



NW Social Service Connections' HMIS/CMIS Client Consent to Release of Information for Data Sharing in Multnomah County

Northwest Social Service Connections' Homeless Management Information System / Client Management Information System (HMIS/CMIS) is a computer system that is used to collect and share information on homelessness and social services in Portland and throughout Multnomah County. The information gathered by HMIS/CMIS, in addition to creating a non-repeated count of people receiving social and/or homeless services and developing combined information that will assist in developing policies to end homelessness, helps agencies plan and deliver services that help people in need. By sharing information with each other, agencies are able to simplify service delivery by tracking services and referrals provided to the persons they serve.

The HMIS/CMIS runs in compliance with all Federal and State laws and codes, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). All privacy procedures are designed to insure that the broadest range of providers may participate in the project. Every person and agency that is authorized to read or enter information into the database has signed an agreement to maintain the security and confidentiality of the information. Any person or agency that is found to violate their agreement may have their access rights ended and may be subject to further punishments. Any information you provide will not be disclosed to any third party unless authorized by you or required by law. We must still report some information because of our federal, state or funder requirements.

Please read the following statements (or ask to have them read to you), and make sure you have had an opportunity to have your questions answered.

I UNDERSTAND THAT:

- The partner agencies may share basic identifying information about the people they serve with other parties working to end homelessness and provide other social services.
- The release of my information does not guarantee that I will receive assistance.
- I will not be denied services if I refuse to consent to data sharing.
- This authorization will remain in effect 7 years after my latest project exit unless I revoke it in writing. I may revoke authorization at any time by signing a written statement or Revocation form.
- I understand that cancelling my authorization will not change information that has already been given out or actions already taken, but the revocation will be effective as of that date.
 - I have the right to see my HMIS/CMIS record, ask for changes, and to have a copy of my record from this agency upon written request.
 - I have the right to file a complaint if I feel I have been harmed in some way by the use of HMIS/CMIS.
 - I have the right to receive a copy of the HMIS/CMIS Notice to Clients of Uses and Disclosures.

Maintaining the privacy and safety of those using our services is very important to us. Your record will only be shared if you give us permission to do so. There may be risks and/or benefits for you to consider before you decide whether or not to consent to the release of information.

