



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE CONTINUUM OF CARE HMIS PARTICIPATING AGENCY AGREEMENT

_____ (“AGENCY”) has elected to participate in the County of Riverside Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (“HMIS”) and therefore is entering into this HMIS Participating Agency Agreement (this “Agreement”). The AGENCY and its personnel are permitted to use HMIS and security services on their computer systems through an Internet connection. The HMIS is a database and case management system that collects and maintains information on the characteristics and service needs of clients. The system collects and stores client –level data, which can be used to generate unduplicated and aggregate reports to determine the use and effectiveness of the services being provided to the homeless and at risk populations.

The Riverside County Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions (HHPWS) (“HMIS LEAD”) is the HUD grantee responsible for administering the HMIS grant. HMIS LEAD is the system host and provides the personnel and administrative support to operate the County of Riverside CoC HMIS. HMIS LEAD is responsible for ordering, installing and maintaining the computer and network system, implementing the software solution, providing secured access for participating agencies, troubleshooting problems, and offering training and on-going technical support.

AGENCY agrees to abide by all laws, and the County of Riverside CoC HMIS Charter pertaining to client confidentiality, user conduct, security, and the ongoing functionality and stability of services and equipment used to support HMIS.

In consideration of their mutual undertakings and covenants, the AGENCY and HMIS LEAD agree as follows:

1. **General Understandings:**

- A. Definitions. In this Agreement, the following terms will have the following meanings:
 - i. “AGENCY staff” refers to employees, volunteers, contractors, or any other agents of the AGENCY.

- ii. “Breach” shall mean the acquisition, access, use or disclosure of Identifying Information in a manner not permitted as defined in any Federal or State law, including, but not limited to:
 - a. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 45 CFR section 164.502 (“HIPAA”);
 - b. The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, 42 USC 17921;
- iii. The California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Civil Code section 56.10 et seq.; “Client” refers to a person receiving services from the AGENCY.
- iv. “De-Identifying Information” (also referred to as “non-identifying” information) refers to data that has specific Client demographic information removed, to allow use of the data *without identifying* a specific Client.
- v. “Enter” or “entry” refers to the entry of any Client information into the HMIS.
- vi. “HMIS” refers to the Homeless Management Information System.
- vii. “HMIS staff” refers to the employees, contractors, or agents of HMIS LEAD assigned to administer the HMIS, as well as to analyze, review and report on the data contained in HMIS.
- viii. “Identifying Information” (also referred to as “confidential” data or information) refers to information about a Client that can be used to distinguish or trace the Client’s identity, either alone or when combined with other personal or identifying information using methods reasonably likely to be used.
- ix. “Information” refers to both De-Identifying Information and Identifying Information.
- x. “AGENCY” refers generally to any service provider or organization signing this document that is participating or planning to participate in the HMIS.
- xi. “Sharing,” or “information sharing” refers to entering information into HMIS, or providing Identifying Information to other agencies, organizations, individuals, or providers that do not participate in the HMIS.
- xii. “User” refers to AGENCY employees authorized to have, and having, access to the HMIS.

B. Use and Disclosure. Whenever AGENCY enters information into HMIS, such Identifying Information will be available to the HMIS staff who may use it to: administer HMIS, conduct analysis, coordinate services, and prepare reports to be submitted to others in de-identifying form. AGENCY use and disclosure of HMIS Identifying Information may occur only in accordance with HMIS Policies, Standard Operating Procedures.

C. Access. AGENCY agrees to allow HMIS and its subcontractors access to information provided by the AGENCY in accordance with this Agreement and to carry out its duties with respect to the HMIS, which includes without limitation,

HMIS administration, testing, problem identification and resolution, management of the HMIS database, and data aggregation and analysis activities, as permitted by applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

2. Confidentiality:

A. AGENCY shall not:

- i. enter information into the HMIS which it is not authorized to enter, or
- ii. share information that AGENCY is not authorized to share.

