



Homeless PIT Count Project Description

On **Thursday, February 26, 2009**, the Homeless Coalition will be conducting a comprehensive point in time enumeration of homeless persons in Hillsborough County.

The goal of the 2009 Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count will be to conduct a street and service-based count of all homeless individuals in every city, community and unincorporated area of Hillsborough County. This project will include a methodology for counting all homeless persons, as defined by HUD, which creates a unique identifier which will avoid duplication of persons counted.

To conduct the 2009 Homeless PIT the County will be divided into four distinct geographic regions. Each of the regions will then be divided into easily navigable sections based on geography and landmarks. Teams will then be disbursed into each area to conduct the enumeration on the day of the PIT.

Street-based enumeration will include homeless encampments and other places homeless people use as part of their daily activities. Homeless encampments are those places which homeless people use primarily for sleeping. These locations will be mapped out ahead of the count. Other places (non-encampments) include streets and sidewalks where homeless people are usually en route, and locations where homeless people gather or hang out such as vacant lots, parks, municipal service or business centers, parked cars, abandoned buildings, and other locations not considered homeless encampments. These areas will be divided along grid lines and have teams of volunteers crossing the grids to count the population in heavily populated areas.

The service-based enumeration will include places where homeless persons receive services. Such places will include shelters, transitional housing programs, food and clothing programs, etc. Staff at these locations will be asked to collect the same data as the street-based count.

Persons to be counted within the street-based and service-based enumeration are those individuals and families considered homeless according to HUD's definition of homelessness. Enumeration will be conducted using a simple count instrument recording information provided by the homeless individual during the interaction. The methodology that will be implemented during the enumeration process includes the creation of an identifier which prevents a person from being counted in the final tally more than once. During the enumeration, counters will record the initials, gender, ethnicity, year of birth and state born (as well as other information) of each adult encountered during the designated day(s) of the count. This information will then be used to code each person. For example, an adult encountered may have the following code of "WTMW1957CA. This means that this person's first name began with "W", his last name began with "T", he was male "M", he was White "W", and born in 1957 in the state of California. Other factors may be used or substituted to help determine duplication. For example additional identifiers include State where you became homeless or City where you spent last night. This methodology was developed by the Institute for Urban Research and Development (IURD) in Los Angeles, CA.

Prior to the PIT a volunteer base will be established in order to carry out the enumeration activities. Volunteers will be recruited through Service Providers, City and County Services, Homeless Coalition Continuum Members, the Local Media, Colleges and Universities, basically volunteers can come from anywhere in the entire County to help conduct the PIT count. They will be asked to fill out a Volunteer Form (see attached form) to match skills and locations to allow each volunteer to use their strengths during the census.

Each volunteer will be contacted by a Team Lead prior to the PIT. All PIT volunteers will be required to attend a training session prior to the PIT. Each training session will cover the purpose, methodology, safety, and establish a unified practice for conducting the 2009 Homeless PIT Project.