



Assembly Bill 210

Information Sharing for Homeless Adult and Family Multidisciplinary Teams

Overview

Assembly Bill 210 authorizes counties to establish homeless adult and family multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in order to expedite identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals and families to housing and supportive services. While state laws generally prohibit the sharing of an individual's confidential health, mental health, criminal history, and social services information, AB 210 authorizes MDT members to share such information to improve coordination of housing and supportive services, increase continuity of care, and decrease duplication of services. The law became effective on January 1, 2018.

Expected Outcomes

- Better quality service delivery to homeless individuals and families
- Increased ability to match homeless clients to appropriate services and housing
- Reduced costs to County systems by decreasing duplication of services to homeless clients and improving targeting of interventions

Who can participate?

- AB 210 MDTs may include a wide range of staff from County Departments, affiliated agencies (such as housing authorities or the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), contracted homeless service providers, other governmental agencies, and non-governmental agencies that have as one of their purposes the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals to housing and services).
- All participating agencies must sign a Participating Agency Agreement. Participating agency staff must complete the AB 210 training and sign a confidentiality agreement in order to begin sharing information.
- In the first phase of AB 210 implementation (targeted to begin in July 2018), six County departments/LAHSA and their contractors will participate. In the second phase (beginning around January 2019), additional agencies will be able to participate.

What information can be shared?

- AB 210 MDT members can share information that is otherwise confidential under state law if it is "generally relevant to the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless adults and families to housing and supportive services" and the agency that owns the data has authorized it to be shared.
- AB 210 authority does not supersede any federal laws or regulations.
- The County's AB 210 Protocol and Countywide Policies and Procedures include specific restrictions on information sharing under the law.
- Maintaining confidentiality remains fundamental. MDT members must be familiar with their own agency's confidentiality policies, in addition to the Countywide Policies and Procedures.

Examples of AB 210 Information Sharing

There are many ways that participating agencies may use the authority granted by AB 210. Here are two examples:

- **Outreach Teams:** Currently, outreach workers have limited access to information about clients; for example, they may not know whether an individual is on probation or receiving benefits such as CalFresh or CalWORKs. Under AB 210, they could legally access this information, enabling teams to connect clients to appropriate resources.
- **High-Cost Service User List:** The County produces a list of homeless clients who are heavy users of costly County services. Currently, the list only includes names and identifying information. Under AB 210, client service history and other relevant information can be shared, so that these vulnerable clients can be more effectively prioritized for housing and other services.

For more information about AB 210, please contact HIAdmin@ceo.lacounty.gov.