

Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) of Stark County Homeless Services Collaborative

2018 Annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count

Methodology

Summary

Background: Local agencies and organizations conduct a count to determine the extent of homelessness in our community. This information is used to submit the Continuum of Care grant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Stark County receives approximately \$2.6 million each year from the Continuum of Care grant to serve people who are homeless.

Approach: To get the best count, Stark County will conduct a Housing Survey. Flyers will be posted around

Everyone will be asked where they stayed on January 28, 2018.

- **Service-Based Count:** Local agencies who serve the homeless will conduct the Housing Survey at their worksites from January 29th through January 31st, with a couple exceptions where surveys will also be conducted on Thursday, February 1st and Friday February, 2nd. Volunteers will be assigned to assist at some sites such as libraries, hot meal sites, food pantries and bus stations.
- **Street Count:** Volunteer Teams will go out on Monday, January 29th from 5:00 am – 7:00am to cover known locations (where homeless people are known to congregate or sleep overnight). The Volunteer Teams will count and survey homeless people on the street. Known locations in Stark County are found in the cities of Canton, Massillon, and Alliance, which are jurisdictions referenced in local Consolidated Plans. Information regarding known locations was shared by the Homeless Navigation (Hotline) Coordinated Entry System, local homeless providers, and local street outreach staff. Police Departments and City/Village/Township Offices and zoning inspectors, in both the cities and other, more rural, areas of the County were also contacted to determine level of needed outreach in these areas. Homeless persons will be offered assistance to connect with needed service providers and provided “Blessing Bags” (donated by StarkMHAR) with items such as hygiene products, blankets, hats, gloves, water, granola bars, etc.
- **Youth Count:** Locations identified as sites where youth (under 25 year olds, including unaccompanied minors) may frequent will be used as youth service-based sites from Monday, January 29th to Wednesday, January 31st. Volunteers will be assigned to assist

YOU count!

at these sites. Incentives will be given to youth as surveys are completed. An online survey will also be available for youth to complete but they will still meet with a volunteer while completing the survey.

Survey: Questions on the survey determine if the individual is homeless (including chronically homeless); ask for identifiers to prevent duplicate counts; and request information to indicate veteran status, family composition, and disabling conditions. Individuals can also fill out the survey by contacting the Homeless Navigation (Hotline) at 330-452-4363.

The methodology was developed with input from the Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) of Stark County PIT Count Committee, Subcommittee(s), and via outreach to law enforcement and youth focus groups and in compliance with:

- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Data Collection for Continuum of Care Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program (CPD-15-010, November 18, 2015); and**
- **HUD's PIT Count Methodology Guide 2014 (latest version).**

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