QRG – Prior Living Situation – Data Element 3.917

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WHAT IS A QRG – QRG stands for **Quick Reference Guide**. Quick Reference Guides are short documents that provide concise practical information and advice on specific topics. Sometimes known as "cheat sheets" quick reference guides are designed for users who know the material or task but need something in front of them to remind them of the steps.

WHO THIS GUIDE IS FOR **–** This is guide is to assist end users with the set of questions for the data element Prior Living Situation.

OVERVIEW OF PRIOR LIVING SITUATION QUESTIONS

Data Collected For	**Head of Household and All Adults**
Data Collection Point	**Project Start; HUD Universal Entry Assessment**

The Prior Living Situation (HUD Element 3.917) is a set of 5 questions meant to identify the type of living situation and length of stay in a particular situation immediately prior to *Project Start* for all adults and heads of household. This particular information also helps to determine if a client appears to meet the criteria for chronic homelessness.
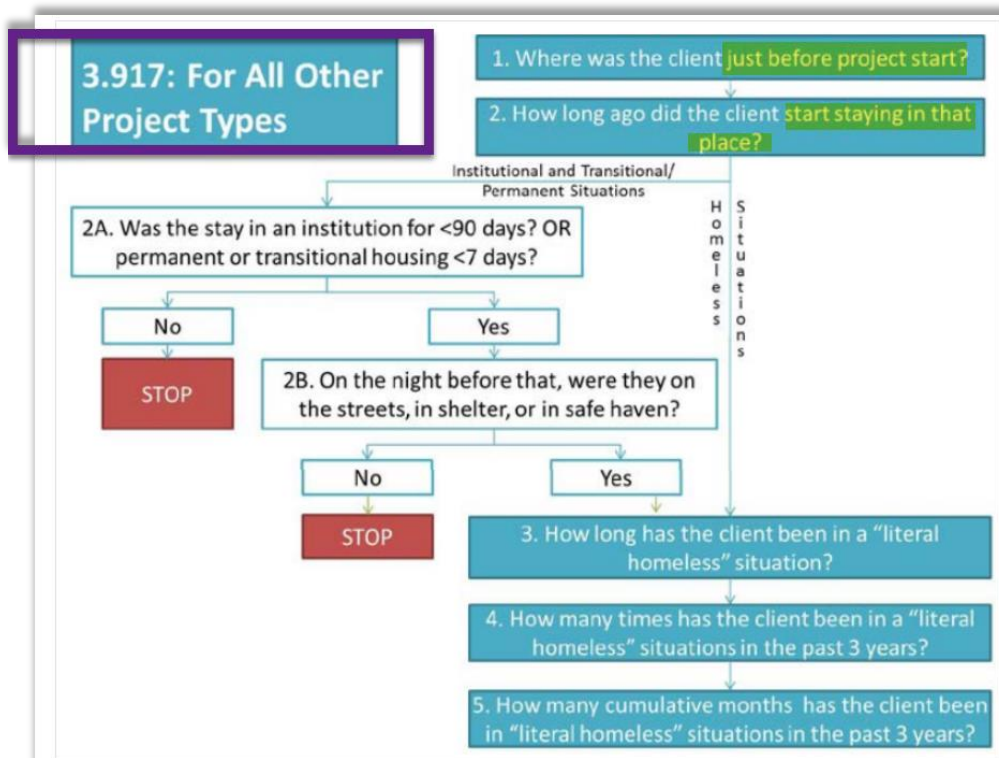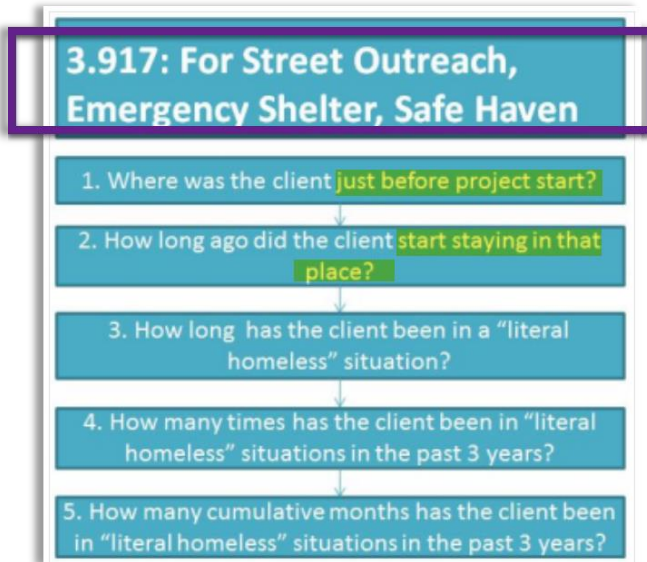
1. **Type of Residence** (where did you stay **last night?**)
2. **Length of Stay in Prior** Living Situation (how long where you in the place you were at before seeking today's services?
3. **Approximate Date Homelessness Started** (what date did **this last episode** of homelessness start?
4. **Number of Times Experiencing Homelessness** (Emergency Shelter, Place Not Meant for Habitation, or Safe Haven) in the **Last 3 Years**
5. **Number of Months Experiencing Homelessness (Emergency Shelter, Place Not Meant for Habitation, or Safe Haven) in the Last 3 Years**

