

HUD CoC GIS Toolkit for Communities Introduction

Background

The HUD CoC GIS Toolkit for Communities expands the mapping resources available to HUD Exchange users by providing a no-cost downloadable software tool that allows users to interact with professional quality GIS maps.

Users access pre-compiled projects through a free software product called ArcReader, and are able to open and explore HUD specific project data as well as design and print custom maps. No special software or map skills beyond basic computer skills are required, meaning users can quickly get started working with maps of their communities.

Map Data and Applications

Map data includes CoC Boundaries, HUD Geocodes and Preliminary Pro Rata Need, Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data, U.S. Census demographics on individuals and housing, detailed street maps and more.

Possible applications of the HUD GIS Tool for Communities include:

- Identifying HUD Geocodes and Initial Pro Rata Need for the CoC NOFA application process
- Analyzing patterns and gaps in program and bed availability by geocode
- Mapping Shelter Addresses to simplify managing Housing Inventory
- Mapping encampments to aid in annual Point in Time counts
- Identifying neighborhoods for targeting prevention resources
- Producing maps and custom routes to aid in disaster planning

Quick Start Guide and GIS Toolkit Tutorial

The GIS Mini Tutorials are intended to supplement the [Quick Start Guide](#) and [HUD CoC GIS Toolkit for Communities – Overview](#) documents that are contained in the folder 'README and Documentation' in the individual State download .zip files available from the [HUD Exchange GIS Tools](#) page. Before opening the tutorial, refer to the Quick Start Guide and Overview for ArcReader installation instructions and additional guidance.

After you have installed the ArcReader program, you are ready to access the [CoC GIS Toolkit for Communities: Mini Tutorials](#). These tutorials provide a basic introduction to the major features of ArcReader using a real HUD dataset similar to the ones that users will find in their individual state project files.