By entering information into the HMIS, AGENCY represents that it has the authority to enter such information into the HMIS. To the best of AGENCY's knowledge, any information entered into the HMIS does not violate any of the Client's rights, under any relevant federal, state, or local confidentiality laws, regulations or other restrictions applicable to Client information.

B. AGENCY agrees to comply with all federal and state regulations regarding the confidentiality of Identifying Information, including, but not limited to:

- i. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 45 CFR Parts 160, 162 and 164 ("HIPAA");
- ii. The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH Act");
- iii. The California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Civil Code section 56.10 et seq.;
- iv. California Welfare and Institutions Code section 5328 et seq.;
- v. California Evidence Code section 1010 et seq.;
- vi. Code of Federal Regulations, at 42 CFR Part 2.

C. To the extent that information entered by AGENCY into the HMIS is or becomes subject to additional restrictions, AGENCY will immediately inform HMIS in writing of such restrictions.

3. Display of Notice:

- i. Pursuant to the notice published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") on July 30, 2004, AGENCY will prominently display at each intake desk (or comparable location) the **HMIS Notice of Privacy Practices** approved by HMIS LEAD, that explains the Client rights associated with providing AGENCY staff with Identifying Information. It is AGENCY's responsibility to ensure that each Client understands his or her rights. Additionally, if AGENCY maintains a public webpage, the current

version of the **HMIS Notice of Privacy Practices** must be posted on the webpage. The current form of **HMIS Notice of Privacy Practices**, which may be modified from time to time at HMIS's LEAD's discretion, is attached to and incorporated into this Agreement by reference, and is available from HMIS LEAD or on its website <http://HMIS.LEAD.co.riverside.ca.us/homeless-programs>.

4. Information Collection, Release and Sharing Consent:

- A. Collection of Identifying Information. AGENCY must collect information by lawful and fair means with the knowledge or consent of the Client. Any Identifying Information collected by the AGENCY must be relevant to the purpose for which it is to be used. To the extent necessary for those purposes, Identifying Information should be accurate, complete and timely. . AGENCY must post Mandatory Collection Notice at each intake desk or comparable location. Privacy and Mandatory Collection Notices must be made available in writing at the client's request.

- B. Obtaining Client Consent. AGENCY will obtain the informed consent of the Client by having the Client sign the **Consent** form.

- C. Sharing. Prior to sharing any of a Client's information with an AGENCY or organization outside of the HMIS, except as provided in the **HMIS Notice of Privacy Practices**, approved by HMIS LEAD, that explains the Client rights associated with providing AGENCY staff with Identifying Information, AGENCY will provide the Client with a copy of its client consent and/or release of information form ("Consent"). Following an explanation regarding the entity or individual that the information will be shared with and how it will be used, the AGENCY will obtain the informed consent of the Client by having the Client sign the **Consent** form specific to that other AGENCY or outside organization.

- D. Consent Form. AGENCY shall keep all copies of the signed **Consent** form for a period of seven (7) years after the Client signed the consent form. Such forms shall be available for inspection and copying by HMIS and/or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, at any time.

- E. Refusal of Services. AGENCY may not refuse or decline services to a Client or potential Client if that person:
 - i. objects to the entry of its information in the HMIS; or
 - ii. refuses to share his or her personal information with the AGENCY or cannot remember certain information; however, some information may be required by the program to determine eligibility for housing or services, to assess needed services, or to fulfill reporting requirements.

5. HMIS Policies and Standard Operating Procedures:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, AGENCY's use of and participation in the HMIS, and the use, disclosure, and submission of data to and from the HMIS shall, at all times, be governed by the **HMIS Notice of Privacy Practices** and the **HMIS Charter**, as revised from time to time, at the sole discretion of HMIS. Such **HMIS Charter** is incorporated in this Agreement by reference and is located at <http://HMIS LEAD.co.riverside.ca.us/homeless-programs/management-information-system>

In the event of a conflict between this Agreement and the **HMIS Charter**, the latter shall control.