There a few things to consider when getting answers to the Prior Living Situation questions:

Definitions and Details
Homeless Situation - Emergency Shelter, Place Not Meant for Habitation or Safe Haven **Institutional Situation** - Foster care, hospital or other medical facility, jail / prison, long-term care facility, nursing home, psychiatric facility. **Transitional or Permanent Situation** - Hotel paid without voucher, owned housing, rented housing, permanent supportive housing, residential project with no homeless criteria, stay or living with friends / family, transitional housing.
A **break in homelessness** is a time when a client stays in a place that is not considered a "homeless situation". Episodes of homelessness are separated by a break of: • At least 90 days in an Institutional situation   and/or • 7 nights in a Transitional or Permanent Housing situation.
The ***Approximate date homelessness started*** data element, as defined by HUD, • Is the date the client started experiencing homelessness THIS TIME. • It is **not** the approximate date the client experienced homelessness ever.
The number of months client has experienced homelessness in the last 3 years should be rounded up to the next whole number of months.

DIAGRAM: 3.917 PRIOR LIVING SITUATION QUESTIONS

The following diagrams walks you thru the Prior Living Situation questions based on project type.

Example 1: Jane Goes to an Emergency Shelter

Client	Jane
Project Type	Emergency Shelter
Project Start	10/01/2019
Situation	Before going to the ES Jane has been on the streets for a little less than 3 months. Prior to that Jane was self-paying for a hotel for a week and a half and before that she had been doubled up with friends and family. prior to being doubled-up with friends / family, she had been in a different shelter for about a month. Before then she had been stably housed.
In HMIS	
HUD Universal Assessment	
Type of Residence	**Place not meant for habitation**
Length of stay in prior living situation	**One month or more but less than 90 days.**
Approximate date homelessness started	**07/01/2019** *This reflects the date she started staying on the streets after paying for her hotel.*
Regardless of where they stayed last night) Number of times the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today	**Two Times** *The most recent episode is one episode and the other stay in shelter is another episode.*
Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or SH in the past three years	**4** *she was on the streets for about 3 months before entering shelter and then she was in a different shelter for about a month during the first episode of homelessness.*

Example 2: Gabrielle Enrolls in a Homeless Prevention Program

Client	Gabrielle
Project Type	Homelessness Prevention
Project Start	12/01/2019
Situation	Gabrielle has been renting her apartment for 5 months. Because Gabrielle is seeking services that are not from an Emergency Shelter or Street Outreach project, there are no further questions to ask of her to complete 3.917 data set.
In HMIS	
HUD Universal Assessment	
Type of Residence	**Rental by client** *Gabrielle is renting an apartment*
Length of stay in prior living situation	**90 days or more, but less than one year** *Gabrielle has been living in her apartment for 5 months*
Approximate date homelessness started	*N/A*
Regardless of where they stayed last night) Number of times the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today	*N/A*
Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or SH in the past three years	*N/A*

Example 3: Mike Seeks Street Outreach Services

Client	Mike
Project Type	Street Outreach
Project Start	01/30/2020
Situation	Mike was incarcerated for 6 months right up to the night before his release he asked for Street Outreach services. Prior to incarceration, Mike had a history of experiencing homelessness. In the last 3 years, Mike recalls approximately how long his stays at shelters were – 4 months, then 6 months, and then 3 months.
In HMIS	
HUD Universal Assessment	
Type of Residence	**Jail, prison, or juvenile detention**
Length of stay in prior living situation	**90 days or more, but less than one year** *Mike was incarcerated for 6 months*
Approximate date homelessness started	**01/30/2020**

Regardless of where they stayed last night) Number of times the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today	**3** *Includes: #1 – 4 mo.* * #2 – 6 mo.* * #3 – 3 mo.* *Does not include the night before his release because he was still incarcerated.*
Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or SH in the past three years	**More than 12 months** *4 months + 6 months + 3months = 13 months homeless in last 3 years*

Example 4: Alexis Seeking Housing Support After Hospital Stay

Client	Alexis
Project Type	Rapid Re-Housing
Project Start	02/22/2020
Situation	Alexis was hospitalized for 25 days and was just discharged. Before being admitted to the hospital, Alexis was sleeping in an abandoned home for 6 months. Intake staff asked Alexis to try to remember where else Alexis lived in a 3-year span. Alexis stayed at an Emergency Shelter for 30 days last summer. Before that, Alexis was living in an apartment shared with her partner for 28 months.
	In HMIS
HUD Universal Assessment	
Type of Residence	**Hospital or other non-psychiatric medical facility**
Length of stay in prior living situation	One month or more, but less than 90 days
Approximate date homelessness started	**7/01/2019** *= Last summer when they stayed at an ES*
Regardless of where they stayed last night) Number of times the client has been on the streets, in ES, or SH in the past three years including today	**2** **Includes: #1 - 6 mo. prior to hospitalization** ** #2 – 1 mo. In ES**
Total number of months homeless on the street, in ES, or SH in the past three years	**7 months**