



Assembly Bill 977: Homeless Program Data Reporting

Background

Pursuant to [AB 977](#) the State of California requires grantees or entities receiving funding from state funded homelessness programs to enter specific data elements on individuals and families served into their local Homeless Management Information system (HMIS). This requirement applies to the ten programs named in Welfare and Institution Code § 8256(d)(1), and any state homelessness programs that commenced on or after July 1, 2021 (Welfare and Institution Code § 8256(d)(3)). Grantees or entities operating a state homelessness program funded by California departments or agencies must comply with these requirements as a condition of receiving state funds.

Purpose

AB 977 was established to help state agencies and departments that administer homelessness programs and the State of California broadly to improve the data quality and content related to individuals served by these programs, allowing both the state and local stakeholders to better understand homelessness in California.

The data entered by state grantees into HMIS is aggregated in the Homeless Data Integration [System \(HDIS\)](#), a statewide data warehouse that aggregates data from California's 44 local Continuums of Care (CoCs). The data made available by AB 977's reporting requirements will create a more accurate account of the individuals and families served by the homelessness response system, resulting in a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of state funded homelessness programs and allowing for better-informed policy decisions.

AB 977 Requirements for New State Funded Homelessness Programs

AB 977 reporting requirements apply to all new state funded homelessness programs that commence on or after July 1, 2021 (Welfare and Institution Code § 8256(d)(3)). A state homelessness program is defined as a program that is "funded, in whole or in part, by the state with the express purpose of addressing or preventing homelessness or providing services to people experiencing homelessness." This definition is to be "broadly construed for the purpose of meeting the requirements" of this bill. (Welfare and Institution Code § 8256(d)(4)).

Based on the language in AB 977, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) identified the following four elements to determine whether a program meets the definition of a new state funded homelessness program. Pursuant to AB 977, grantees or entities receiving funds from programs that meet the following four elements are required to comply with AB 977's data entry requirements:



1. **New Program:** The program commenced on or after July 1, 2021.
2. **State Funded:** The program receives funding, in “whole or in part,” from state funding sources. A program administered by the state but fully funded by the federal government would not be considered state funded.
3. **Express Purpose:** The program has the express purpose of addressing or preventing homelessness or providing services to people experiencing homelessness. This requirement applies to any programs with language in their statute or enabling authority that meets this express purpose definition.
4. **Serving Individuals and Families:** The program serves individuals and families. AB 977 requires grantees or entities of state funded homelessness programs to enter data on the individuals and families they serve into HMIS. (Welfare and Institution Code § 8256(d)(1).) If a program does not provide direct services to individuals and families, such as a program funding capacity building or coordination, there would not be any data to enter into HMIS.

Technical Assistance

AB 977 requires Cal ICH, to provide technical assistance and guidance to grantees or entities operating specified homelessness programs within AB 977. Technical assistance and training are available to ensure that grantees have all the resources needed to be able to comply with AB 977.

Cal ICH contracted with Abt Associates to provide technical assistance to all state programs included in AB 977 and their grantees. Abt Associates will be providing a variety of services to support grantees in achieving compliance and furthering data quality goals. Technical assistance offerings include:

- Developing a needs assessment and technical assistance plan specific to the needs of each programs' grantees
- Creating and delivering training and materials to grantees such as:
 - Detailed project set-up instructions to specify HMIS data entry format and requirements
 - A frequently asked questions document
 - Live and recorded trainings on HMIS data entry, trauma-informed data collection, and data quality
- Hosting office hours and maintaining a help desk inbox to respond to individual grantee questions
- Supporting coordination and connection across CoC and HMIS Leads and program grantees
- Provide ongoing TA to departments and grantees to maintain compliance and data quality

For any additional questions about AB 977, please reach out to the Cal ICH Research team (calichresearch@bcsh.ca.gov).