6. Sharing HMIS Data:

AGENCY shall not release any Identifying Information received from the HMIS to any other person or organization without the written informed consent of the Client, unless such disclosure is required by law or in accordance with the **HMIS Notice of Privacy Practices**.

Basic Client profile data entered into HMIS (with consent), which includes Client demographic data will be shared with all Agencies in the HMIS system in an effort to reduce the event of duplicative Client records and/ or intakes. This includes the following data elements:

- 3.1 Name
- 3.2 Social Security Number
- 3.3 Date of Birth
- 3.4 Race
- 3.5 Ethnicity
- 3.6 Gender
- 3.7 Veteran Status
- 3.15 Relationship to Head of Household

Client's project level data will only be shared with agencies that have signed an **Inter-Agency Data Sharing Agreement**. This includes the following data elements:

- 3.8 Disabling Condition
- 3.10 Project Start Date
- 3.11 Project Exit Date
- 3.12 Destination
- 3.16 Client Location
- 3.20 Housing Move-in Date
- 3.917 Living Situation
- 4.2 Income and Sources
- 4.3 Non-Cash Benefits
- 4.4 Health Insurance
- 4.5 Physical Disability
- 4.6 Developmental Disability
- 4.7 Chronic Health Condition
- 4.8 HIV/AIDS
- 4.9 Mental Health Problem
- 4.10 Substance Abuse
- 4.11 Domestic Violence
- 4.12 Contact
- 4.13 Date of Engagement
- Enrollment History (Project and Organization name)

7. Client Inspection/Correction:

Upon receipt of a written request from a Client, AGENCY shall allow the Client to inspect and obtain a copy of his or her own information during regular business hours. AGENCY is not required to provide a Client access to information (a) compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or for use in, a civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding; (b) about another individual; (c) obtained under a promise of confidentiality if disclosure would reveal the source of the information; and (d) which, if disclosed, would be reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual. AGENCY must allow a Client to correct information that is inaccurate or incomplete; provided, however, that prior to correcting such information, AGENCY shall consult with HMIS. Such consultation is necessary to ensure proper coordination between the AGENCY's response and the capabilities of the HMIS system, unless the requested correction is a routine correction of a common data element for which a field exists in HMIS (e.g., date of birth, prior residence, social security number, etc.). AGENCY is not required to remove any information as a result of a correction, but may, in the alternative, mark information as inaccurate or incomplete and may supplement it with additional information.

8. Security:

AGENCY shall maintain the security and confidentiality of information in the HMIS and is responsible for the actions of its employees, contractors, volunteers, or agents and their proper training and supervision. AGENCY agrees to follow the **HMIS Policies and Standard Operating Procedures** on security (hereafter "Security Rule"), which by this reference is incorporated herein and which may be modified from time to time at HMIS LEAD's discretion. At its discretion, HMIS LEAD may conduct periodic assessments of AGENCY to monitor its compliance with the Security Rule. The steps AGENCY must take to maintain security and confidentiality include, but are not limited to:

- A. Access. AGENCY will permit password-protected access to the HMIS only to authorized AGENCY staff who need information from the HMIS for legitimate business purposes (such as to provide services to the Client, to conduct evaluation or research, to administer the program, or to comply with regulatory requirements). AGENCY will limit the access of such staff to only those records that are immediately relevant to their work assignments.
- B. User Code of Ethics. Prior to permitting any User to access HMIS, AGENCY will require the User to sign an **HMIS User Agreement/Code of Ethics** ("User Code of Ethics"), which is incorporated herein by this reference and which may be amended from time to time at HMIS LEAD's discretion. AGENCY will comply with and enforce the User Code of Ethics and will inform HMIS LEAD immediately in writing of any breaches of the User Code of Ethics.

i. Any staff, volunteer or other person who has been granted a User ID and password and is found to have committed a breach of system security and/or Client confidentiality will have his/her access to the database revoked immediately.

ii. In the event of a breach of system security or Client confidentiality, the Director of the AGENCY shall notify HMIS LEAD within twenty-four (24) hours. Any AGENCY that is found to have had breaches of system security and/or Client confidentiality shall enter a period of probation, during which technical assistance shall be provided to help the AGENCY prevent further breaches.

