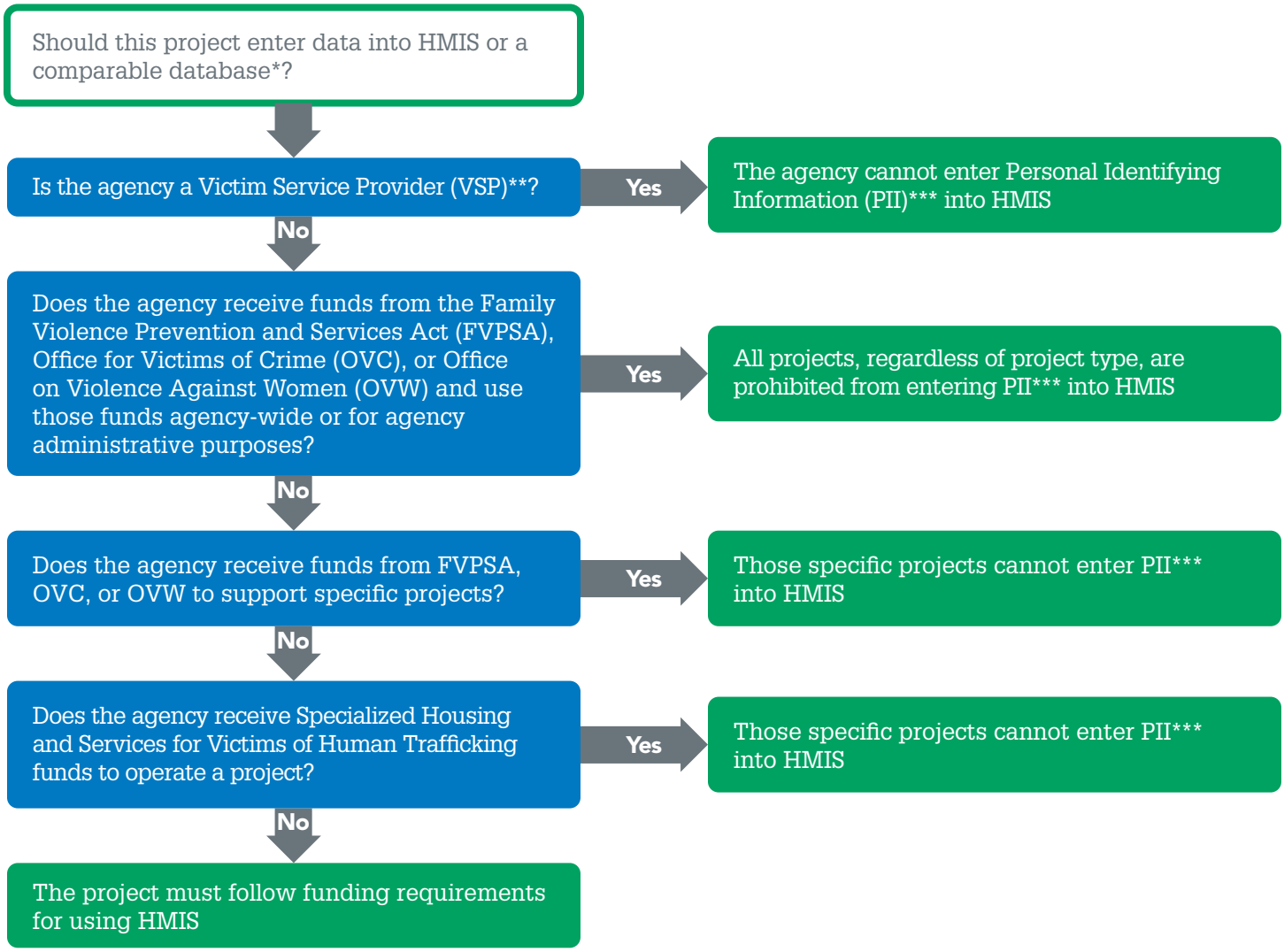
The U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Comparable Database* Decision Tree



*A comparable database is a relational database that meets all HMIS Data Standards and the minimum standards of HMIS privacy and security requirements, including HUD's most recent reporting standards and comma separated value (CSV) format specifications.

**Victim Service Provider (VSP) is defined as a private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Such term includes rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters, domestic violence transitional housing programs, and other programs.

***Personal Identifying Information (PII) means information for or about an individual, including information likely to disclose the location of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including a first and last name; a home or other physical address; contact information; a social security number; and any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation, that, in combination with any other non-personally identifying information, would serve to identify any individual. Personally identifying information also may include information that is encoded, encrypted, hashed or otherwise protected.