

Tip of the Week: Disabling Condition

Did you know that this question ***should be answered for every adult client?***

HUD has deemed “Disabling Condition” as a Universal Data Element. The rationale behind this was knowing about a disabling condition is necessary to help identify clients meeting HUD’s definition of Chronically Homeless and, depending on the source of your program’s funding, it may be required to establish if the client is eligible to be served by your program.

HUD has five definitions of disabling conditions:

1. A disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act (http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title02/0223.htm);
2. A physical, mental, or emotional impairment which is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration which substantially impedes an individual’s ability to live independently, and where that ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions;
3. A developmental disability as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (http://www.dmr.state.ct.us/IDDW/Adv_app_E.pdf);
4. The disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or
5. A diagnosable substance abuse disorder.

ROSIE gathers this Universal Data Element on the “Medical” tab of the Client Intake. For every adult family member who has a disabling condition you need to put a check mark in front of their name. Then you can use the drop down box to choose the description of the problem. There are two “drop down” menu buttons allowing more than one option to be chosen. Your options are:

- Drug Problem
- Alcohol Problem
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Physical Handicap/Disability
- Communicable Illness
- MRDD
- HIV/AIDS Affected
- Tuberculosis
- Learning Disability
- Lupus
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Drug & Alcohol Problems
- Chronically Mental Ill
- Drug/Alcohol/Mental Health Problems
- Special Needs

There is a “Comments” section where you can explain “Special Needs” if you choose this option.

Thanks for reading this week's tip.