



To: Gatekeepers
From: Homeless Services Section Staff
Date: 8/8/2024

Please distribute to: Homeless Services Program Staff

Category: Program Informational

Update For: EHA PET 24-25 Fiscal Year

Message: The EHA PET program was expanded to include the unsheltered homeless population as a Street Outreach strategy to encourage individuals to seek additional services in an Emergency Shelter or as an incentive to enter into Rapid Re-Housing programs.

OHCS recognizes that this funding source still remains under utilized and underspent and have been looking for ways to create additional flexibility within the program. Based on EHA PET reporting, one of the largest barriers to using these funds are HMIS requirements.

OHCS is providing further flexibility for the use of HMIS. If a household receives small items of pet food and supplies (crates, kennels, licenses, leashes, pet toys), an HMIS entry is not required; however, agencies will still need to report the number of households served and the amount expended on these items in the annual report. This can be an aggregate number.

If a household is provided behavioral services for their pet or receives veterinary services, then a HMIS record must be maintained and those households must meet the definition of “client” – meaning a household that has received an assessment of need, has been entered into an OHCS-funded program, such as a shelter or rapid re-housing project, entered in HMIS and who is receiving financial assistance, which is what veterinary and behavioral services would be considered.

OHCS hopes that this additional flexibility will help you to serve more individuals and to fully expend the funds by June, 2025. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact:
hsd.homelessservices@hcs.oregon.gov.