



**Massachusetts Balance of State
Continuum of Care**

**Welcome to
VESTA Training
New HMIS Data Standards FY2024**



VESTA
Massachusetts

FY2024

Introduction

* FYI - This training session is being recorded

Reminder: You only need to attend one session of the New HMIS Data Standards training.



Housekeeping

Logistics

- If you would like to ask a question, type it in the questions box, or raise your hand
- Your undivided attention is required:
 - Close email and other programs for the best quality
 - Silence your phone, do not answer text messages
 - Shut the office door
 - Inform your staff you are not available during this time

Asking questions

- This training session is for you, so ask questions at anytime, or type your questions
- If you ask questions that are not answered, they will be answered after we review them with our vendor, the Partnership Center or we will ask HUD.



Training Objectives

Attendees will learn:

- About the changes to the HMIS Data Standards for FY2024
- How & when they will be implemented in the VESTA HMIS system



Agenda

Overview

- Changes to the FY2024 HMIS Data Standards
- Support System overview and who to contact for help

VESTA Discussion

- HUD data collection of updated data elements



FY 2024 HUD HMIS Data Standards

- "HMIS data standards have been established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to allow for standardized data collection on homeless individuals and families across systems
- In order to be in compliance with the required data elements, the 2024 HMIS Data Standards will go into effect on October 1, 2023

Please Note: FY 2022 resources remain in effect until September 30, 2023.



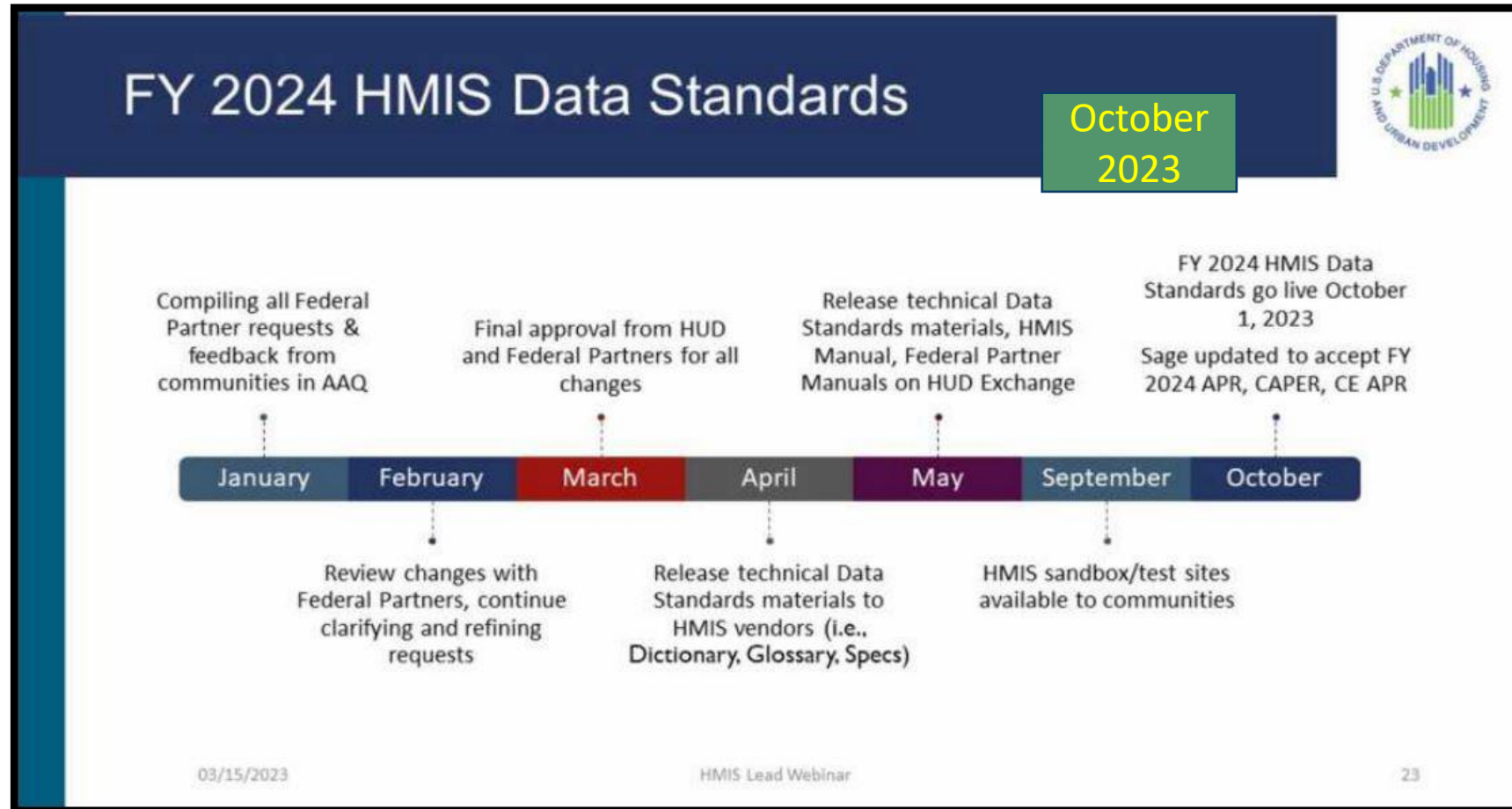
New FY2024 HMIS Data Standards and Manuals

