

Appendix H – Public Notice

Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties Continuum of Care (CoC FL-511)

Program Management Information System of the Southeast (PromisSE)

Also known as Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

We collect personal information directly from you for reasons that are discussed in our privacy statement. We may be required to collect some personal information by law or by organizations that fund and/or operate these programs. Other personal information that we collect is important to run our programs, to improve services for homeless and at-risk persons, and to better understand the needs of homeless and at-risk persons. We only collect information that we consider appropriate.

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) was developed to meet a data collection requirement made by the United States Congress to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Congress passed this requirement in order to get a more accurate count of individuals who are homeless and to identify the need for and use of different services by those individuals and families. Your information may be shared among the CoCs that participate in PromisSE.

Your information can be shared with other HMIS participating Agencies throughout the Implementation. The information entered by participating providers includes basic identifying demographic data (e.g., name, birth date, and gender), the nature of your situation, and the services and referrals received from the participating Agency. Your information may be shared with other HMIS-participating agencies and users during both in-person and virtual (online) meetings. Virtual meetings are secured through the meeting software vendor's security protocols (e.g., data encryption and the ability to only allow authorized individuals into meetings).

Participating Agencies collect personal information directly from you for reasons that are discussed in their privacy Policy. They may be required to collect personal information by law or by the organizations that fund and/or operate these programs. Other personal information that is collected is important to operate programs, to improve services, and to better understand client needs. They only collect information that they consider appropriate and accurate. The collection and use of all personal information is guided by strict standards of confidentiality.

Maintaining the privacy and safety of those clients whose records reside in HMIS and the Agencies that use the HMIS is very important to us. Information gathered about each client and each Agency is personal and private. We collect information only when appropriate to provide services, manage our organization and the Database, or as required by law. The ownership of all records contained within the HMIS is retained by the organization/Agency that collected and entered or updated the client's information.

The collection and use of all personal information is guided by strict standards of confidentiality. A copy of our Privacy Policy describing our privacy practice is available to all clients upon request.

This policy may be amended at any time and amendments may affect information obtained before the date of change.