Probation shall remain in effect until HMIS LEAD has evaluated the AGENCY's security and confidentiality measures and found them compliant with the policies stated in this Agreement and the User Code of Ethics. Subsequent violations of system security may result in suspension from the HMIS.

C. User Authentication. AGENCY will permit access to HMIS only with use of a User authentication system consisting of a username and a password which the User may not share with others. Written information pertaining to User access (e.g., username and password) shall not be stored or displayed in any publicly accessible location. Passwords shall be between eight and twelve characters long and include both letters and numbers. Passwords shall not be, or include the username, the HMIS vendor's name, the HMIS LEAD name, the AGENCY's name, or consist entirely of any word found in the common dictionary or any of the forenamed words spelled backwards. The use of default passwords on initial entry into the HMIS is allowed so long as the User changes the default password on first use. Individual Users must not be able to log on to more than one workstation at a time, or be able to log on to the network at more than one location at a time. Passwords and usernames shall be consistent with guidelines issued from time to time by HUD and HMIS LEAD. Passwords and usernames shall not be exchanged electronically without HMIS LEAD's approval.

D. Hard Copies. The AGENCY must secure any paper or other hard copy containing Identifying Information that is generated either by or for the HMIS LEAD, including, but not limited to reports, data entry forms and signed consent forms. Any paper or other hard copy generated by or for the HMIS LEAD that contains such information must be supervised at all times when it is in a public area. If AGENCY staff is not present, the information must be secured in areas that are not publicly accessible. Agencies wishing to dispose of hard copies containing Identifying Information must do so by shredding the documents or by other equivalent means with approval by HMIS LEAD. Written information specifically pertaining to User access (e.g., username and password) must not be stored or displayed in any publicly accessible location.

E. Training/Assistance. HMIS LEAD will conduct ongoing basic confidentiality training for all persons with access to the HMIS and will train all persons who may receive

information produced from the HMIS on the confidentiality of such information. AGENCY will participate in such training as is provided from time to time by HMIS LEAD. Representatives of HMIS LEAD will be reasonably available during HMIS's defined weekday business hours for technical assistance (e.g., troubleshooting and report generation).

9. Information Entry Standards:

- A. Information entered into HMIS by AGENCY will be truthful, accurate, complete and timely to the best of AGENCY's knowledge.
- B. AGENCY will **not** solicit from Clients or enter information about Clients into the HMIS database unless the information is required for a legitimate business purpose such as to provide services to the Client, to conduct evaluation or research, to administer the program, or to comply with regulatory requirements.
- C. AGENCY will only enter information into the HMIS database with respect to individuals which it serves or intends to serve, including through referral.
- D. AGENCY will enter information into the HMIS database within seven (7) calendar days of data collection.
- E. AGENCY will **not** alter or over-write information entered by another AGENCY.

HMIS LEAD reserves the right to, in its sole discretion, delete or segregate information entered into the HMIS by an AGENCY, or take any other appropriate measures, to maintain the accuracy and integrity of the HMIS or to avoid compromising the HMIS goal of maintaining unduplicated counts of Clients.

AGENCY is responsible for maintaining timely, accurate and complete data in HMIS and remaining in compliance with federal regulations as well as any outside applicable regulations such as the HIPAA standards.

HMIS LEAD will conduct an annual monitoring site visit to ensure compliance with HUD and Riverside County CoC HMIS requirements. HMIS LEAD will provide utilization reports to participating agencies on a regular basis to include data quality and tracking.**10. Use of the HMIS:**

- A. AGENCY will not access Identifying Information for any individual for whom services are neither being sought nor provided by the AGENCY. AGENCY may access Identifying Information of the Clients it serves and may request, in writing addressed to HMIS LEAD's authorized officer shown on the signature page of this Agreement, access to statistical, non-identifying information on both the Clients it serves and Clients served by other HMIS Participating Agencies.

