



What is the Information Commons?

❖ A way to **unify community information** in SWPA

- Innovative database platform
- Mission critical information and referral asset

❖ A **better understanding** of the forces affecting our children, families and neighborhoods

❖ A **data-driven foundation for planning and analysis**

- Get the “right information to the right people at the right time” for the best possible decisions
- Best return on our community investments



Vision of the Community Data Warehouse

- Source of information on resources available to users (consumers, family, other interested parties)
- Data repository for researchers
- Decision-making tool for foundations, providers, advocates, and policy groups



“HumanServices.net”

- Working name for a new public information resource
- Target user populations:
 - Human Services professionals, and paraprofessionals (clergy, teachers, etc.)
 - General public
 - Policy-makers
- First working pilot targeted to DHS professionals
- Funded by the Human Services Integration Fund



HumanServices.net

HumanServices.net:

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A one-stop shop for human services information within Allegheny County. It connects workers and consumers with human service resources, facilitating choice, and improving response times for consumers to reach the services they need.

A public web site, available to professionals and citizens, which consolidates up-to-date information on “human services” (as we know them) and other public and private resources



Community Goals for the Project

- Tool for collaboration
 - Streamline data collection from many sources
 - Fuse data into definitive collection of resources
 - Allow participants search and comment on resources
- Analytical tools
 - Effectiveness of services provided
 - Analyze funding decisions
- Integrate with other community data initiatives
 - Common well of information
 - Census, neighborhood info systems, etc.



HumanServices.net

Goals:

- Friendly access, for people with varied sophistication
 - Direct service workers (DHS, Providers, Volunteers)
 - Consumers
 - Researchers and policy makers
- Integrated information from a variety of primary sources
 - Traditional “Human Services”
 - Public resources (schools, transit, etc.)
 - Private resources (goods and services)
- Information stays current, with minimal effort by “information providers”



DHS Goals for “HumanServices.net”

- Deliver information on “Services” from all providers (regardless of funding sources)
- Integrate (“fuse”) different information about the same provider, from multiple sources.
- Deliver the most up-to-date information available from any source.
- Offer attribution and “freshness dating” info.
- Spare the providers’ effort in updating multiple surveys and databases.
- Offer a feature-rich user interface.



Who can use HumanServices.net?

- ❖ Parents, teachers, counselors, caseworkers
 - Better understanding of resources available
 - Less time to find the best option
- ❖ Agency leaders
 - Trusted referral tool
 - Better understanding of the need for their services and a collaborative environment to share success stories
 - Less wasted time responding to barrage of requests for information
- ❖ Funders
 - Better visibility of gaps in service as well as overlap
 - Ability to understand financial sustainability
 - Tools to identify best practices



HumanServices.net

Strategy:

- Collaborate with community partners in developing the system and identifying information sources
- Share ownership of the system and its information
- Challenge the technology, in order to make the system simple
- Take advantage of other organizations who already gather and deliver information, “tap into” existing sources

The Current State Of The Art



The Future: A Unified Approach



Web

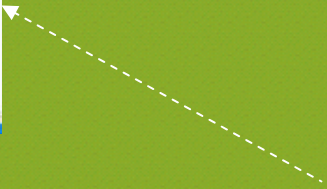
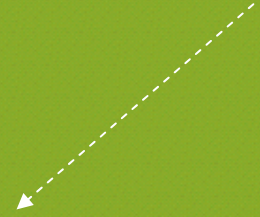
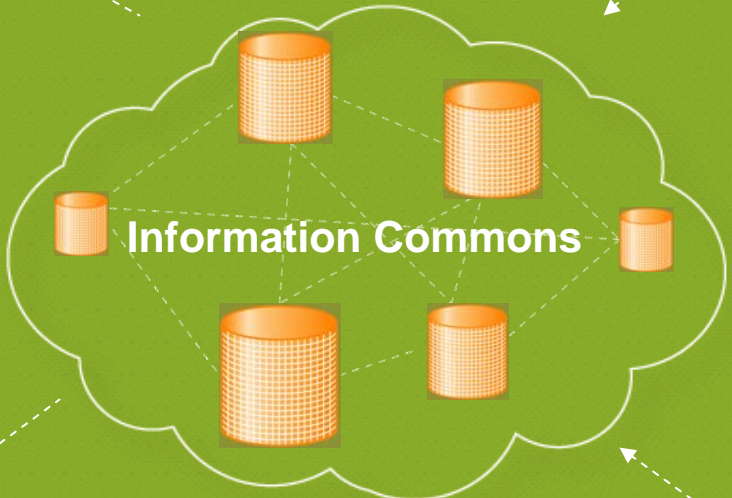


Custom Applications/GeoBrowser



Existing Applications:

- ESRI
- Excel
- etc.





Overview of HumanServices.net

- HumanServices.net version 1.0 is “live”
 - Released to DHS in March 2006
 - 3,000+ agencies, 4,500+ facilities, over 10,000 programs (data from DHS, UWAC, DPW, others)
- Case management and referral tool – trusted source of agency and program information
- Consumer/general public release came later (United Way implementation)
- Data collection and corrections will be an ongoing process



HumanServices.net

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HumanServices

Not Signed in... [Sign In](#)

Search: [GO](#)

Categories: Show:

Advanced Search

- ▶ **Adolescents and Children**
- ▶ **Developmental Disabilities**
- ▶ **Education**
- ▶ **Family Services**
- ▶ **Food & Clothing**
- ▶ **Health Care**
- ▶ **Housing & Utilities**
- ▶ **Independent Living Su...**
- ▶ **Information Providers**
- ▶ **Job Assistance**

Welcome to HumanServices.net

This website provides a one-stop source of information about human services in and around Allegheny County. We hope you find the HumanServices.net site helpful. We wish to thank the **Human Services Integration Fund** and our sponsors for making this resource possible.

[Additional Instructions](#)

[Neighborhood Profiles](#)



HS.net

(humanservices.net)

A+ Schools

(pghafterschool.com)

Outdoor Recreation

(outdoor.3rc.org)

Demonstration

The image displays three screenshots of web portals, each with a search bar and a 'GO' button. The first screenshot is for HumanServices.net, featuring a search bar, 'Categories:', 'Show:', and 'Advanced Search' options. The second screenshot is for Pittsburgh After School, with a search bar, 'Categories:', 'Show:', and 'Advanced Search' options. The third screenshot is for Outside Info, with a search bar, 'Categories:', 'Show:', and 'Advanced Search' options. Each screenshot also shows a 'Sign In' button and a '3rc' logo.

HumanServices.net
Not Signed in... Sign In 3rc
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Pittsburgh After School
A Good Time to Learn
Not Signed in... Sign In 3rc
Now you can find the after school program that's right for you.
By exploring this website, you can get information about over 200 after school programs in schools, churches, recreation and community centers in the city of Pittsburgh.

Outside Info
Southwestern Pennsylvania
PREVIEW EDITION
Not Signed in... Sign In 3rc
Welcome to our work-in-progress!
This is a pilot system showcasing information related to outdoor recreation in Southwestern Pennsylvania. After viewing search results in a list or on a map, users can investigate detailed information about recreational sites, events and organizations. Information is also grouped

A “family” of community resources is emerging