

# **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

## **Call for Presenters: Advanced Homeless Data Users Group Meeting**

**Submission Deadline: Friday, February 1, 2008**

### **Purpose**

The Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs) at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) seeks applicants for presenters for a peer-to-peer Advanced Homeless Data Users Meeting on April 24, 2008. The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate peer-to-peer learning between communities who can demonstrate advanced uses of homeless data at the local level for Continuum of Care (CoC) planning, management (including program evaluation), or decision making. Successful applicants must facilitate a 20-30 minute presentation with other meeting participants on their advanced subject. Each selected community will be eligible for travel reimbursement (see **Eligibility**) for two persons to present at the meeting.

In 2007, the Advanced Homeless Data Users Group Meeting convened local CoC HMIS administrators, researchers, solutions providers, national technical assistance providers, and HUD staff to share and learn best practices. Presentations included demonstrating the potential of aggregate homeless reporting, linking homeless and mainstream systems data, assessing effectiveness of homeless prevention, maximizing benefits for clients and programs, and modeling performance of programs. Each presentation demonstrated how communities use data from HMIS to more fully understand the extent and nature of homelessness in their own community. Following the meeting, HUD published a best practices document comprised of the 9 case studies presented at the meeting. The document, "Demonstrating the Uses of Homeless Data at the Local Level: Case Studies from Nine Communities," can be viewed at:

[http://hmis.info/ClassicAsp/documents/Data%20User%20Group%20Final%20Document\\_9\\_2007.pdf](http://hmis.info/ClassicAsp/documents/Data%20User%20Group%20Final%20Document_9_2007.pdf)

### **Background**

In 2008, HUD will again convene up to 12 communities to present proven, local examples of homeless data uses generated from analysis of HMIS and/or HMIS combined with other data sources and technologies. Advanced uses of homeless data include but are not limited to:

- Linking HMIS with mainstream resource databases.
- Evaluating effectiveness of programs to measure progress to prevent and end homelessness.
- Tracking program-level, CoC-level, and larger systemic-level performance and outcomes measurement.
- Documenting the intersection of homeless and mainstream service delivery models (e.g. jail diversion, aging out of foster care, mental health and substance abuse re-entry, mainstream healthcare re-entry, prisoner re-entry, etc.).
- Conducting cost-benefit or cost-avoidance analyses.

- Benchmarking and measuring progress on CoC strategic plans or local 10-year plans.
- Identifying special populations and linking them with eligible services/benefits (e.g., Earned Income Tax Credit).
- Using peripheral devices (scan cards, PDAs) to expedite documentation of services in an electronic system and what benefits have been recognized (e.g., increase in linking clients to appropriate services, increase in data validity).
- Generating data necessary to complete the CoC NOFA application, manage housing inventory, or conduct Point-In-Time Counts.
- Facilitating data collection and reporting for federal, non-HUD funded homeless programs (HHS, VA, DOJ).
- Mapping shelter locations, disaster evacuation routes, or other uses of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology.

HUD continues to encourage and promote advanced uses of HMIS data. HUD is convening the second Advanced Homeless Data Users Group meeting to provide communities an opportunity to present innovative uses of HMIS, other homeless data sources, and linkages with human services data to their peers. A summary best practice document on advanced local uses of HMIS will be generated as a product of the meeting. Presenters may also be asked to make an additional presentation at a future HUD-sponsored HMIS Grant Administration Training.

### **Eligibility**

A maximum of 12 separate communities will be invited, based on their applications, to participate in the Advanced Homeless Data User Group meeting. Selected communities must prepare and present a 20-30 minute presentation to meeting attendees. Due to limited space availability, attendance is restricted to two representatives from each of the selected communities. Each community may choose one person representing the CoC or region (including city, county, or state government) and one person representing the HMIS implementation or the organization responsible for data analysis (including academic researchers). The persons chosen must be able to present their community information at the peer-to-peer meeting. Expenses will be provided for roundtrip coach airfare, two nights lodging, and meals per diem for each selected presenter.

### **Meeting Site and Date**

- Marriott Portland City Center, Portland, Oregon
- Thursday, April 24, 2008 (immediately following the National Human Services Data Consortium meeting)

### **Application**

The application for the Advanced Homeless Data Users Meeting should consist of a cover sheet and no more than six PowerPoint slides with key highlights or findings of the data on the advanced topic to be presented at the meeting. Applicants can also provide one additional attachment of an existing report, article, or document that offers more detail of the data to be presented.

**Project Synopsis** (not to exceed two pages)

1. Background (please include the following):
  - Title of Presentation
  - Name and contact information for two presenters including organizational affiliation, address, phone, email and relationship to the CoC and/or HMIS project.
  - Description of the rationale or impetus behind innovative data use (e.g., legislative mandate, policy change or decision, decrease provider burden, increase access to services for targeted population, etc.).
2. Description of Data Used
  - Description of the HMIS system and other data systems involved including an overview of the data to be presented and an assessment of the quality of the data.
  - Description of the breadth of participation in the HMIS and/or other data systems including geographic area, provider representation, etc.
3. Description of Innovative Project
  - 1-2 paragraphs with a description of why this is a unique or innovative use of HMIS.
4. Impact (or anticipated impact or benefits)
  - How the data will make or has made a change in policy, programming, or management decisions at the local CoC level.

**PowerPoint Presentation Slides** (not to exceed 6 slides including title slide)

- Title of presentation with presenter names.
- Overview slide with key presentation highlights.
- 1-3 Data Slides including data analyzed/findings.
- Impact slide- how the data made a change in policy, programming, or management decisions at the local CoC level.

**Sample report attachment** (optional- not to exceed one document)

**Submission Process**

Applications should be submitted electronically and include the following attachments:

1. Cover sheet (MS word or pdf)
2. PowerPoint slides (ppt or pdf)
3. Optional report attachment (MS word, pdf, excel or similar)

Application materials must be submitted via email to Cloudburst Consulting Group at [datausersrfp@cloudburstgroup.com](mailto:datausersrfp@cloudburstgroup.com) no later than Friday, February 1, 2008. Each applicant will receive an email confirmation acknowledging receipt of the application.

**Selection Process**

All applications will be reviewed and evaluated on several factors, including:

- The degree to which the application demonstrates new and/or innovative uses of HMIS data for CoC planning, management, and/or decision making.
- The quality of the proposal.
- The appropriateness of fit with the other presentations for the meeting.

HUD reserves the right to invite additional participants to be observers at the meeting at their own expense.

**Application Deadline: Friday, February 1, 2008**

**Selection Announcement**

Applicants will be notified via email by Friday, February 29, 2008.

All questions should be sent via email to: Michelle Hayes ([MLH@cloudburstgroup.com](mailto:MLH@cloudburstgroup.com)) at Cloudburst Consulting Group.