Homeless Solutions Rule

We plan to repeal the Homeless Programs Rule and replace it with a new Homeless Solutions Rule.

We intend to do the following with the replacement rule:

* Maintain emergency housing as an essential part of the community’s safety net.
* Support and advance federal and state best practice models, goals and outcomes, including Maine’s Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness.
* Focus resources to prevent and end homelessness for households as quickly and effectively as possible.
* Use data for all funding and policy decisions.

We are seeking your feedback in the area of data collection, reporting and monitoring. We are considering the following criteria:

**Data Collection Requirements**

Unless prohibited by regulation, grantees must comply with the following data collection requirements:

* Enter into a data sharing agreement to share certain Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data with the other shelters or homeless providers. (Providers of services to victims of domestic violence are exempt from this requirement in accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).)
* Enter client data prescribed by MaineHousing and HUD in accordance with requirements set forth in *HMIS Data Standards Manual, released May 2014* as revised, and the HEARTH Act, on a monthly basis and submit reports as prescribed by MaineHousing or HUD.
* Enter client data on outcomes and housing stability as prescribed by MaineHousing or HUD, which will be used for performance measurement, research, or evaluation.
* Meet HUD and MaineHousing’s Data Quality and HUD Standards; and review data for completeness and quality in regard to program performance measures.
* Have the capacity to enter client level data into Bowman Systems, LLC ServicePoint system, the designated vendor for Maine HMIS data entry.
* Submit de-duplicated aggregate reports as required by MaineHousing.

Providers of shelter to victims of domestic violence will be required to have the capacity of a comparable database that collects client level data and exports aggregate, de-duplicated data to MaineHousing in electronic form.

**Reporting Requirements**

* Provide client data prescribed by MaineHousing in a form or forms prescribed by MaineHousing to centralized data collection systems as often as required.
* Provide all reports and all required client data in accordance with the reporting requirements at the time of funds disbursement in order to receive funding. Reports will not be considered submitted unless MaineHousing determines that the report is sufficiently complete and all client data is valid.
* Submit a final report showing its use of a grant within 30 days of the end of the term of the grant.

**Monitoring and Assessment**

* MaineHousing will review for program compliance as applicable at least once every two years at reasonable times.
* MaineHousing may copy and examine all of a grantee’s records other than medical or other confidential client information protected by privacy laws.
* Grantees will maintain records sufficient to meet monitoring and auditing requirements of MaineHousing and HUD including without limitation daily rosters and client files.
* In the case of a physical shelter program facility, MaineHousing will inspect to a minimum for compliance with HUD’s Housing Quality Standards (HQS).

We appreciate your input on the proposed data collection, reporting and monitoring standards.