



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Public Health and Human Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 18, 2026

Re: Authorizing partner agreement with Institute for Community Alliances for HMIS access

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement between the City of Columbia and the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) for access to the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS).

Discussion

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a collaborative project of the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC), the ICA, and participating partner agencies. The HMIS is a computerized data collection application designed to capture information about persons experiencing homelessness and homeless programs over time. The HMIS is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for all communities and agencies receiving HUD Continuum of Care homeless assistance funds and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds.

The BoS CoC is the lead planning group for efforts to end homelessness and for implementing and operating a homeless Continuum of Care system in 101 rural counties, including Boone County, that comprise the BoS CoC. As such and under HUD policy, the BoS CoC is responsible for oversight of the HMIS implementation and assurance that the HMIS is in compliance with HUD's national HMIS Standards.

The BoS CoC has designated the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) as the HMIS Lead Agency to manage HMIS operations on its behalf and to provide all HMIS administrative functions. ICA has contracted with Wellsky to maintain the file server and software which contains all Client information, including encrypted identifying information, entered into the HMIS. BoS CoC and ICA have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in connection with the HMIS. Pursuant to that MOU, all partner agencies are required to execute an Agency Partner Agreement with ICA for use of the HMIS.

This Partner Agreement allows for continued use of the HMIS, providing confidentiality of client data while allowing information sharing between agencies based on the client's decisions. This access allows City staff to run the Prioritization List, and case conference people on the list in Boone County. This process, known as coordinated entry, allows clients with the most risks to have access to the most resources. There is no cost for this system.



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Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: none

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None

Suggested Council Action

Should the Council agree with staff recommendations, an affirmative vote is in order.