- B. AGENCY may report non-identifying information to other entities for funding or planning purposes. Such non-identifying information shall not directly identify individual Clients.
- C. AGENCY and HMIS LEAD will report only non-identifying information in response to requests for information from the HMIS.
- D. AGENCY will use the HMIS for its legitimate business purposes only.
- E. AGENCY will not use the HMIS to defraud federal, state or local governments, individuals or entities, or conduct any illegal activity.
- F. AGENCY shall not use the HMIS to aggregate data to compare the performance of other Participating Agencies, without the express written consent of HMIS LEAD and each of the Participating Agencies being compared.
- G. Notwithstanding any other Section of this Agreement, the parties may use or disclose for any lawful purpose information that: (a) is in the possession of the party prior to the time of the disclosure to the party through the HMIS and was not acquired, directly or indirectly, from the HMIS; or (b) is made available to the party by a third party who has the legal right to do so.

11. Proprietary Rights of the HMIS:

A. AGENCY or HMIS LEAD staff shall assign passwords and access codes for all AGENCY Staff that meets other privacy, training and conditions contained within this Agreement.

B. AGENCY or HMIS LEAD staff shall not assign passwords or access codes to any other person not directly connected to or working for their own AGENCY.

C. AGENCY shall be solely responsible for all acts and omissions of its Users, and all other individuals who access the HMIS either through the AGENCY or by use of any password, identifier or log-on received or obtained, directly or indirectly, lawfully or unlawfully, from the AGENCY or any of the AGENCY's Authorized Users, with respect to the HMIS and/or any confidential and/or other information accessed in connection therewith, and all such acts and omissions shall be deemed to be the acts and omissions of the AGENCY. Each AGENCY shall certify:

- i. That its Users have received training regarding the confidentiality of HMIS information under all applicable federal, state, and local laws and agree to protect the Information in compliance with such laws and this Agreement;
- ii. That its Users shall only access the HMIS for purposes approved by the AGENCY and that are consistent with this Agreement;

iii. That its Users have agreed to hold any passwords, or other means for accessing the HMIS, in a confidential manner and to release them to no other individual. AGENCY shall ensure that all Users understand that sharing passwords and other means for accessing the HMIS is expressly prohibited;

iv. That its Users agree and understand that their failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement may result in their exclusion from the HMIS and may constitute cause for disciplinary action by the AGENCY; and

v. That it has restricted access to the HMIS only to the Users that the AGENCY has identified pursuant to this Section.

D. AGENCY shall terminate the rights of a User immediately upon the User's termination from his or her position. In the alternative, AGENCY must immediately notify HMIS LEAD staff of the User's termination to allow HMIS LEAD staff to terminate the User's access rights. The AGENCY is responsible for removing HMIS Users from the system.

E. AGENCY shall be diligent not to cause in any manner or way, corruption of the HMIS, and AGENCY agrees to be responsible for any damage it may cause.

12. HMIS Administrators Council:

The County of Riverside Continuum of Care (CoC) delegates oversight and guidance of the HMIS and related activities to the HMIS Administrators Council ("HMIS COUNCIL"). A list of the current members of the HMIS COUNCIL may be obtained from <http://HMIS.LEAD.co.riverside.ca.us/homeless-programs>. The HMIS LEAD staff will consult with the HMIS COUNCIL from time to time regarding issues such as revision to the form of this Agreement. Written AGENCY complaints that are not resolved may be forwarded to the HMIS COUNCIL which will try to reach a voluntary resolution of the complaint.

12. Insurance

HMIS Data sharing participating agencies must maintain insurance as provided in subrecipients contract with DPSS.