HUD Go Live October 1, 2023

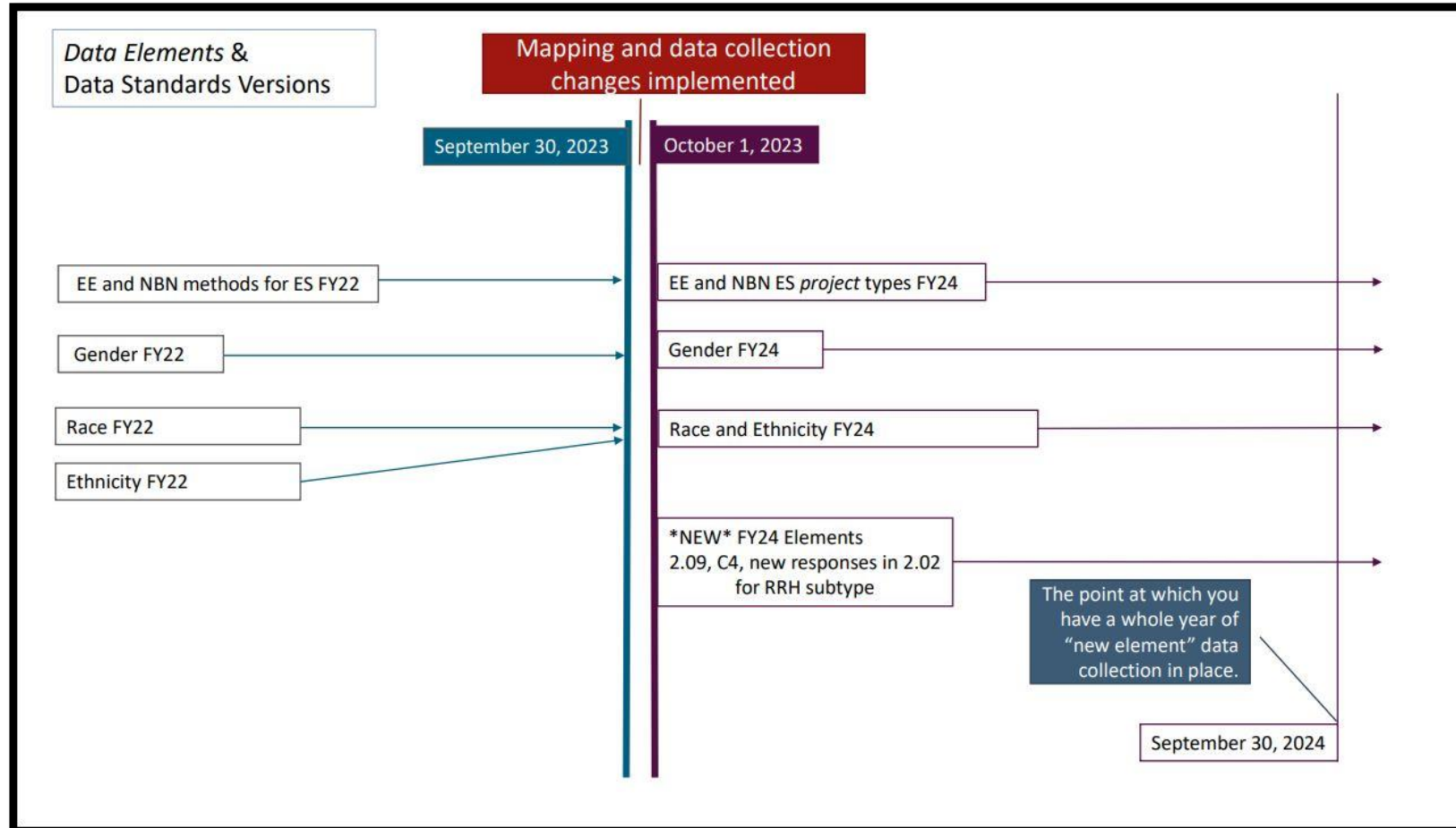
- [FY2024 HMIS Data Standards](#)
- [HMIS Federal Partner Program Manuals](#)
- [HMIS Data Collection Transition to FY2024](#)
- [HMIS Data Standards - HUD Exchange](#)



