



COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS TO CONDUCT ENHANCED COUNT & SURVEY OF HOUSTON'S HOMELESS POPULATION JANUARY 25 - 28

Houston, Texas (January 19, 2015) - Staff from [The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County](#) and [The Way Home](#) partner agencies, as well as community volunteers will conduct the annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count & Survey from Monday, January 25 through Thursday, January 28. The 2016 Count & Survey will identify the number of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals across Houston, Harris County and Fort Bend County through a more comprehensive, "deep dive" effort. In past years, the Count was conducted on a single evening. Coalition CEO Marilyn Brown is hopeful about the outcomes of the upcoming Count & Survey, given the progress made over the past 4 years.

"We've come a long way in Houston towards helping our neighbors move off of our streets, out of our shelters, and into permanent housing. In 2015, on a given night, there were 4,609 total sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in the Houston area, compared with 8,538 identified in 2011 (a 46% decrease) and 5,351 identified in 2014 (a 14% decrease). We are so close to ending chronic homelessness and this expanded methodology will provide us not only with numbers, but with names, and the detailed data we need to help connect each person with their path out of homelessness," said Brown of the lookback and the work ahead.

What's different? While the sheltered portion of the Count and the night of record will still be one night - January 25 - the Survey and unsheltered portion of the Count will take place over three days: January 26, 27, and 28. On those three days, Coalition staff and volunteers will conduct brief, conversational surveys with individuals who slept on the street on the night of the 25th to further assess their homeless status, and what their housing needs may be. An added bonus of this methodology is it will allow Coordinated Access Housing Assessments to be offered on-the-spot to those who are eligible.

The annual 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 brought more than \$23 million in FY2014 to multiple homeless assistance programs in Houston, Harris and Fort Bend Counties. This funding is coordinated by the Coalition through [The Way Home](#) and used by homeless

service partners to provide permanent housing, outreach, and supportive services to homeless individuals. The 2016 Count will reinforce the progress being made as a result of the collaborative efforts of local service agencies, and provide specific demographic information needed to end chronic homelessness and right size our system. The methodology used for Houston's Count has been developed with the expertise of Dr. Cathy Troisi, PhD., Associate Professor, University of Texas School of Public Health and has been approved by HUD.

During the 2016 Count & Survey, the Coalition will utilize more than 200 trained surveyors and volunteers per day, departing from multiple staging areas across the greater Houston area to count and survey individuals, veterans, families and young people that live on the streets. Members of the media may contact Jennifer Evans, jen@theckpgroup.com, Julia Davis, julia@theckpgroup.com or Sara Brown, sbrown@homelesshouston.org to be placed as observers on teams.

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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.

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