesota's HMIS may change from time to time. A copy of the current list of participating agencies is available upon request.
- Auditors or funders who have legal rights to review the work of this agency, such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other state or local government entities.
- Organizations that run, administer, and work on the system, such as the Institute for Community Alliances or Local System Administrators. When these organizations work on the system, they may see information about you.
- People using HMIS information to do research and write reports, including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). Your personally identifiable information will never appear in research reports.
- The law says we have to report physical or sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults. If we think there is abuse or neglect in your household, we will report it to Child or Adult Protection.
- We may release your information to protect the health or safety of you or others as required by law.
- Others as required by law, including officials with a valid subpoena, warrant, or court order.

How is your privacy protected?

- All users of data must sign an agreement to protect your privacy and comply with state and federal laws and policies before seeing any information.
- The computer program used for this purpose has industry standard security protocols and is updated regularly to meet these security requirements.
- We will not release your information for any other use unless you permit us in writing.

What are your rights?

- If you do not want certain information entered into HMIS, you may decline to respond. This agency will not refuse to help you for denying this. However, federal and state regulations may require limited data collection for funding purposes.
- You have the right to request a copy of the Minnesota's HMIS information about you.
- You have the right to correct mistakes in HMIS information about you.
- If you think this agency or Minnesota's HMIS violated your privacy rights, you have the right to complain or appeal. Ask a staff person for a complaint and appeal form.

Minnesota's HMIS Release of Information

For:

Print First, Middle, Last Name (Complete one form for each adult)

Date of Birth

Your Basic Information (as defined in the Data Privacy Notice) will be collected in Minnesota's HMIS and shared with other service providers/homeless agencies. Your Transactional Information (as defined in the Data Privacy Notice) will be collected in Minnesota's HMIS, and with your consent, shared with other service providers/homeless agencies. If you do not give permission for this agency to share your information, no other agency in the network will have access to it.

Why share your information?

- Sharing reduces the amount of time you have to spend answering basic questions about your situation.
- Sharing allows agencies to focus on meeting your unique needs more quickly.
- Sharing makes it easier for multiple agencies to coordinate housing and services for you and your family.

Reminder: The following fields are visible in HMIS by default – Name, Social Security Number, Date of Birth, Race/Ethnicity, Gender, Contact Information, Family Information

What transactional information might be shared within HMIS?

- Reasons for seeking services
- Living situation and housing history
- Services you receive
- If you are homeless or not
- Your income and income sources
- Public benefits you receive
- History of domestic violence
- Educational background
- Employment status
- Military history
- Health information, including physical health, HIV, behavioral health

Please check a box:

SHARE: I consent to have the Transactional information collected about me shared through Minnesota's HMIS with other partner agencies in order to improve services to me and the services offered to others.

DO NOT SHARE: I do not want any of the Transactional information about me in Minnesota's HMIS shared with any other service providers/homeless agencies. I understand that not sharing my information may affect the ability to quickly and appropriately identify services for me. **NOTE:** Your Basic Information will still be shared.

When you sign this form, it shows that you understand the following:

- We will not deny you help if you do not want us to share your Transactional Information. At the same time, sharing data does not guarantee that you will receive assistance.
- If you permit us to share your information, this consent is valid until canceled by you.
- If you permit us to share your information, you may change your mind and cancel this consent at any time. If you cancel this consent, your information will no longer be shared from that date forward.
- The HMIS Governing Board may amend this Release of Information and the Privacy Notice at any time without notice or consent. The Release of Information and Data Privacy Notice currently available can be found on the MN HMIS website at hmismn.org.

Signature of Client or Guardian

Date

Signature of Agency Witness

Date

Consent for research uses of information in Minnesota's HMIS. Please check one:

Yes, include in research. I understand that information about me that is in Minnesota's HMIS may be used to conduct research related to homelessness and housing programs, service needs, income supports, education and employment, and program effectiveness. My name, social security number or other information that would identify me personally will never appear on a research report.

No, do not include in research. I do not want my information used for research purposes.

Please treat information about my children age 17 or younger the same as mine.