Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care
Common Assessment Tool Transition Announcement

Purpose of this Listserv Message
This message announces the transition plan for the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care's (BoSCoC) new common assessment tool.

Target Audience
Ohio BoSCoC Members

Background Information
As part of the federal Coordinated Entry requirements for homeless response systems, CoCs must designate a common assessment tool and implement a standardized assessment process. The Ohio BoSCoC is releasing a new common assessment tool, the ***Housing Assessment and Resource Prioritization (HARP) Tool***, which will replace the VI-SPDAT. The HARP Tool is intended to support a more person-centered and trauma-informed assessment process, and to better aid decision-making when prioritizing clients for available resources.

Transition to HARP Tool
The Ohio BoSCoC is using a phased transition process to prepare providers to complete HARP Tools with clients and get ready for VI-SPDAT retirement. Following are the phases of HARP Tool transition process and timeline for each phase:

Timeline: May 12, 2025 onward

Complete HARP Tool E-Learning Course, Review New Guidance, Review HARP Tools
Provider staff responsible for completing common assessment tools with clients, including those previously trained on the VI-SPDAT, can now access the **Administering the HARP Tool** e-learning course in the E-Learning Center. You can find instructions for accessing the E-Learning Center here - https://cohhio.org/boscoc/coordinated-entry/ (scroll down to the HARP Tool section)
Remember, as outlined in the Ohio BoSCoC CE Operational Manual , common assessment tool training is required for all staff who complete the tools with clients
All staff who previously completed the VI-SPDAT e-learning course must complete the new Administering the HARP Tool course

Supporting materials and updated guidance for the HARP Tool are available at https://cohhio.org/boscoc/coordinated-entry/

Timeline: June 3, 2025

HARP Tool Available in HMIS
Upon completion of the required e-learning course noted above, providers may begin entering HARP Tool data into HMIS as tools are completed with clients
Important: On **June 2**, HMIS will undergo a transition to the HARP Tool. Please refrain from entering **assessment** data into HMIS on that day.
VI-SPDAT is Retired
As of June 3, 2025, the VI-SPDAT forms will no longer be available on COHHIO's Coordinated Entry webpage, and they will no longer be available in HMIS for documenting a newly completed tool
Previously completed VI-SPDAT tools will still remain visible in HMIS, and those scores will continue to populate on the Prioritization Report

Timeline: June 3, 2025 onward

Start Completing HARP Tools with Clients
Upon completion of the required e-learning course noted above, provider staff may begin completing HARP Tools with clients newly entering the homeless response system
Please note, you will not be able to enter HARP Tool data into HMIS until June 2025
Clients who had a VI-SPDAT assessment completed within the past year, but who exited the system and are now returning to shelter or engaging with a CE Access Point, should be assessed using the HARP Tool
Clients with an active VI-SPDAT (less than 1 year old) who are still receiving services within the homeless response system should not be reassessed using the HARP Tool until it is time for reassessment (i.e., one year passed since VI-SPDAT and/or client experienced significant changes in circumstances)
    A tool will be made available on the COHHIO website to help users understand how HARP Tool scores can be compared to VI-SPDAT scores for prioritization decision-making purposes

Timeline: June 17, 2025

Live HARP Tool Transition Training
A **live training** will be held on **June 17 at 11:00am** to address user questions and provide additional implementation support.
The training will share background information on the transition from the VI-SPDAT to the new HARP Tool, along with an overview of key features of the HARP Tool and guidance and locating available resources. Staff who administer the HARP tool are encouraged to complete the e-learning course and review the HARP Tool guidance documents for more comprehensive training.

Details are below:
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Time: 11am – 12:30pm
Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/UEDli1atRPiSlyn_eOvbzA
Training will be recorded and posted

Questions

For any questions about this message or related topics, please contact the CoC Team at ohioboscoc@cohhio.org.