

HARP Tool FAQ

Ohio BoSCoC

Introduction

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is intended to serve as a supplement to the available trainings and guidance materials related to the HARP Tool. It provides additional clarification on commonly asked questions and scenarios that may arise during the assessment process.

This is a living document and will be updated regularly as new questions and guidance become available. Users are encouraged to check back periodically for the most up-to-date information.

Anyone conducting assessments using the HARP Tool should first review the primary guidance documents available on the Coordinated Entry page of the COHHIO website at <https://cohhio.org/boscoc/coordinated-entry/>, as well as complete the *Administering the HARP Tool* training available through the eLearning Center. These resources provide the foundational knowledge needed to use the tool effectively and compliantly.

Question	HARP Tool & Question Number Reference	Answer	Last Updated
If someone owes money to a friend or family member for staying in their home, how should that response be documented in the HARP Tool?	HARP HH w/o Children Q8 - In the past three years, have any adults in the household lost housing because they weren't able to pay rent and/or utilities or contribute to household expenses?	If a client owes money to a friend or family member for their stay, and they are unable to pay and are/were being asked to leave, this should be considered a threat to their housing stability. In this case, the assessor should answer "yes".	6/17/25
Referring to past HMIS enrollment. If a client is currently reporting that they have no income, but during a previously program enrollment they reported having income, what response should we document in the HARP Tool?	HARP HH w/o Children Q9 – Did any adult household members report any income in their current program enrollment? Income Sources employment, unemployment insurance, VA service-connected/non-service-connected disability compensation, private disability insurance, worker's comp, TANF, general assistance (GA),	The assessor should document the response that reflects the income information reported in the current program enrollment. In this case, the assessment response will indicate the client has no income.	6/17/2025

HARP Tool FAQ

Ohio BoSCoC

	retirement income from Social Security, Pension or retirement income from a former job, child support, alimony and other spousal support, other income		
What if a client lost their Social Security income due to fraud, over payment, or incarceration? What response should we document in the HARP Tool?	HARP HH w/o Children Q9	If the client is currently not receiving income , regardless of the reason, and their income is truly zero , then the assessor should record the HARP Tool assessment response that indicates the client has zero income . Please note: This guidance applies specifically to the HARP Tool questions and responses. Program eligibility determination requirements and/or program administration guidance may differ in how income should be calculated or considered.	6/17/2025
What constitutes owing money to a landlord?	HARP HH without Children Q10 - Do any adults in the household owe money to a past landlord or utility company?	A person is considered to owe money to a landlord if there was a formal rental agreement—either verbal or written—and they have an outstanding balance due to the landlord based on that agreement. This applies to current or past rental situations and does not require a formal eviction to be on record. If the household has unpaid rent under the terms of any such agreement, the assessor should respond “yes.”	6/17/2025

HARP Tool FAQ

Ohio BoSCoC

In the past year, has a credit score caused a landlord to deny any youth household members for rental housing? If a client is unsure what their credit history is, what response should we document in the HARP Tool?	HARP YYA HH without Children Q11 - In the past year, has a credit score caused a landlord to deny any youth household members (18-24) for rental housing?	First, if a client seems unsure about their credit history or unclear about what credit history is or what may impact it, it is acceptable for assessors to provide further clarification to help the client answer the question. After providing clarification, if they still do not know if their credit affected their housing assessors should document a response of "client doesn't know".	6/17/2025
What types of housing or services interventions are recommended for clients based on their HARP score?	N/A	Currently, the CoC team does not plan to release specific guidance linking HARP Tool scores to recommendations for particular housing interventions. HARP Tool scores should be considered alongside other key factors—such as chronic homelessness, disability status, and insights from case conferencing—to inform prioritization decisions that follow the required Order of Priority. The prioritization report available in Rme can be downloaded and sorted by score or possibly chronic homeless status to help the PH Prioritization workgroup identify households with higher service needs and longer homeless histories. In the future, the CoC may provide more detailed guidance	6/17/2025

HARP Tool FAQ

Ohio BoSCoC

		regarding how HARP scores reflect client need for particular types of assistance. But this will not be done until after extensive evaluation of the tool can be completed.	
Since some of the HARP Tool questions direct assessors to document a response based on current HMIS data for the particular client, could HMIS instead just automatically populate the responses to those questions?	N/A	This feature is not available at this time.	6/17/2025
If a household has been housed by an RRH or PSH project is still actively receiving assistance, do they need to complete a new HARP tool every year thereafter?	N/A	No. Clients who are housed in either Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) do not need to be re-assessed annually using the HARP Tool. If a client is currently in RRH with the intention of transitioning to PSH, their most recent HARP Tool score should be considered during prioritization discussions.	6/17/2025