



MEDIA CONTACTS

Julia Davis, CKP

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

Sara Brown, Coalition for the Homeless

(832) 659-2293 / sbrown@homelesshouston.org

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS 2019 HOMELESS COUNTS RESULTS SHOW RECOVERY FROM HARVEY; HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HOMELESS RESOURCES

Houston, Texas (May 15, 2019) – The 2019 Homeless Count & Survey found a total of 3,938 individuals experiencing homelessness in Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery Counties, Texas; this reflects a 5% decrease since 2018, when the Count increased for the first time in 7 years due to Hurricane Harvey, and a 54% decrease in overall homelessness since 2011. The 2019 Count also showed 2,324 (59%) people living sheltered on the night of the Count and 1,614 (41%) people living unsheltered.

The Coalition for the Homeless coordinates the annual Count on behalf of The Way Home Continuum of Care, which is the local homeless response system. The annual Count informs the US Department of Housing and Urban Development on the effectiveness of collaboration and homeless programs in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties. It also shows the community what the trends are on homelessness over time. The night of record for the 2019 Homeless Count was January 21, with the unsheltered portion of the Count conducted over a three-day period from January 22-24.

“This year’s results show us that The Way Home’s programs work – permanent housing with supportive services is the key to solving homelessness and Houston is faring much better than other major cities in the US when it comes to our ability to quickly and effectively house people and families experiencing homelessness,” said Michael Nichols, Interim President/CEO with the Coalition for the Homeless.

“More than 17,000 people have been housed by The Way Home since 2012 with an 90% success rate – meaning they remained housed long-term,” Mayor Sylvester Turner said. “I pledged when I took office to seek more equitable resources for all parts of Houston, and for too many people that starts with the resource of a roof over their heads along with services to sustain their improved lives. Now I am very proud of the progress we are making through The Way Home, the Coalition and my Homeless Initiatives team at City Hall. With expanded public-private collaboration, our forward movement will continue.”

While the Houston region has seen continuous decreases in overall homelessness since 2011 (with the exception of 2018, due to Hurricane Harvey), there is still evidence that our homeless response system needs additional resources for its permanent housing programs. “Homelessness is a very visible symptom of a lot of other broken systems – justice, healthcare and mental healthcare, child welfare, etc. – and our homeless response system is often the last stop for people who have been failed time and time again by inadequate social support programs,” Nichols said. “The Coalition is committed to being a convener and working in between these systems to advance the dialogue and bring new partners into The Way Home so we can end homelessness for individuals and families and prevent people from experiencing a housing crisis.”

The 2019 Count & Survey data was again analyzed by the Coalition for the Homeless in consultation with Dr. Cathy Troisi, associate professor, University of Texas School of Public Health. The full Homeless Count & Survey Independent Analysis is available online [here](#) and a one-page fact sheet is available [here](#).

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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.

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.