



MEDIA CONTACTS

Julia Davis, CKP

(832) 930-4058 x102 / julia@theckpgroup.com

Jennifer Evans, CKP

(832) 930-4065 x107 / jen@theckpgroup.com

Sara Brown, Coalition for the Homeless

(832) 531-6019 / sbrown@homelesshouston.org

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS TO CONDUCT COUNT & SURVEY OF HOUSTON AREA HOMELESS POPULATION JANUARY 23-26

Houston, Texas (January 17, 2017) - Staff from the [Coalition for the Homeless](http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org) and [The Way Home](http://www.thewayhome.org) partner agencies, as well as community volunteers will conduct the annual Homeless Count & Survey from Monday, January 23 through Thursday, January 26. The 2017 Homeless Count will identify the number of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals across Houston, Pasadena, Harris County, and Fort Bend County; as well as Conroe and Montgomery County, which joined the efforts of The Way Home in early 2016.

“In 2016, our enhanced methodology revealed that there were 3,626 homeless individuals in the Houston area on a given night,” said Marilyn Brown, President/CEO of the Coalition. “That is a 21% reduction in just one year, from 2015, and a more than 57% reduction since The Way Home began its collaborative work. In 2017, we are closer than ever to ending chronic homelessness. The data we collect from this Count will help us cross the finish line. We are also excited to gather robust data from Montgomery County to gain a better understanding of homelessness in that area.”

How does it work? The sheltered portion of the Count and the night of record will still be one night - January 23 - the Survey and unsheltered portion of the Count will take place over three days: January 24, 25, and 26. On those three days, participants will conduct brief, conversational surveys with individuals on the street to confirm that they were unsheltered on the night of the 23rd, and if so, what their housing needs may be. Coordinated Access Housing Assessments can also be offered on the spot to homeless Veterans, youth/young adults, and chronically homeless individuals. Interview access to spokespeople will be made available at key staging areas on Tuesday, January 24.

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 \$32 million in Fiscal Year 2015 to multiple homeless assistance programs in Houston, Harris and Fort Bend Counties. This funding is coordinated by the Coalition through [The Way Home](http://www.thewayhome.org) and used by homeless service partners to provide permanent housing, outreach, and supportive services to homeless individuals. The 2017 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 continue to improve our **region’s homeless response** system. The methodology used **for Houston’s Count** has been developed with the expertise of Dr. Cathy Troisi, Associate Professor, University of Texas School of Public Health and has been approved by HUD.

During the 2017 Count & Survey, the Coalition will utilize approximately 200 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 Julia Davis, julia@theckpgroup.com or Sara Brown, sbrown@homelesshouston.org to secure interviews at staging locations.

###

For more information on the Coalition, including a snapshot of efforts from 2012 to present, please access our [Press Kit](#). For additional information on The Way Home, please visit the system's digital [Press Kit](#). To secure interview access at staging locations on Tuesday, January 24, contact Julia Davis, julia@theckpgroup.com.

The Coalition for the Homeless 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.