



Beyond the Basics: Homeless Certification & HMIS

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Presentation Overview

- I. Homeless Certification – what is it/why do we need it?
- II. The move from paper to HMIS
- III. Technical Specs – how VESTA makes this work
- IV. Outcomes



Certificate Information: Confidentiality

 CONTINUUM OF CARE  

Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless
HOMELESS CERTIFICATION

Date: 06/28/2006
Expiration Date: 8/17/2006
Homeless Individual's Name: Olive Physics
Public ID: Olive8021
Single Individual (yes/no): No
Family of 3 **persons**

Homeless Certification Details:

The individual/family named above was a resident of a Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care **Emergency Shelter** for the homeless.

Intake Date: 6/28/2006
This homeless certification was generated by VESTA. To verify that the certificate is valid, please call VESTA Technical Support at 513-891-4016, extension 36.

The electronic homeless certification provides a minimal amount of identifying information about the client; it does not identify the certifying program or worker (which, in some cases, might reveal sensitive information about the client such as HIV status).

Its validity can be verified by calling HMIS staff.



Certificate Information: Consistent Continuum Standards

The homeless certification system does not circumvent the rules surrounding eligibility; it is designed to implement them in a consistent way across the Continuum of Care and simplify compliance.

It also does not eliminate the requirement for some documentation, for example, a copy of an eviction notice or a letter from institution staff regarding prior living situation.

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New Intake

Additional Documentation

VESTA is unable to automatically certify homelessness for this client.

Additional documentation?

Client would be homeless if not for program participation

Documentation maintained in case file

Homeless Situation

- Eviction from a private dwelling
- Eviction by a family member
- Fleeing domestic violence situation
- Discharge from institution after long-term stay
- Discharge from institution after short-term stay



HMIS Certification IMPACT

Outcomes matter – Certification improve outcomes!

- Positive consumer and provider feedback.
- Positive HUD monitoring feedback.
- Expanded the participation in the system to 100% (cited as a major reason non-funded agencies asked to participate)
- “Closed the system” to certified homeless only
- Rated as a significant factor in reducing the homeless count in our largest shelter.