13. Limitation of Liability and Indemnification:

A. Except as provided in this Section, no party to this Agreement shall assume any additional liability of any kind due to its execution of this Agreement or its participation in the HMIS. It is the intent of the parties that each party shall remain liable, to the extent provided by law, regarding its own acts and omissions; but that no party shall assume additional liability on its own behalf or

liability for the acts of any other person or entity through participation in HMIS except for the acts and omissions of its own employees, volunteers, agents or contractors. The parties specifically agree that this Agreement is for the benefit of the parties only and creates no rights in any third party.

B. AGENCY agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless HMIS LEAD, including its directors, officers, employees, representatives, and agents from and against any and all claims and liabilities (including, without limitation, all damages, costs, and expenses, including legal fees and disbursements paid or incurred) arising from the intentional acts or omissions, negligence, or strict liability of AGENCY, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, or agents, or AGENCY's breach of this Agreement, including any breach associated with Identifying information. This Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

C. Without limiting any other provision of this Agreement, AGENCY and its Users shall be solely responsible for all decisions and actions taken or not taken involving services, treatment, patient care, utilization management, and quality management for their respective patients and Clients resulting from or in any way related to the use of the HMIS or the Information made available thereby. AGENCY and Users shall have no recourse against, and hereby waive, any claims against HMIS LEAD for any loss, damage, claim or cost relating to or resulting from its own use or misuse of the HMIS.

D. AGENCY acknowledges and agrees that the HMIS is an information management tool only and that it contemplates and requires the involvement of Agencies and Users that are qualified to maintain, collect and enter information into the HMIS. AGENCY further acknowledges and agrees that HMIS LEAD has not represented its services as having the ability to perform any tasks that constitute the practice of medicine or of other professional or academic disciplines. HMIS LEAD shall not be responsible for any errors, misstatements, inaccuracies, or omissions regarding the content of the HMIS, although every effort has been made to ensure its quality and accuracy. AGENCY assumes all risk for selection and use of the content in the HMIS.

E. All data to which access is made through the HMIS originates from Participating Agencies, and not from HMIS LEAD. All such data is subject to change arising from numerous factors, including without limitation, changes to Client information made at the request of the Client, changes in the Client's condition, the passage of time and other factors. HMIS LEAD neither initiates the transmission of any data nor monitors the specific content of data being transmitted. Without limiting any other provision of this Agreement, HMIS LEAD shall have no responsibility for or liability related to the accuracy, content, currency, completeness, content or delivery of any data either provided by AGENCY, or used by AGENCY, pursuant to this Agreement.

F. Access to the HMIS and the information obtained by AGENCY pursuant to the use of those services are provided “as is” and “as available.” AGENCY is solely responsible for any and all acts or omissions taken or made in reliance on the HMIS or the information in the HMIS, including inaccurate or incomplete information. It is expressly agreed that in no event shall HMIS LEAD be liable for any special, indirect, consequential, or exemplary damages, including but not limited to, loss of profits or revenues, loss of use, or loss of information or data, whether a claim for any such liability or damages is premised upon breach of contract, breach of warranty, negligence, strict liability, or any other theories of liability, even if HMIS LEAD has been apprised of the possibility or likelihood of such damages occurring. HMIS LEAD disclaims any and all liability for erroneous transmissions and loss of service resulting from communication failures by telecommunication service providers or the HMIS.

14. Limitation of Liability:

HMIS LEAD shall not be liable for any cessation, delay or interruption of services, nor for any malfunction of hardware, software or equipment.

15. Disclaimer of Warranties:

HMIS LEAD makes no warranties, express or implied, including warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, to any AGENCY or any other person or entity as to the services of the HMIS or as to any other matter.

16. Additional Terms and Conditions:

A. AGENCY will abide by such guidelines as are promulgated by HUD and HMIS LEAD from time to time regarding administration of the HMIS.

B. AGENCY and HMIS LEAD intend to abide by applicable State and Federal laws. Should any term of this Agreement be inconsistent with applicable law, or should additional terms be required by applicable law, AGENCY and HMIS LEAD agree to modify the terms of this Agreement so as to comply with applicable law.

