2013 Tri-Jurisdictional Homeless Census
Atlanta · DeKalb County · Fulton County

YOU COUNT so THEY COUNT!!

Count Date: Monday, January 28, 2013
Bad Weather Back Up Date: Jan. 30, 2013

Frequently Asked Volunteer Questions

Q. What is the schedule for the Homeless Census?
A. At 11:30 p.m. on the night of January 28, 2013, you will arrive at your assigned deployment site. Around midnight, you will be trained on how to find and count homeless people in your area. At 1:00 a.m. on January 29, you will head out as an enumeration team of three or four into the streets of Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County to count the homeless persons. Each team will work until around 4:00 a.m.

Q. Under what conditions will the bad weather back-up date occur?
A. Postponement of the count will only occur in an extreme weather situation where people are unable to drive, such as an ice storm or snow. A decision will be made by 10 a.m. on the morning of the count as to whether the homeless census is re-scheduled. You will be notified as to the change in date. An announcement will also be posted on the Pathways website at www.pcni.info. Therefore, it is important for you to be committed to both count dates.

Q. How do I get my assigned deployment site?
A. Pick from the 9 deployment sites listed on the Community Volunteer Sign-up Sheet on the back of the flyer. The sites are spread throughout the City of Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County. We will try to match you with one of your preferred choices. Make sure that you provide your full contact information when you sign-up so that we can reach you. A Pathways staff person will contact you to let you know of your confirmed deployment site.

Q. Who are the deployment captains?
A. The deployment captains are staff members of non-profit agencies serving homeless people and staff members of the three municipal governments who work with homeless programs. About three captains will run and coordinate each site.

Q. How do I get assigned to a team?
A. On the night of January 28, 2013, you will be assigned to an enumeration team at your deployment site. Teams will be comprised of two to three community volunteers and one homeless enumerator guide (depending on the site) per vehicle. One volunteer drives, one volunteer navigates, one volunteer keeps track of the number of homeless people found and the guide assists in identifying homeless people.

Q. Can I be assigned with a friend, coworker or group member to the same site? Can we drive together is the same car?
A. We will try to place friends, co-workers or group members at the same site and in the same car, but we cannot guarantee it.

Q. Will there be a hot beverages and food available at the site?
A. Each site will provide coffee/tea/juice and a light snack at the beginning of the night for the volunteers and a continental breakfast when teams return back from counting.

Q. If I am not able to volunteer on count night, are there other volunteer opportunities during the day?
A. Yes. Please contact Josie Parker of Pathways at 404-639-9933 ext. 323 or josie.parker@pcni.org for more information on how you can help with planning for the Homeless Count.

Q. How do I sign up?
A. You can sign up online at pcni.org. Or, contact Josie Parker, Pathways Project Manager, at 404-639-9933 ext. 323 or via email at josie.parker@pcni.org.

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Homeless Census Facts

Q. Why conduct a count of homeless people in the Tri-J?

A. The Homeless Count serves several purposes:

1) The Count is a federal requirement by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be conducted every other year. The Tri-J first counted in 2003, with subsequent census occurring in 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011.

2) The Tri-J must meet the HUD requirement to continue receiving federal funding for homeless programs. These funds are made available to local service providers for housing homeless people in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. In addition, limited funds are used for supportive serives.

3) The information from this count will help the Tri-J, the Regional Commission on Homelessness, local governments, service providers and homeless advocates understand the scope of the problem of homelessness in our community.

4) The count plays an important part in tracking the success of local efforts to end homelessness.

Q. How much federal money is secured for homeless programs by the Tri-J?

A. Over $10 million comes to the Tri-J annually from HUD to help address the problem of homelessness.

Q. Who gets counted?

A. The Tri-J Homeless Census focuses on counting:

1) Unsheltered Homeless: people who are sleeping in outdoor locations such as sidewalks, parks, encampments, and under bridges. *HUD recognizes the canvassing method of driving or walking every street in the Tri-J to count homeless people outdoors as a national best practice.*

2) Sheltered Homeless: people who are staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

Q. What have been the results of past Tri-J Homeless Census?

	Adjusted 2003	**2005**	**2007**	**2009**	**2011**
Unsheltered Homeless	2,304	2,262	2,115	2,164	2,378
Sheltered Homeless (Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing)	4,253	4,570	4,725	4,855	4,460
Total	***6,557***	***6,832***	***6,840***	***7,019***	***6,838***

Q. Don't you need to know more than just the number of people who are homeless?

A. Yes. It is important to not only know how many people are homeless in the Tri-J, but to also understand their demographic characteristics, homeless history and homeless experiences. That is why each Point-in-Time Count is followed by the Tri-J Homeless Survey. This is an extensive surveying effort of approximately 700 homeless persons in the Tri-J area.

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