



THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Hudson County Performance Standards

The Performance Standards outlined in this document were established to ensure the forward progress of The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness in the goal of ending homelessness. The standards are a combination of those released and required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and those identified as important by the community. These Performance Standards will be utilized, evaluated and updated based on the policies and procedures outlined in the Performance Evaluation Section of the Policies and Procedures for the Continuum of Care. Unless otherwise specified in the standard, all performance standards will be evaluated using HMIS data.

The following measures will be used to evaluate the performance of The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness in 2015:

The thoroughness of grantees in reaching homeless individuals and families.

This measure will demonstrate the effectiveness of agencies in reaching and engaging individuals and families that are homeless. To meet this performance measure, Hudson County will strive to:

- Demonstrate a 15% decrease in the number of unsheltered families and individuals counted in the Point in Time Count when compared to those found in 2014.
- Demonstrate a 10% decrease in the number of unsheltered families and individuals that are not receiving any income or mainstream benefits as counted in the Point in Time Count when compared to those found in 2014.
- Ensure that the HMIS system is collecting information for at least 86% of the homeless housing programs provided throughout the County.

Demonstrate and maintain appropriate program utilization.

This measure will demonstrate the utilization and appropriateness of the programs that compose The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness. To meet this performance measure, Hudson County will:

- Look to have all homeless programs maintain at least an 85% utilization average for the year.

Overall reduction in the number of homeless individuals and families.

As the overall goal of the Hudson County Alliance is to end homelessness, this performance measure will gauge the success of the continuum in decreasing homelessness. The measure will be met if:

- Hudson County is able to demonstrate a decrease of at least 10% in the homeless counted in the Point in Time Count when compared to the number counted in 2014.

Success at reducing the number of individuals and families who become homeless.

This measure is used to focus on the effectiveness of prevention programs in helping households remain in permanent housing and avoid entering the homeless service system. This measure will be met if:

- Hudson County is able to demonstrate a decrease of at least 15% in the number of first time homeless households that enter housing programs.

Successful placement from street outreach.

This performance measure will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the outreach programs funded in Hudson County to connect the unsheltered homeless population to housing services and programs. To meet this standard:

- Hudson County will show that at least 20% of households served by street outreach programs enrolled in emergency shelter, transitional housing or permanent housing programs or destinations upon exit from the outreach program.

The length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

It has been determined that the longer a household remains homeless, the more likely they are to experience additional trauma or stressors that may present as barriers to finding and maintaining permanent housing in the future. For this reason, this measure will be used to determine the ability of the County to move households out of homeless situations and into permanent housing in a short time frame. For this measure to be met:

- Hudson County will show that programs have successfully reduced the average length of program stay by:
 - 10% for emergency shelter programs; and
 - 10% for transitional housing programs

Job and income growth for homeless individuals and families.

In order for households to maintain permanent housing in the community, Hudson County is working to ensure households are being connected to and receiving services that assist them in obtaining and increasing their income from all sources. These performance measures will be used to demonstrate the ability of Hudson County to assist households in increasing their total income. For this performance measure to be met, Hudson County will look to:

- Show that at least 85% of households receive some form of earned or unearned income
- Show that at least 20% of adults that are not enrolled in SSDI/SSI, will have some level of earned income
- Show that at least 54% of households have increased their level of income from project entry to exit (or update)

Successful connection of homeless individuals and families to eligible mainstream non-cash benefits.

In addition to income, there are many mainstream non-cash benefits that are available to homeless households in the community. Hudson County is looking to ensure the homeless system is assisting households in obtaining mainstream non-cash benefits. For this performance measure to be met, Hudson County will look to:

- Show that at least 85% of households are connected to mainstream non-cash benefits
- Show that at least 56% of households obtained mainstream non-cash benefits from program entry to exit (or update)

Successful housing placement to or retention in a permanent housing destination.

As it is always the goal of the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness to move households from homelessness into permanent housing, this performance measure will look at the ability of programs to discharge households into permanent housing placements. For this measure to be met, Hudson County will:

- Show that 30% of households being discharged from emergency shelters move on to a permanent destination
- Show that 65% of households being discharged from transitional housing projects move on to a permanent destination; and
- Show that 85% of households will remain in permanent housing projects or be discharged to a permanent housing destination

Decrease in households being discharged from programs due to program related barriers.

As it is important to make sure the projects within the community are being utilized, Hudson County feels it is important to ensure that project regulations are not preventing households from obtaining the services they need in the community. For this reason, Hudson County will use this measure to ensure households are not being discharged at a high rate due to program related issues. For this measure to be met, Hudson County will:

- Show that less than 20% of households are being discharged from projects in the community due to noncompliance or a disagreement with the project rules or persons

The extent to which individuals and families who leave homelessness experience additional spells of homelessness.

In addition to households being placed in permanent destinations, it is essential for the community to make sure that a large number of households are not returning to the homeless system after discharge. Because there is currently no efficient way to capture recidivism, for this year, Hudson County will evaluate recidivism by:

- Showing that less than 20% of households discharged from emergency shelter projects are discharged to another emergency shelter or to a place not meant for habitation
- Showing that less than 10% of households discharged from transitional housing projects are discharged to another transitional housing project, an emergency shelter or a place not meant for habitation
- Showing that less than 10% of households discharged from permanent housing projects are discharged to transitional housing, emergency shelter or a place not meant for habitation.