

What is AIRS?

AIRS is the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems.

The AIRS/211 LA County Taxonomy of Human Services (the Taxonomy) as defined on www.211taxonomy.org, "is a classification system that allows you to distinguish concepts, name concepts and put those concepts in order. It is used to index and access information about a subject in a systematic, unambiguous way. In a human service context, taxonomy is a classification system that allows you to index and access community resources based on the services they provide and the target populations they serve, if any. It provides a structure for your information and it tells people what is in your information system and how to find it."

What is Taxonomy?

The Taxonomy is a "living" classification system, that is, it is updated regularly to add new terms, and terms are occasionally reordered to organize them into similar groupings.

Used in ServicePoint (BAS-Net)

ServicePoint utilizes the Taxonomy for two purposes:

1. Index Provider records with the services they offer.
 - *Example:* An agency that "acquires food products through donations, canned food drives, food bank programs or direct purchase and distributes the food to people who are in emergency situations" is indexed with the Taxonomy term "Food Pantry".
2. Capturing client Needs.
 - *Example:* If a client comes to an agency seeking, "a place to stay for a couple of nights while they search for new housing" the Need would be entered as the Taxonomy term "Day Shelters". When the user then searches for an agency that meets this Need they will find all agencies that are indexed with the "Day Shelter" term.