



September 1, 2010

MEMO

TO: Community Action Agency Directors, OPUS Systems Administrators , OPUS Users,
FROM: Pegge McGuire, Administrator of Community Resources Division, Oregon
Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and Richard Mathews,
Manager, Community Resources Division, OHCS

SUBJECT: Changes in OPUS

In March 2010, following years of development and feedback from stakeholders and software providers, HUD released the Housing Management Information Service (HMIS) Data Quality Standards notice:

<http://www.hmis.info/ClassicAsp/documents/Final%20HMIS%20Data%20Standards-Revised%203.pdf>

This Notice requires changes in the collection of information on homeless individuals, families and people receiving services in the HMIS module. Because OPUS is an integrated system, these changes will impact all modules in OPUS – including CSBG, HPRP, SHP, ESG, HOME TBA, LIHEAP, OEAP, E2C2 and OASIS Weatherization.

Since OHCS received the Notice, OHCS IS staff and program staff from homeless programs including HPRP, CoC, ESG, CSBG as well as Energy Assistance have been working on developing, designing, testing and implementing the revisions to the data collection standards. We are also grateful for the participation of Lane County IS staff in our twice per week data development meetings.

We will soon be ready to offer webinar training sessions for OPUS users, case managers, program managers and data collection staff in our partner agencies. We anticipate that these trainings will begin in mid-October. For those of you using the HMIS module, the changes to the HMIS screens will be rolled out soon after.

We'll keep you posted over the next few weeks on the schedule of trainings, provide you with additional information to prepare for the changes and answer any questions that may arise. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support of these changes.