

## **ARMS: The Expression of Disparate Social Services Data through GIS**

The Alabama Resource Management System (ARMS) is an innovative approach to enhance coordination between agencies, in the public/private sector, and community information systems. ARMS will connect these sources in a manner that will provide the user an ability to interactively visualize, analyze, query and map the data that they choose for use in supporting their programs, grant writing, resource identification, etc. The development of the ARMS system was initiated by the Department of Children's Affairs and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.\* Through ARMS' two primary target audiences, state agencies and local communities, we will interact and garner input on how to build these tools and present the data in a manner that makes it easy for users to understand and use. As ARMS evolves, other audiences will be engaged so that a board of users input can be used to create additional functionality, identify new datasets, and to know how to better reach those that need access and training on how to use ARMS. Currently there are three main components of ARMS: 1) Internet Mapping Application – Through an interactive process, users will be able to select from both state and national data, what they want to view in the map and then have the ability to print out a map and/or download the data within the map as a spreadsheet. Being able to turn data into information through mapping brings a new perspective that is becoming a standardize means for communicating data. In addition to the resource data, statistical and funding data will be made available through the mapping application. 2) Resource List – Through an interactive management system, users\*\* can review, edit and/or provide information on statewide social services resources which could include: government offices, public programs, nonprofit service providers, faith-based social services, or for-profit providers. This data will become a base for a portion of the internet mapping application as well as available for users to access and download for use in creating their own local resource directories. 3) One Button Reports - Through a one button process, the user can access a report that has been designed to provide you the greatest amount of usable statistical data tailored to your specific area.

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