HMIS Data Standards FY2024



HMIS Data Standards FY2024 Data Elements



SSVF REPORTING – IMPORTANT!

- Because of the 2024 HMIS Data Standards updates that go in effect October 1st, SSVF must run and submit the **2022 VA report on September 30th at the end of the day! It is due Tuesday October 3rd**
- The report date range must include **Saturday, September 30th**
- Our Vendor can only have one HMIS CSV report up at a time on VESTA
- **PCL will be changing the format late in the day on Saturday, September 30th**
- That means the SSVF team will have to run the report at 5PM on Saturday, September 30th before the data standards changes take effect the next day



Client-Centered Approach to data collection

- Community Support on Proposed Changes
- Community Support on Changes to Race, Ethnicity and Gender Identity
- Client-Centered Approach to Recognizing Gender Identities
- Client-Centered Approach to Recognizing Race and Ethnicity
- One of the most important things one owns, regardless of whatever else happens, is one's identity. HUD, and other partners engaged to end homelessness in the United States, have always asked a core set of questions in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) around personal identity, including a person's race, ethnicity, and gender identity. This data is collected in part for homeless assistance providers to coordinate housing and services, manage their operations, and better serve their clients



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Client refused

- Replaced “Client refused” with “Client prefers not to answer” for all elements
 - It is not the intention of the Federal Partners that clients be denied assistance if they prefers not to answer to supply the information
 - Some information may be **required** by projects or public or private funders to determine eligibility for housing or services, or to assess needed services
 - Some clients may decline to provide responses to some fields, but case managers or data entry staff may not make that decision for them



FY2024 HMIS D.S. – CE Participation Status

2.09 CE Participation Status*

- New element designed to identify a project's type of engagement in CE
- Captures information about whether a project is an access point for CE and if the project accepts referrals from CE

* Project Setup Guidance for HMIS Administrators



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Name

- **3.01 Name** - Client may provide preferred name, “Legal name” not required unless required by the funder (e.g., VA)
 - Use a client's full and accurate name whenever possible
 - If client doesn't associate with their legal name, HMIS should reflect the name the client identifies with
 - HMIS records are not expected to include “dead names” or otherwise unused legal names
 - Rationale - To support the unique identification of each person served
- The full first name should be used (e.g., James vs. Jim) and the last name should be recorded as the individual has it recorded on their official legal documents (driver's license, social security card, etc.).



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Social Security Number

- **3.02 Social Security Number** - HUD CoC and ESG, and SAMHSA PATH

Programs require only last four digits of SSN to be required, though are not prohibited from collecting all nine digits

- Collect nine-digit SSN when possible
- CoC and ESG-funded projects not penalized for only collecting the last four digits of the SSN
- Any Veteran applying for services from VA funded program, i.e., SSVF must provide an SSN to receive services
- Any Veteran who declines to provide an SSN is not eligible for VA funded assistance
- Rationale - To support the unique identification of each person served



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Race & Ethnicity

- **3.04 Race and Ethnicity** - Combine Race and Ethnicity into single data element. (Eliminate 3.05 Ethnicity data element)
 - Add response option for “Middle Eastern or North African”
 - Modified “Hispanic/Latina/e/o” response option
 - Added text box to provide additional detail
- Clients' self-identification of one or more of the different racial categories



