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COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS COUNT RESULTS SHOWS 46% REDUCTION IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, FORT BEND COUNTY HOMELESSNESS

Houston, Texas (June 10, 2015) - [The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County](#) conducted its annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count on January 29, and the results have now been released. The data shows Houston, Harris County and Fort Bend County collectively continuing a four year trend in reducing homelessness, this year marking a 46% decrease in homelessness on a given night compared with 2011. The good news comes on the heels of the recent announcement by Houston Mayor Annise Parker that [veteran homelessness has effectively ended in the region](#).

This year, on a given night, there were 4,609 total sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in the Houston area, compared with 8,538 on a given night identified in the 2011 Count and 5,351 identified in 2014. Of those surveyed in the Count, 1,950 homeless people (42 percent) lived on the streets or in other uninhabitable places compared with 4,418 (52 percent) in 2011. Read the full Point-in-Time Homeless Count Executive Summary [here](#).

The Homeless Count is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the local Continuum of Care (CoC) funding process, which supports multiple homeless assistance programs in Houston, Harris and Fort Bend Counties. It provides agencies with hard data about the number and characteristics of the area's homeless community on a given night. In turn, this helps the local CoC further its work to right size the homeless response system. Houston, Harris County and Fort Bend County formalized its CoC in 2012. In 2014, the Houston area CoC announced the launch of "The Way Home," a collaborative model to prevent and end homelessness in Houston, Harris County and Fort Bend County. Learn more at www.thewayhomehouston.org.

"We have now documented a 46% decrease in overall homelessness – that means we have reduced our homeless population by nearly half in four years. We have truly gone from managing homelessness to ending homelessness because we know that permanent housing, wrapped with supportive services, is the solution to homelessness," said Marilyn L. Brown, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition. "Having just announced that we have solved veteran homelessness and have been at steady state for more than a year, you can expect the partners in [The Way Home Houston](#) to announce good news on chronic homelessness next. We've housed 3,652 homeless veterans, 2,479 chronically homeless individuals, and are increasing the capacity of our system to be able to house more homeless families and non-chronic homeless individuals. We are just getting our second wind."

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The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County is a non-profit, 501(c)3 whose mission is to provide leadership in the development, advocacy and coordination of community strategies to prevent and end homelessness. Learn more at www.homelesshouston.org.