

# NW Social Service Connections

## HIPAA

### CMIS/HMIS and HIPAA

NW Social Service Connections CMIS/HMIS is not a HIPAA covered entity and therefore not subject to the rules and regulations of HIPAA. HIPAA covered entities may participate in NW Social Service Connections CMIS/HMIS.

#### **HIPAA is the: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996**

A Federal law that allows persons to qualify immediately for comparable health insurance coverage when they change their employment relationships. Title II, Subtitle F, of HIPAA gives HHS the authority to mandate the use of standards for the electronic exchange of health care data; to specify what medical and administrative code sets should be used within those standards; to require the use of national identification systems for health care patients, providers, payers (or plans), and employers (or sponsors); and to specify the types of measures required to protect the security and privacy of personally identifiable health care information. Also known as the Kennedy-Kassebaum Bill, the Kassebaum-Kennedy Bill, K2, or Public Law 104-191.

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/securityrule/index.html>

#### **HMIS: Homeless Management Information System**

CMIS: Client Management Information System

A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons. An HMIS is typically a web-based software application that homeless assistance providers use to coordinate care, manage their operations, and better serve their clients. In order to be competitive for homeless funding administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), agencies that coordinate a Continuum of Care system must have. If you receive HUD funding, you will be required by your Continuum of Care Coordinator, or HUD, to use the appropriate HMIS.

#### **To be covered by HIPAA, you must be:**

- A health plan;
- A health care clearinghouse;
- A health care provider who transmits any health information in electronic form in connection with a covered transaction.

#### **NW Social Service Connections CMIS/HMIS is not a covered entity and because:**

- NW Social Service Connections CMIS/HMIS is not a health plan;
- NW Social Service Connections CMIS/HMIS is not a clearinghouse;
- NW Social Service Connections CMIS/HMIS is not a provider of health care;
- Any agencies/programs that may be covered independent of the CMI/HMIS do not use the CMIS/HMIS for electronic financial collections;
- NW Social Service Connections CMIS/HMIS does not do any of the standard transactions that would make it be covered by HIPAA.