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## **COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS 2017 COUNT RESULTS SHOW 60% REDUCTION IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, AND FORT BEND COUNTY HOMELESSNESS SINCE 2011**

*The Way Home has permanently housed more than 11,200 individuals including Veterans, chronically homeless individuals, and individuals in families since 2012*

Houston, Texas (May 24, 2017) – The Coalition for the Homeless conducted the annual Point-In-Time Homeless Count & Survey on January 23 of this year on behalf of The Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC). This year's results show a continued six-year trend in reducing homelessness, marking a 60 percent cumulative reduction since 2011. The Homeless Count is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for The Way Home's federal funding process and provides data that can be used by The Way Home to gauge the progress and effectiveness of the local homeless response system. The Way Home CoC previously encompassed Houston, Harris County, Pasadena, Baytown and Fort Bend County. Conroe and Montgomery County was added to the CoC in late 2016.

"The Way Home partners have been focused on permanent housing with supportive services as the key to solving homelessness, and the 2017 Count results show that this strategy is working," said Marilyn Brown, President/CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless. "Since the system transformation work of The Way Home began in 2012, we have seen the number of unsheltered, chronically homeless individuals continue to shrink. This shows that our focus on ending chronic homelessness is working. With the support of strong local partners, The Way Home is committed to ending chronic homelessness and continuing down the path to creating a system where no one has to be without permanent housing for more than 30 days."

On the night of January 23, 2017 there were 3,412\* total sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in Houston, Harris County, and Fort Bend County; compared to 8,538 identified in 2011. Additional highlights from the Count results in Houston, Harris County, and Fort Bend County include:

- The number of unsheltered, chronically homeless individuals has decreased by 20% since 2016 – from 354 individuals to 282 individuals; and by 82% since 2011, when the number of unsheltered, chronically homeless individuals was 1,591.
- 75% decrease in unsheltered homelessness since 2011.
- 78% of unsheltered homeless individuals surveyed became homeless within the Houston city limits.
- 39% of unsheltered homeless individuals surveyed had a high school diploma or GED; 21% had some college or a college degree or higher.
- 25% of unsheltered homeless individuals reported having no income, while 20% reported panhandling for income.

\*Montgomery County results are not included in the historical comparisons listed above because 2017 is the first year that The Way Home's count methodology was executed in that area.

### **Montgomery County Results**

In July 2016, Conroe and Montgomery County joined The Way Home Continuum of Care, and as such was included in the 2017 Homeless Count & Survey. On the night of January 23, 2017, there were 149

sheltered homeless individuals and 44 unsheltered homeless individuals in Conroe and Montgomery County.

The Homeless Count & Survey was led and organized by the Coalition for the Homeless in consultation with Dr. Catherine Troisi, associate professor, University of Texas School of Public Health. The full executive summary is available online at: <http://www.homelesshouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Final-2017-Homeless-Count-Executive-Summary.pdf>. A one-page fact sheet is available online at: <http://www.homelesshouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Final-2017-PIT-Fact-Sheet-Digital.pdf>.

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For more information on the Coalition, including a snapshot of efforts from 2012 to present, please access our Press Kit: [bitly.com/CFTHPressKit](http://bitly.com/CFTHPressKit).

The Coalition for the Homeless is a 501(c)3 nonprofit 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](http://www.homelesshouston.org).