THN
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

Point-In-Time Count: Counting Us App

Strategies For Change

thn.org

Agenda

- Reminders
- Census Count and PIT Count
- Q&A
- Counting Us Mobile App Tutorial
- Regional Command Center

Housekeeping for this Training

- Everyone's microphones are muted.
- Please type all questions into the chat box and we will answer them at the end of the survey
- This PowerPoint and the scenario documents will be posted
- This is being recorded and will be posted to the website as well

PIT Date

January 23rd, 2020

2020 Winter Point-in-Time Count

External Timeline

November

11/1/2019:
Deadline to join count

11/7/2019:
Mandatory PIT Lead Webinar at 1:30 pm

11/15/2019:
Deadline to notify THN if using service based count and/or paper surveys

11/22/2019:
Verify Agencies for the sheltered count

December

12/5/2019:
PIT Q&A/ App Walk through webinar

12/6/2019:
Deadline to notify THN if you are interested in having a staff member on site for day of count.

12/9-12/13/2019:
Round one of PIT Check in calls

January

1/13-1/17/2020:
PIT Office Hours

1/23/2020:
PIT Count Date

1/30/2020: (Back up Date)
-Volunteer Hour Tracker deadline
-Last day for Service Based Count
-Paper survey deadline
-Housing Inventory Count deadline

February

2/7/2020:
Deadline to Complete PIT Debrief Survey

12/10-2/14/2020:
PIT Debrief Calls

2/27/2020:
Tentative Deadline for THN to send final PIT reports

THN will hold a webinar in March about how to use your PIT Data

Joining Efforts: Census and PIT Count

Census Count: April 1st, 2020

Service-Based Enumeration

- Service-Based Enumeration provides an opportunity for people without conventional housing and people who may be experiencing homelessness to be counted in the census. Through this process, people who are not included in counts of traditional household-type living arrangements or group quarters are enumerated where they stay or receive services or at predetermined outdoor locations.

Why the Census is Important

- Many programs that impact people experiencing homelessness are funded based in whole or in part on census-derived data:

- When people experiencing homelessness are undercounted, political boundaries may not accurately represent reality. Undercounting results in people experiencing homelessness being denied a full voice in policy decision-making. As a result, their community's different needs may not be represented or prioritized according to their real share of the population.

Joining Efforts: Census and PIT Count

Join your local Count Committee/attend the census planning meetings.
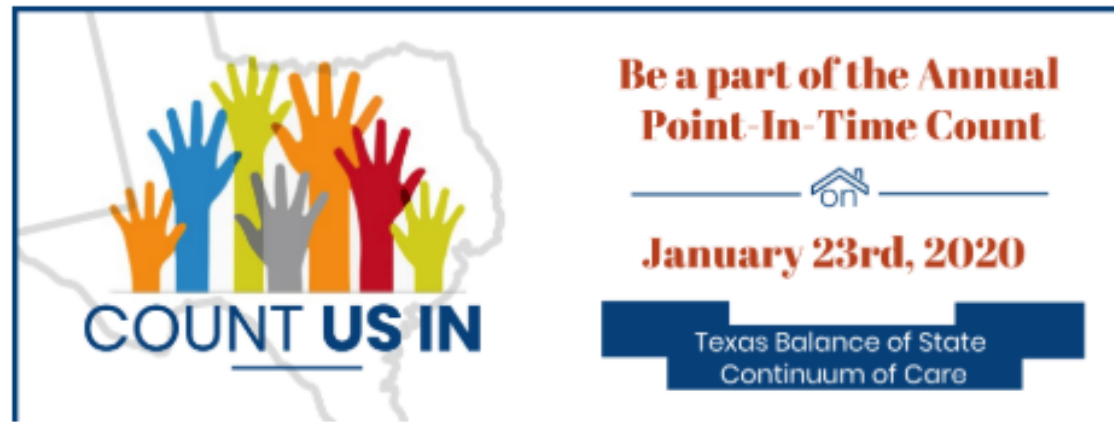
- Educate state and local leaders about the issues people experiencing homelessness face in the census.

- Recruit volunteers that can do the census and PIT counts

- Train volunteers on how to successfully approach and engage individuals experiencing homelessness

- Share your list of unsheltered locations

Q&A

Be a part of the Annual
Point-In-Time Count

January 23rd, 2020

Texas Balance of State
Continuum of Care

COUNT US IN

The Point-In-Time Count is a snapshot of how many homeless individuals are in your community on a single day.

On the local level, point-in-time counts help communities plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in a community's current homelessness assistance system.

Register

Update Registration

Scenario Number One

You approach an individual in an emergency shelter. You introduce yourself and you ask if they are willing to participate in the survey. They state that they do not want to participate and ask that your leave them alone.

How do you document this information? How do you proceed?

Scenario Number Two

You approach a mother and her two children who are on the side of the street near a stop light. You determine through interviewing that they are experiencing homelessness. The mother informs you that they will be sleeping at an emergency shelter in the area this evening.

You are able to obtain all of the information from the survey questions. How do you enter in this information?

Scenario Number Three

You are surveying at a park and a woman states that she is willing to take your survey. She provides you her full name (Sadie Henderson) and DOB (02/05/1994) as part of the interview. Through the interview, she informs you that she is currently fleeing a domestic violence situation.

What is the best practice for documenting this information?

Scenario Number Four

You and your team are surveying individuals' downtown when you notice a father and what appears to be his daughter sleeping in a car. Based on the appearance of the situation you determine that they are likely experiencing homelessness. Which survey do you choose and how do you input the information?

Scenario Number Five

You and your team are at an encampment and you survey two young males who state that they are siblings. The siblings state that they are experiencing homelessness because they aged out of the foster care system and had nowhere to go. They are reluctant to provide much information.

They decide to give you their first and last initial but do not give you their DOB. How do you input all this information into the survey?

Scenario Number Six

You have an individual walk into your emergency shelter on the day of 1/23/2020. You have asked and received permission to conduct the PIT survey and through the interviewing you have obtained the following information: Name- Jane Doe, DOB- 1/1/1985, doesn't disclose gender, Hispanic. How do you input all this information into the survey?

Recap

- Make sure the volunteers are asking prefacing questions before they start the interview
    1. Where are you sleeping tonight?
    2. Has a volunteer already approached you about a survey this evening?
- You must put an age range, even if they do not give you their DOB or their exact age.
- Understand the difference between pinpointing your current location and when to enter the location manually
- When to use the observation survey?

Tips

- You need to select an age range in order to see the entire survey
- You do not have to ask all of the age questions
  - If they give you their DOB, do not ask their age and age range.
- If your survey is only one or two questions long, you did not complete a full survey. That is a survey that will be immediately archived.
- Use your current location when surveying (not the location the individual states they will be staying in later that night)
- Practice with the survey before you go out. The more familiar you are with the survey, the easier it is to gather information.
- The notes section is your friend. Use it!