Bay Area Regional Data Sharing System

Prepared by Homebase/The Center for Common Concerns, January 2021
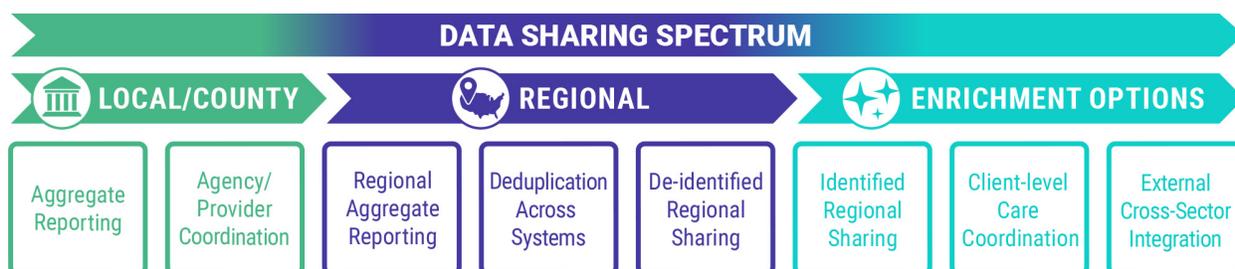
Overview

Regional approaches are essential to addressing the Bay Area's homelessness crisis. Without a system for sharing data across county lines, however, our local systems and programs operate in jurisdictional silos, unable to measure outcomes, understand trends, coordinate service provision, or prevent duplication across county lines. Regional data sharing is essential to achieving a true picture of homelessness in the Bay Area and to identifying, implementing, and tracking its solutions.

The Bay Area is well positioned to establish a system for regional data sharing. Bay Area counties have invested significantly in their respective Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), with most counties using the same system (Clarity from Bitfocus); regional data sharing software has been developed and refined with multi-HMIS warehouses implemented in various other regions nationally; and the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency of a more coordinated, regional approach to homelessness and data.

In partnership with Tipping Point, the Bay Area Regional Working Group on Homelessness, and other stakeholders, Homebase has developed a framework for next steps to create a Bay Area Regional Data Sharing System (RDSS).

Benefits of Regional Data Sharing

A regional data sharing system would transform the Bay Area's ability to conduct local planning to address homelessness, to measure outcomes and investment impacts, and to support coordination of care and support for people experiencing homelessness. Data enrichment options that allow identifiable client-level data sharing would have even greater impact by creating opportunities to coordinate across homeless systems of care – ensuring individuals

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moving through the Bay Area have continuity of care without having to restart the process of seeking help every time they transition to a new location.

Planning	Measuring Program Outcomes and Investment Impacts	Care Coordination
•Regional Population Planning •Movement •Site Selection •Administrative Efficiencies •Equitable Investing •Communitywide Planning •Planning, Research, & Care Coordination •Inflow & Outflow	•Tracking •Closing Gaps •Impact Investments •Improving Program-Level Services •Broad Accountability •Tracking Outcomes •Better and Smarter Investment	•Care Delivery •Matching •Coordinated Care Planning •Housing First

Regional Data Sharing System Process

Establishing the Regional Data Sharing System involves four phases to assess, plan, build, and launch the system. Homebase will facilitate the process, with input from the Bay Area Data Sharing Working Group comprised of local HMIS and data leads, and the RDSS system software vendor, and in consultation with county leadership and local stakeholders.

The phases are as follows, with the first phase already complete, and Phase 2 underway:

- **Phase 1: The Feasibility Assessment**: Evaluate feasibility of a Regional Data Sharing System, analyze national models and system options, and develop an implementation roadmap.

- **Phase 2: The Planning Phase**: Obtain the funding needed, refine system requirements and develop request for proposals, select vendor/s, and define needed privacy and security protections.

- **Phase 3: The System Build**: Finalize the system design, develop the system architecture, and launch the privacy and security infrastructure.

- **Phase 4: The Pilot Launch**: Initiate HMIS data flow, conduct user training and testing, implement system refinements, and begin leveraging system

For More Information

To request a copy of Homebase's *Framework for Regional Data Sharing*, or for more information about this project, please contact Nikka Rapkin, Executive Director, nikka@homebaseccc.org, or Amanda Wehrman, Deputy Director, amanda@homebaseccc.org.

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