

Revised MAC2 Unit Record File Layouts – Released 09/30/2021

Colleagues,

Over the last year there have been quite a few amendments to MAC2 data elements hosted on our online data dictionary where careful attention is taken to offer clarification, document changes, provide comments, and give examples to assist with the submission of quality data. Historically, we have provided file layouts that have included abbreviated data element details to assist in preparing files for the data submission process. Recently, we were notified of cases where the file layouts unfortunately have not been updated to include data dictionary revisions or do not provide enough details about the requirements for a data element so that incorrect data are submitted. To resolve this, we will now exclusively rely on the data dictionary, not the layout, for detailed explanations of data elements. Therefore, going forward the layouts will provide the item number, field length parameters, data type, name and the data definition (DD) link to the single online data dictionary source for comprehensive, up-to-date detail for each data element.

Due to this decision, we ask that you and your staff consistently utilize the Data Dictionary and the revised file layout documentation. For those who like to download, save and otherwise compile documentation for ease (versus returning to the Secure Data Web website for reference), we ask that you delete or otherwise archive the old materials and ensure you are using the most up-to-date file layouts and data dictionary references to reduce confusion, data warnings, fatal errors and other data submission and validation issues.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns at mac2help.mhec@maryland.gov.