Universal Data Elements

HMIS Universal Data Elements are elements required to be collected by all projects using the software as an HMIS. Projects funded by any one or more of the federal partners must collect the Universal Data Elements as are projects that are not funded by any federal partner (e.g. missions) but are entering data as part of the Continuum of Care’s HMIS implementation.

Universal Data Elements enable the HMIS the ability to record unique, unduplicated client records, establish participation in a project within a date range, and identify clients who meet time criteria for chronic homelessness.

The Universal Data Elements include:

3.1 Name
3.2 Social Security Number
3.3 Date of Birth
3.4 Race
3.5 Ethnicity
3.6 Gender
3.7 Veteran Status
3.8 Disabling Condition
3.9 Living Situation
3.10 Project Entry Date
3.11 Project Exit Date
3.12 Destination
3.13 Personal ID
3.14 Household ID
3.15 Relationship to Head of Household
3.16 Client Location

For more information and a full description of the Universal Data Elements, please reference the 2014 HUD Data Standards: Data Manual, Version 5.1.

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