

# **Knowledge Base Article: Victim Service Providers + HMIS**

## **Determining which Agencies or Projects must use an HMIS Comparable Database**

- Identify agencies in CoC that are defined as a Victim Service Provider (VSP) by the HEARTH Act
- Identify non-VSP agencies that have a project(s) funded by [FVPSA](#), [OVC](#), [OVW](#), or [Specialized Housing and Services for Victims of Human Trafficking](#)
  - Only agencies defined as a VSP &/or receiving the above funding for agency-wide or agency admin purposes are exempt from the CoC's HMIS database and must use a comparable database
  - Non-VSP agencies that have individual projects funded by the above funding, those specific projects are exempt from the CoC's HMIS project and must use a comparable database
    - The agencies other projects must use the CoC's HMIS database
- See also HUD's [HMIS Comparable Database Decision Tree](#)

## **CoC/HMIS Lead Role With Agencies Using A Comparable Database**

Agencies using a comparable database, whether agency-wide or project specific, should connect with their community's HMIS Lead for their expertise in the requirements of their data collection systems. [HMIS Lead Contact Information](#) is available on the HUD Exchange and can be located by contacting the CoC covering your geographic area, which oversees their HMIS implementation, and with whom VSPs will need to consult with if they are participating in [Coordinated Entry](#).

When choosing a comparable database, one option is using a "closed system" of the same HMIS as the CoC. Benefits include:

- HMIS Lead may be able to provide more direct technical support
- Standardized data collection – making participation in Coordinated Entry easier
- Standardized data quality and monitoring requirements

## **Coordinated Entry**

- VSPs may receive CoC funding to operate an SSO-CE project and must work with their community to establish a process that is aligned with or parallel to the CoC's CE system. VSPs *may not* use ESG funds to establish or operate a stand-alone CE project

## **Reporting**

- CoC, ESG, and ESG-CV Program recipients are required to submit aggregated program information via the Sage HMIS Reporting Repository
- All HUD-funded program VSP recipients must submit data from their comparable database via a Comma Separated Value (CSV) import
- See HUD's [HMIS Comparable Database Manual](#) for more information

## **Other Resource**

[HUD Exchange: Domestic Violence and Homelessness](#)

[NHSDC 2020 - Presentation on Comparable Databases](#) (Recording, Slides, and Transcript)

[HUD FAQ: Coordinated Entry and Victim Service Providers](#)

[Selecting A Database](#)

[Safe House Partnerships Website](#) – several resources on this website, including:

- [Coordinated Entry and Intake/Assessment Tools](#)
- [Coordinated Entry: Confidentiality In Practice](#)
- [Building Partnerships](#)