



Prior Living Situation vs. Current Living Situation

Understanding a client’s **“living situation”** is critical to determining their eligibility for available community resources and is a mandatory component of the HUD HMIS Data Standards. *Every* client enrollment in the HMIS must include the client's **Prior Living Situation**. Programs such as Coordinated Entry and Street Outreach *must* also record clients’ **Current Living Situation** at the project start, when the client is assessed, when their living situation changes, and for every contact made by Street Outreach staff. While seemingly very similar, a client’s **Prior Living Situation** and **Current Living Situation** have different definitions and are used for different purposes, as described further below.

What's the Difference?

A critical difference between Prior and Current Living Situation is that the **Prior Living Situation** asks where the client *was* staying **last night**; the **Current Living Situation** asks where the client *anticipates* staying **tonight**. The answers can be the same or different.

Living Situation	Question	Time Period
Prior Living Situation	Where did you stay last night?	Past
Current Living Situation	Where will you stay tonight?	Future

When entering a client’s living situation directly into the HMIS, you may see different required fields depending on the client’s answers; paper forms will show every possible option. The additional fields collect additional details about the client’s living situation such as length of time and location.

What is classified as a homeless, institutional, permanent or temporary situation?

Homeless Situations	Explanation
Place not meant for habitation	The client was, or will be living outside or any place not meant for human habitation (e.g. a vehicle, abandoned building, garage, bus/train station, or anywhere outside)
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for through an emergency shelter voucher or government or non-profit organization	The client was, or will be living in an Emergency Shelter, including a hotel or motel paid for with an emergency shelter voucher, non-profit organization, or government agency. Includes Domestic Violence shelters, and host homes for youth
Safe Haven	(Does not exist in Santa Cruz County)

Institutional Situations	Explanation
Foster care home or foster care group home	The client was or will be living in a foster care home or foster care group home for youth (18-24 years old) or children(<18 years old).
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	The client was or will be living in a hospital for any reason other than psychiatric. Includes any residential care involving a medical need such as a hospital or rehabilitation center).
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	The client was, or will be living in a local jail, prison (state or federal) or juvenile detention facility.
Long-term care facility or nursing home	The client was or will be living in a long-term care facility or nursing home.
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	The client was or will be living in a psychiatric facility, psychiatric hospital, or psychiatric unit of a hospital
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	The client was or will be living in a substance abuse treatment program, detox program or other substance abuse residential facility.



Permanent Situations	Explanation
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment, or house	The client was or will be living in room, apartment or house occupied by a friend.
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment, or house	The client was or will be living in room, apartment or house occupied by a family member.
Rental by client, with Grant Per Diem Transition in Place (GPD TIP) housing subsidy	The unit the client was or will be renting is funded by a Grant Per Diem Transition in Place subsidy through the federal Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA).
Rental by client, with a Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) subsidy	The unit the client was or will be renting is supported by a VASH housing subsidy. Use only if the client has moved into the unit.
Permanent housing (other than Rapid Rehousing - RRH) for formerly homeless persons	The unit the client was or will be renting is subsidized by a homeless funding source. This could be a scattered-site or site-based supportive housing where the rental subsidy is from Shelter Plus Care, Supportive Housing Program (PSH), or another funding source in which participation is restricted to persons experiencing homelessness.
Rental by client, with Rapid Re-housing (RRH) or equivalent subsidy	The unit the client was or will be renting is subsidized by a Rapid Re-Housing homeless funding source, including: Continuum of Care (CoC), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Veteran Affairs Grant and Per Diem (VA GPD), or Locally-funded RRH.
Rental by client, with Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) (tenant or project based)	The unit the client was or will be renting is supported by a HUD Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	The client was or will be living in a unit they are renting without the support of ongoing financial support.
Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy	The unit the client was or will be renting is supported by any other subsidy – either government or private, site-based or voucher. Eligible funding sources include State Rental Assistance (SER), legacy SRO, Pay for Success, and clients who leave for housing provided by a college, Job Corps, Military or National Guard training. Does not include CoC PSH, HOPWA PH, RRH, GPD, or VASH.
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	The client owns or will own the unit they are living in and has an ongoing housing subsidy (mortgage payment support) attached to it. Includes USDA Rural Development Loan/Recovery Act Supports.
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	The client owns or will own the unit they are living in and does not have an ongoing housing subsidy attached to it.

Temporary Situations	Explanation
Host Home (non-crisis)	The client was or will be living in a third party's home; participation in the program does not have a homeless criteria. Often a program for clients aging out of the foster care system.
Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria	The client was or will be living in residential project or halfway house that does not have a homeless requirement.
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	The client was or will be living in a hotel or motel; the client pays for their stay.
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	The client was or will be living in a Transitional Housing program that is time limited up to 24 months. Includes Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Youth Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Youth transitional housing programs. Does not include an exit to substance abuse treatment facility.

Other	Explanation
Client doesn't know	The client doesn't know where they were living or where they will be living. Considered null/missing.
Client refused	The client refused to tell program staff where they were living or where they will be living. Considered null/missing
Data not collected	Data was not collected from the client. Considered null/missing.



Where is the Prior Living Situation located in Clarity HMIS?

The Prior Living Situation is located on the enrollment entry screen.

PRIOR LIVING SITUATION

Type of Residence	Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bu▼
Is household currently living in a vehicle?	Yes ▼
Vehicle Type	Van ▼
Select the city of the clients prior residence	Federal Way ▼
Length of Stay in Prior Living Situation	One month or more, but less than 90 days ▼
Approximate Date Homelessness Started	04/01/2020 <input type="text"/>
Number of times on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years	Two Times ▼
Total number of months homeless on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years	Four Months ▼
What City did you live in the last time you had a stable place to live like an apartment or house?	Auburn ▼

Where is the Current Living Situation located in Clarity HMIS?

The Current Living Situation is located on the program-level assessments tab. *(Pro Tip: if you see it there...it's required!)*

PROGRAM: EMERGENCY SHELTER (NIGHTLY ATTENDANCE)

Enrollment History Provide Services Assessments Notes Files Forms

Add Current Living Situation for client Test Client

Date of Contact	06/01/2020 <input type="text"/>
Current Living Situation	Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shel▼
Location Details	<input type="text"/>

Helpful Software Feature: Cascading Data

If an enrollment and/or Current Living Situation assessment has already been entered, you may see data auto-populate (cascade) in the Prior Living Situation and Current Living Situation fields. This is to help ease the burden of manually entering the data. However, always review the data for accuracy, edit if needed, and then can save the screen as usual.

Need Additional Help?

While there are a number of resources that can be found via the [Santa Cruz HMIS website](#), the [Clarity Human Services Help Center](#) is also an excellent resource when you need questions answered, like:

- [How do I create and manage program enrollments?](#)
- [How do I add a new household member to an enrollment?](#)
- [How do I conduct a program status/annual assessment?](#)

If in doubt, the Help Desk is always a great place to start. You can reach them from 5 am to 5 pm by email at santacruz@bitfocus.com, by phone at (831) 713-2288, or directly within Clarity by selecting the “Help” icon on the bottom right side of any screen.