

September 24, 2009

Effective Response to RSR Demands, Next Steps

The year 2009 was the first time that Ryan White entities were required to start collecting and reporting client level data to HRSA/HAB, giving HRSA/HAB and its funded programs new information to determine outcomes resulting from services provided with Federal Ryan White funds.

The new client level data system, the Ryan White Services Report (RSR), represents a significant change from the earlier aggregate level data system. But despite the challenges of transitioning to a new and vastly different data reporting system, 89 percent of the 1,536 providers required to upload client level data had done so by the September 15 deadline. These are impressive numbers and represent extensive effort among grantees, providers, data staff and HRSA/HAB Project Officers in moving forward on this important initiative.

The RSR provides data on the characteristics of funded grantees, their service providers, and the clients served with program funds. Client level data will help HRSA and funded entities do a better job at monitoring outcomes achieved as a result of services provided with Ryan White Federal dollars. Client level data will also help HRSA address the disproportionate impact of HIV in communities of color by assessing organizational capacity and service utilization in minority communities, and help both HRSA and grantees monitor the appropriate use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funds.

So What's Next in Terms of the RSR?

Follow Up

If you are a grantee or provider who had trouble submitting a report or the client level data file, a member of the RSR TA Team will reach out to you to help complete submissions for this period or do problem-solving for the next submission.

Feedback

Grantees will receive feedback on their client data. In addition, the RSR TA Team will host a webcast on plans for HRSA/HAB's first six-month data report.

Lessons Learned

The first data submission was a learning experience for HRSA/HAB as well as for the grantees and providers. We are using this experience to identify ways to improve the system and to build additional resources for grantees.

Coordinated Technical Assistance

TA activities are continuing. The RSR TA Team coordinates closely across organizations and with HRSA/HAB Project Officers from every division to jointly review issues as they arise, to answer questions consistently, and to link grantees to the best TA resources.

More Tools and Materials

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Check out the new look of the RSR section of the TARGET Center website! This site will continue to be updated with new TA tools and information, including links to future and archived webcasts, on topics from the new funded scope requirement to software solutions for the RSR submission. You will also find links to T-REX, the Tool for RSR Export, created to assist grantees and providers currently not using an RSR-Ready System in the conversion of their client level data into the required XML format.

<http://www.careacttarget.org/rsr.asp>

(Not a US Government Website)

Tell Us More

We are looking for suggestions on ways we can better help you succeed with the RSR! We will continue improving the TA process so that the annual submission in December will go even more smoothly than this first submission. To do this, the TA Team hopes to rollout new tools and materials to help grantees improve upon their first submission. If you have ideas or feedback, please contact us at <RSR.TA@sphereinstitute.org>.