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Gender

- **3.06 Gender**

- Change Female to "Woman (Girl if child)"
- Change Male to "Man (Boy if child)"
- Change "Gender other than..." to "Non-Binary"
- Add "Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)"
- Add "Different Identity" and text box to add detail
- Client's self-identification of one or more of the gender categories



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards

- **3.917 Prior Living Situation**

- Approximate date **this episode** of homelessness started, mm/dd/yyyy (i.e., the beginning of the continuous period of homelessness on the streets, in emergency shelters, in Safe Havens, or moving back and forth between those places)

Have the client look back to the date of the last time the client had a place to sleep that was not on the streets, ES, or SH

Approximations are permitted



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Client Location

- **3.16 Client Location**

- **Re-named to Enrollment CoC**

- HUD assigned CoC code for the client's location at project start

Rationale - To link client household data to the relevant CoC in which the assisting project operates

HUD assigned CoC code for the project location at enrollment – this data element is populated by the VESTA system, MA-516 for BosCoC



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Health Insurance

- **4.04 Health Insurance**

- “Veteran’s Administration (VA) Medical Services” changed to “Veteran’s Health Administration (VHA)”



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards -Destination

- **3.12 Destination**
- **3.917 Prior Living Situation**
- **4.12 Current Living Situation**
 - Added dependency for permanent subsidized options

Rental by Client, with housing subsidy (must select subsidy type)

Rental Subsidy Type choices =

- GPD TIP housing subsidy
- VASH housing subsidy
- RRH or equivalent subsidy
- HCV voucher (tenant or project based) (not dedicated)
- Public housing unit
- Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy
- Emergency Housing Voucher
- Family Unification Program Voucher (FUP)
- Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI)
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Other permanent housing dedicated for formerly homeless persons



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Coordinated Entry

- **4.20 Coordinated Entry Event**

- The FY 2024 Data Standards replaces the text box with a drop down of providers



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Translation Assistance Needed

C4 Translation Assistance Needed

- CoC, and ESG funded project will be **required** to answer this data element
- To understand how many clients need access to translation services
- If so, which languages are most often cited as needing translation
- HMIS end users/staff should collect this field for all clients that enter the project on or after October 1, 2023



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Sexual Orientation

- **R3 Sexual Orientation**

- *YHDP (Youth Homeless Demonstration Program) or CoC PSH funded projects* will be required to answer this data element
- HMIS end users/staff should review information with active clients at the next appropriate encounter
- Verify accuracy and update if incorrect
- Data collection is to begin to understand what disparities may exist



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Veteran's Information

- **V1 Veteran's Information**
 - Added Space Force
 - HMIS end users/staff should review information with active clients at the next appropriate encounter
 - Verify accuracy and update if incorrect



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Financial Assistance SSVF

- **V3 Financial Assistance**

- Updated “Date of Financial Assistance” to “Start Date of Financial Assistance”
- Added options:
 - Landlord Incentive
 - Tenant Incentive
- Added “End Date of Financial Assistance”

HMIS end users/staff should collect “End Date of Financial Assistance” for all active clients as of October 1, 2023, and new clients who enter the project on or after October 1, 2023.



FY2024 HMIS Data Standards – Percent of AMI (SSVF Eligibility)

- **V4 Percent of AMI**
 - Updated response fields to:
 - 30% or less
 - 31% to 50%
 - 51% to 80%
 - 81% or greater



Data Elements Retiring

- 3.05 Ethnicity
- C1 Wellbeing
- U1 Worst Housing Situation
- V5 Last Permanent Address



Support – How to get HMIS help

We have a helpdesk system, Zendesk.

Send email to support@vestama.zendesk.com

<https://vestama.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>

Kelly Schlabach, HMIS Lead Coordinator, Kelly.schlabach@mass.gov (617) 573-1387

Andrew Pape, EA ETO HMIS Coordinator, Andrew.pape@mass.gov (617) 573-1234

Donna Curley, HMIS Training Coordinator, Donna.Curley@mass.gov (617) 573-1399

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Questions?



Welcome to VESTA

Virtual Electronic Service Tracking Assistant



<https://demo.vestama.net/>



Thank you!

