

Oregon Housing and Community Services

2023 Legislative Session



Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Investments

The Governor's End of Session Housing Package proposes significant investments to address the needs of Oregonians experiencing homelessness. To ensure we can understand the impacts of these investments, Oregon Housing & Community Services is committed to improving Oregon's data and outcomes tracking systems.

2023-25 HMIS Investments

Improving Oregon's data and outcomes tracking will take time and resources. Governor Kotek's proposed investments in Oregon's HMIS system for the 2023-25 biennium include \$2 million, which will allow OHCS to:

- Support grantees and partners with homeless data reporting and capacity
- Provide further customized training and technical assistance based on local needs
- Standardize data collection and reporting for partners
- Continue to offset the costs of utilizing HMIS for grantees and partners
- Develop reports that demonstrate clear outcomes for state-funded programs
- Evaluate program activity and performance outcomes for specific geographic locations and target populations that have been historically underserved
- Improve transparency by publishing program data through public dashboards

What is HMIS?

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a technology system used to collect data on homeless individuals, families, and people at risk of homelessness who receive a range of shelter, housing, and other services.

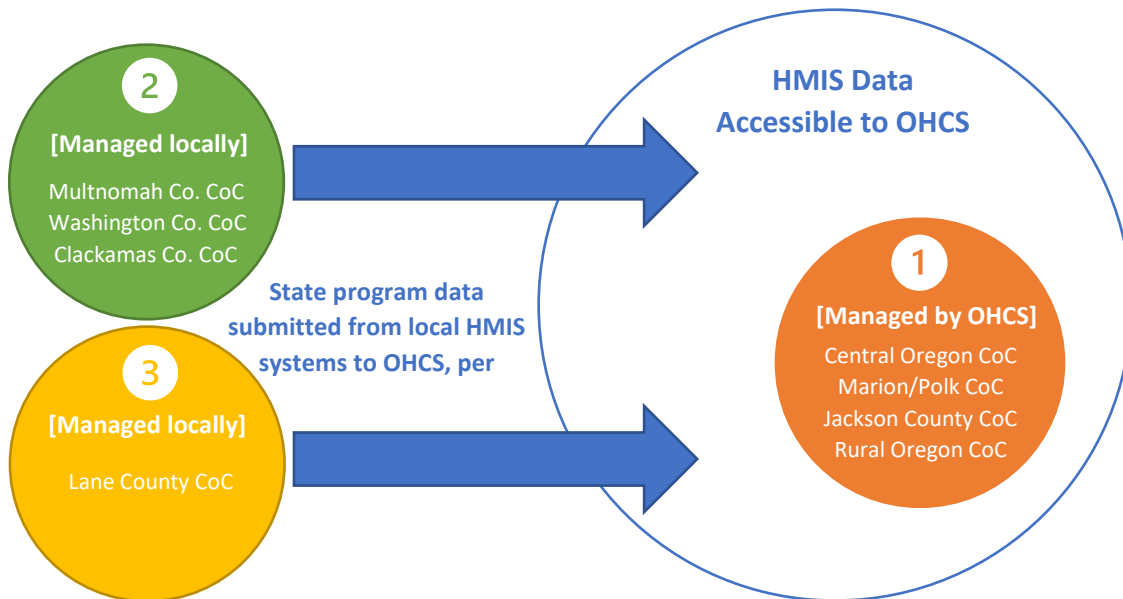
Per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), each [Continuum of Care](#) (CoC) is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with federal data collection, management, and reporting standards.

Data is collected locally by community providers in each of Oregon's eight Continuums of Care (CoCs) and inputted into their community's HMIS data system. There are three different data systems used across the state; one is administered by OHCS on behalf of four CoCs (as of January 2022), the Metro region's three CoCs share one data system, and Lane County manages its own. All work with OHCS to collect and report data on our state-funded programs, as is demonstrated in the following visual:



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Improving and Building Out Oregon’s HMIS Data System

To understand and track program outcomes, our data system must have high quality, up-to-date data from providers across the state. To best achieve this, OHCS is working in collaboration with CoCs across the state to establish one repository—or hub—for housing data from state-funded homelessness programs across Oregon.

This shift would make data from state-funded programs across Oregon accessible to OHCS in real-time, without waiting for data to be submitted to OHCS by communities who don’t store that data in the OHCS’ HMIS software (Metro region and Lane County CoCs).

OHCS is working closely with our CoC colleagues to explore the extent of such a statewide homelessness data hub. This process includes discussion of appropriate data governance between OHCS and partner communities.

It is also critical to note that a major component of improving data quality and availability statewide includes building capacity and knowledge in local communities. We have made significant strides in the last few years, but more work must be done to ensure policy decisions are driven by program outcomes.

Contact

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