

Universal Project Stay Elements (One or More Value(s) Per Client or Household Project Stay)

3.8 *Disabling Condition*

Rationale To indicate whether or not clients have a disabling condition. This data element is to be used with other information to identify whether a client meets the criteria for chronic homelessness.

Data Collection Instruction Record whether the client has a disabling condition at the time of each project start. A disabling condition is one or more of the following:

- A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that:
 - 1) Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration;
 - 2) Substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently; and
 - 3) Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions.
- A developmental disability, as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002); or
- The disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising from the etiologic agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV).

Additionally, if the client is a veteran who is disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service and whose disability meets the disability definition defined in Section 223 of the social security act, they should be identified as having a disabling condition.

It is not necessary to provide documentation to complete this data element. If a screening or assessment indicates that a client has a disabling condition, enter 'Yes.' Only projects that receive funding with eligibility criteria that require documentation of the disabling condition should require documentation.

There should be one and only one value for *Disabling Condition* for each project stay. If the status changes over the course of the project stay, or the information was recorded incorrectly at the time of the project start, correct the record. The value should always reflect the known status of a client's disabling condition. Sharing information about a client's disabling condition between agencies should be handled consistent with the continuum's policies and procedures.

Some projects may collect more detailed information about specific disabilities in other data elements. Some systems are set up to default to 'Yes' in this data element based on responses to data elements 4.5-4.10 (including a 'Yes' response to the dependent field in those elements 'Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs ability to live independently'), but it is not required. Systems that automatically populate *Disabling Condition* based on responses to data elements 4.5-4.10 must still allow a user to enter 'Yes' for *Disabling Condition* without a corresponding specific disability in data elements 4.5-4.10.

In addition, a client indicating the following sources of *Income* (data element 4.2) can be considered to have a disabling condition: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation or VA Non-Service-Connected Disability Pension.

For residential homeless assistance programs, client intake as part of the program admission process must be separated from the collection of disability information in order to comply with Fair Housing laws and practices, unless this information is required to determine program eligibility or is needed to determine whether applicants need units with special features or if they have special needs related to communication.

Data Element Fields and Responses

Field	Dependency	Response Category/ Data Type		Descriptions
1 Disabling Condition	None	0	No	<p>One or more of the following:</p> <p>A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration; 2) Substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently; and 3) Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions. <p>A developmental disability, as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002).</p> <p>The disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising from the etiologic agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV).</p> <p>A veteran who is disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service and whose disability meets the disability definition defined in Section 223 of the social security act.</p>
		1	Yes	

4.5 – 4.10 Disability Elements

Rationale To indicate whether clients have any disabling special needs which contribute to their experience of homelessness or may be a factor in housing.

Data Collection Instruction In separate fields, indicate:

- (1) If each client has the indicated disability; and
- (2) If there is indication that the disability is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration (applicable to most of the individual disability elements) and substantially impair the client's ability to live independently.

Individual *Disability* records created at project start, update, and project exit are to reflect the information as of the date of each phase of data collection. *Disability* update records should be created at any time during a project stay if a client's physical disability status changes. 'Information Date' for those records must reflect the date of project start, update, and the date of project exit, respectively.

If a client's physical disability status was recorded incorrectly at entry, update, or exit, correct the existing record rather than creating a new update record.

Unless the project funder requires documentation for recordkeeping purposes, clients are not require documentation of the disability, not does entering the information in the HMIS constitute a "diagnosis" by the worker who did the data collection or recording.

If the disability is present and is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, the corresponding element 3.8 Disabling Condition should also be "yes" whether by manual data entry, or in some systems, automatic population. It is acceptable for a client to answer 'Yes' to having a physical disability, and also answer 'No,' that the disability is not expected to be of long-continued and indefinite

duration and substantially impair ability to live independently, although a disability of such type may not qualify clients for programs meant for severely disabled people and may not indicate a “disabling condition” according to the universal data element 3.8.

For residential homeless assistance programs, client intake as part of the program admission process must be separated from the collection of disability information in order to comply with Fair Housing laws and practices, unless this information is required to determine program eligibility or is needed to determine whether applicants need units with special features or if they have special needs related to communication. Projects should be especially sensitive to the collection of disability information from clients under the age of 18. In households with children accompanied by an adult, children’s disabilities should be determined based on an interview with the adult in the household.