

## **Community Profile**

### **Vision**

The City of Seattle Safe Harbors program is working with the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) to implement a new statewide web based HMIS. The ultimate goal is to collect and integrate information from multiple Human Services agencies across the state. We are not only including data that is directly entered through the HMIS User Interface, but we are including data from other partner agencies who will be importing their data via XML file transfer.

### **Challenges**

As with the roll-out of any new enterprise application, we have been working closely with the vendor to improve the application to match our business processes and needs and to work through any defects that our team has discovered.

Of particular importance for the HSXML group is the ability to directly import data from an external legacy systems into HMIS. Some of the challenges include: converting from older XML schema versions to the current version (2.7), the inclusion of hashed data in the XML that has caused errors during the import process and other errors related to invalid data (apostrophes in names, zip codes not in the standard 5 digit format).

A larger more non-technical challenge is attempting to gain buy-in from the larger human services community as a whole in using a system that is viewed as only for homeless data collection purposes.

### **Successes**

Many of the challenges have been overcome through the work of our staff, the staff of our partner agencies and the vendor. We continue to improve communication with our partner agencies and are very close to testing import of a full XML file. So far, we have had success with test XML and larger XML files that include real data that has been de-identified.

### **Expectations**

We expect to be able to install the new HMIS on desktop computers at our partner agencies where users will be able to use the Safe Harbors User Interface to directly import their XML data that is collected in another legacy system.

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