C. Neither HMIS LEAD nor AGENCY will transfer or assign any rights or obligations regarding the HMIS without the written consent of the other party.

D. This Agreement will be in force until terminated by either party. Either party may terminate this Agreement with thirty (30) days written notice. Either party may also terminate this Agreement immediately upon a material breach of this Agreement by the other party, including but not limited to a breach of the ***HMIS Charter (Policies and Standard Operating Procedures)*** by AGENCY. Upon termination of this Agreement, AGENCY shall remain liable for (and nothing in this Agreement shall prevent HMIS LEAD from recovering) any fees, costs, or expenses that have been incurred prior to the

termination of this Agreement. HMIS LEAD and the remaining Participating Agencies will maintain their rights to use all of the information previously entered by AGENCY except to the extent a restriction is imposed by the Client or applicable law.

E. Copies of AGENCY data will be provided to the AGENCY upon termination of this Agreement at the AGENCY's written request to HMIS LEAD made within sixty (60) days after the termination of this Agreement. Information will be provided on CDs or other mutually agreed upon media. Unless otherwise specified in writing, copies of data will be delivered to AGENCY within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of written requests for data copies. HMIS LEAD reserves the right to charge AGENCY's HMIS actual costs for providing such data to AGENCY.

F. Except as otherwise provided, no action taken by either party, or its officers, employees or agents, pursuant to this Agreement, shall be deemed to constitute an action of the other party, or shall be construed to place the parties in a relationship of partners, joint ventures, principal and agent, or employer and employee, or shall be deemed to confer upon either party any express or implied power, right or authority to enter into any agreement or commitment, express or implied, or to incur any obligation or liability on behalf of the other party except as expressly provided herein. HMIS LEAD and AGENCY intend and agree that they and their respective agents or employees shall serve as independent contractors and not as employees of the other party, and this Agreement shall not be considered a hiring by either party or a contract of employment.

G. This Agreement may be amended or modified, and any of the terms, covenants, representations, warranties or conditions of this Agreement may be waived, only by a written instrument executed by the Parties, or in the case of a waiver, by the party waiving compliance.

H. Any waiver by any party of any condition, or of the breach of any provision, term, covenant, representation or warranty contained in this Agreement, in any one or more instances, shall not be deemed to be or construed as a further or continuing waiver of any such condition or breach of any other condition or the breach of any other provision, term, covenant, representation, or warranty of this Agreement.

I. Neither party shall assign its rights or delegate its duties hereunder without the prior written consent of the other, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld. All of the terms, provisions, covenants, conditions and obligations of this Agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

J. Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be conclusively deemed to have been received by a party to this Agreement on the day it is delivered to such party at the address indicated in the signature block below, or at such other address as such party shall specify to the other party in writing, or if sent by registered or certified mail, on the third business day after the date on which it is mailed to such party at said address.

K. This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the matters contemplated by this Agreement and supersedes and replaces all prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings, oral or written, with regard to these matters.

L. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provisions of this Agreement that can be given effect without the invalid or unenforceable provisions, and all unaffected provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect as if this Agreement had been executed without such invalid or unenforceable provisions.

M. The Parties affirm that this Agreement has been entered into in the State of California and will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, notwithstanding any state's choice of law rules to the contrary. Any action to enforce, challenge or construe the terms or making of this Agreement or to recover for its breach shall be litigated exclusively in a state or federal court located in the State of California.

This Agreement is executed between (AGENCY) and (HMIS LEAD) and upon execution the AGENCY will be given access to the HMIS with the terms herein set forth. This agreement will be signed by the Executive Director at the Participating AGENCY.

Tanya Torno

HMIS LEAD	SIGNATURE	DATE
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AGENCY NAME

AGENCY CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE	DATE
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I have read the AGENCY Agreement and understand that this technology is for HMIS purposes only.