

# A WAY HOME FOR TULSA (TULSA CITY/COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE) 2021 ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME COUNT PLAN

Each year, A Way Home for Tulsa (AWH4T), the Tulsa City and County Continuum of Care (CoC), organizes an annual count of people who are experiencing homelessness in Tulsa County under the direction of the AWH4T Leadership Council and lead agency, Housing Solutions. The intention of this count is to provide a snapshot picture of homelessness in Tulsa County of both the number of people and their characteristics. Local providers' staff and community volunteers assist with counting people in emergency homeless shelters, transitional housing facilities, hot meal sites, encampments, and various street locations. The Point-in-Time (PIT) count yields valuable data to help service providers understand how many local people are homeless and what their needs are. Housing Solutions will facilitate training for provider staff and volunteers at various times and locations throughout January. This plan was created using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's [PIT Count Methodology Guide](#).

The A Way Home for Tulsa 2021 Point in Time (PIT) count is scheduled for January 28, 2021. This year's PIT Count Plan was significantly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, with a large focus on ensuring the safety of everyone involved. This document includes a description of the count methodology, data quality plan, survey development and other key details of the event. The Plan was approved by the Leadership Council on 01/20/2021.

To facilitate the update of this year's plan, Leadership Council created a PIT Task Group whose members include:

Name	Role	Name	Role
Greg Robinson	Leadership Council Sponsor	Tyler Parette	Task Group Champion (Lead Agency)
Keith Anderson	Methodology and Reporting	Erin Willis	Data Analysis
Becky Gligo	Media & Public Relations	Jessica Kelly	Unsheltered Population
Jennifer Rivera	Day Shelter Participation	Shandi Campbell	Domestic Violence Population
Erin Velez	Marketing & Public Relations	Rhene Ritter	Continuum of Care Planning

## DATA QUALITY PLAN

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Administrator will verify the data reported from the surveys and Housing Inventory Counts using HMIS. To reduce the potential for duplication surveyors are provided a script to say with each individual encountered that asks if they have already taken the survey and, if in a shelter or unsheltered, are they currently experiencing homelessness. Counting methods are coordinated among shelter providers, street outreach providers and those organizations counting units for the Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count to be completed simultaneously, during the same 24-hour period in January. People conducting the surveys are offered training for count standards, data collection procedures and protocols for privacy, security, and personal safety.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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## METHODOLOGY

After identifying and considering local circumstances, capacity, and timing, CoCs must identify an appropriate counting methodology. The Leadership Council, serving as the CoC board, must review and approve the methodology. The PIT Count methodology for people counted in sheltered locations versus those counted in unsheltered locations varies slightly this year to ensure that COVID-19 protocols required by the Centers for Disease Control are followed. In response, HUD released additional guidance for conducting the [2021 Unsheltered PIT Count](#) outlining safety basics, data collection and other considerations. Under this guidance, communities may request exceptions to certain regulatory requirement.

## SHELTERED COUNT

The sheltered count will be completed by collecting data in two different ways. Demographics will be collected in the Homeless Management Information System, or comparable database for facilities serving survivors of domestic violence, for people staying in an emergency shelter, safe haven or transitional housing facility on the night of the count. Additional information to assess characteristics of those same individuals will be collected using a survey instrument that can be completed either electronically or on paper. A complete list of facilities included may be requested via email to [housingsolutions@housingstulsa.org](mailto:housingsolutions@housingstulsa.org).

The approach used for the sheltered count is a *complete census count*, meaning that we will count an enumeration of all people utilizing shelters in the Tulsa City/County Continuum of Care geographic area.

## UNSHeltered COUNT

The unsheltered count will be completed by collecting data from individuals encountered by outreach teams using a survey instrument which includes responses for demographics and characteristics. The teams will be deployed to target areas within the CoC geographic region over the course of several days. The target areas are pre-determined by using known locations identified by local providers, by geocodes collected in the prior year's counts, and hot spots encountered by law enforcement, described in more detail below.

The survey tool used will be available in electronic form with a password protected survey accessible on various electronic devices (computer, tablet, or smart phone). A copy of the survey will be provided in paper form for back-up in the event the electronic version is inaccessible. The link for electronic surveys will be sent via email and paper surveys will be provided upon request.

Tulsa will use a combination of approaches for the unsheltered count, **night of the count** and **service-based count**.

The **night of the count** approach includes a count of people who are unsheltered on the night designated for the PIT count. As part of the **night of the count** approach, AWH4T will conduct the count using a combination of **complete coverage count** and **known locations** count. This means that teams will canvas their assigned area visiting known locations where people who are unsheltered have been previously encountered, and request survey responses from anyone they encounter.

The **service-based count** approach being used will enable us to survey people at various social service locations or other public or private locations to identify people who were unsheltered, but not counted, on the night of the count. **Service-based count** will be conducted for a 4-day period after January 28, 2021. Tulsa service-based locations include Denver House Drop-In Center, Mental Health Association's Overflow Day Shelter and Iron Gate (Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry).

Comfort kits containing basic needs such as, hygiene items, socks, personal protective equipment, will be prepared for distribution to unsheltered individuals.

## YOUTH COUNT

The youth drop-in center staff will be notifying youth visiting the center about the upcoming survey in the weeks leading up to the count date. If possible, a special meal and games will be held the day of the count in an attempt to ensure more participation. The area public school homeless liaisons are being advised of the count this year and will be requested to assist in completing surveys for youth known to be experiencing homelessness on the day of the count.