



MEDIA CONTACTS

Julia Davis, CKP

(832) 930-4065 x102 / julia@theckpgroup.com

Sara Brown, Coalition for the Homeless

(832) 851-9622 / sbrown@homelesshouston.org

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS TO CONDUCT ANNUAL COUNT & SURVEY OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE HOUSTON AREA JANUARY 21-24

Houston, Texas (January 14, 2019) – The [Coalition for the Homeless](#) will lead staff from [The Way Home](#) partner agencies, and community volunteers in conducting the annual Homeless Count & Survey from Monday, January 21 through Thursday, January 24. The 2019 Homeless Count will identify the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in Houston, Harris County, Fort Bend County, and Montgomery County.

“2018 was a year of perseverance and shifting of resources,” said Eva Thibaudeau, Vice President of Programs for the Coalition for the Homeless. “Due to the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, 2018 brought our community’s first increase in homelessness since 2011 – particularly among those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Harvey was a major disruptor to the homeless response system and a distraction from our planned work in 2018. The 2019 count will provide more insights into how we continue to recover.”

The sheltered portion of the Count will take place on the night of January 21. The unsheltered survey portion of the Count will take place over three days: January 22, 23, and 24. On those three days, specialized outreach teams will conduct brief, conversational surveys with individuals on the street to confirm if they slept unsheltered on the night of January 21 and document what their housing needs may be. Coordinated Access Housing Assessments will be offered on the spot to Veterans, families, and youth/young adults experiencing homelessness as well as those experiencing chronic homelessness.

The annual Homeless Count & Survey is conducted in the same way each year, allowing the Coalition to gain insights on the progress being made toward solving homelessness as well as demographic information, client needs, and any gaps in services. The Count is also a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the local Continuum of Care (CoC) funding process. The Coalition for the Homeless as lead agency applies for this funding each year on behalf of [The Way Home](#), which is then used by partner programs to provide permanent housing, outreach, and supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness. In Fiscal Year 2017, our community secured more than \$33 million in federal homeless program funding to assistance programs in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties.

During the 2019 Count & Survey, hundreds of The Way Home partner agency staff and community volunteers will depart from multiple staging areas across the greater Houston area to count and survey individuals, Veterans, families and young people living on the streets. Members of the media may contact Julia Davis, julia@theckpgroup.com or Sara Brown,

sbrown@homelesshouston.org to secure interviews at key staging areas on Tuesday, January 22.

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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](#).

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.