

Atlanta Continuum of Care 2020 Point in Time Count Monday, January 27, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Point in Time Count?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count and survey of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continua of Care (CoC) conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter and transitional housing. CoCs also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every other year (odd numbered years). However, the Atlanta CoC conducts both a sheltered and unsheltered PIT every January.

All information gathered is used to give communities, like Atlanta, a snapshot of how many people are homeless on one given night. The PIT is not necessarily indicative of the total homeless population in one year in the community. The data is submitted to HUD and is used locally to help communities understand trends in homelessness and to measure the progress in making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring, on one particular night. In Atlanta, real-time data is also used to measure the progress of the community.

PIT reports from other years can be found [here](#) (or cut and paste: <https://partnersforhome.org/data>). For information on how the Atlanta community is performing, as a system, in addressing homelessness, click [here](#) (or cut and paste: <https://partnersforhome.org/performance>).

When is the Atlanta Point in Time Count?

The PIT will be the night of Monday, January 27, 2020 into the morning of Tuesday, January 28, 2020. Volunteers will also survey people the following week, but all information gathered will be based on people who were homeless on January 27, 2020.

Is this the same as the United States 2020 Census?

No. That census is something that occurs once a decade and more information about that can be found [here](#) (or copy and paste: <https://2020census.gov/>).

Where is the Atlanta PIT?

The Atlanta PIT covers the entire geography of the city. On Monday, January 27, volunteers will all gather at one central location and be deployed from there. Throughout the week, volunteers will gather at different locations, depending on where their shift is.

Is there a need for volunteers?

YES! This is a big undertaking and is not possible without the assistance of about 300 volunteers. Volunteers are needed to go out in teams to conduct interviews. There is a need for volunteers overnight January 27, as well as earlier that day and on other days that week. To register to volunteer overnight, [click here](#) (or cut and paste:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A48ACAA2BA6FE3-2020>). To register for other shifts, [click here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A48ACAA2BA6FE3-dayand) (or cut and paste: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A48ACAA2BA6FE3-dayand>).

What is involved for volunteers?

Volunteers on the January 27 overnight shift will be on teams with five other volunteers, an experienced team leader, and a police officer. These teams will drive around assigned areas of the city, and will interview people who identify as homeless. Volunteers will not be traveling or interviewing alone. Interviewing will occur until about 3:00am and volunteers will need to be able to commit to the entire time (from about 7pm until 3am).

Volunteers are also needed to interview people earlier on January 27 at some area shelters, as well as throughout the following week during the day at other service providers. These volunteers are also in teams and are not interviewing alone.

Do I need experience to be a volunteer?

No. Anyone over the age of 18 can volunteer for the overnight work on Monday, January 27, 2020. And, children ages 14 to 17 can volunteer for the other shifts, if accompanied by a parent.

Will I be trained before I volunteer?

Yes. All volunteers will need to register and attend an online training session which should last about an hour. There will also be additional training the night of the Count and before the volunteer shift.

Do I need a car to volunteer?

No, all volunteers on the overnight shift will travel together in vehicles provided to the teams. Volunteers for the other shifts will be at fixed locations (but you may be asked if you are willing to drive to the locations, but it is not required.).

Do I need to bring anything to volunteer?

This year, we expect to do the surveys electronically, on mobile devices, so if you have a smartphone, please bring it! Surveys can be done offline and downloaded later. The data used is minimal (less than one four minute song for 30 surveys, and most volunteers will not complete 30 surveys!). Other than that, we ask volunteers to dress warm and comfortably, and to bring a friendly and flexible attitude!

Will I be outside the entire time?

For the overnight shift, teams will be traveling in vehicles but there will be outside work while they interview people. For the other shifts, there may be some outside work.

Will I be paid to volunteer?

Unfortunately, this is volunteer work so volunteers will not be paid or reimbursed for any expenses. However, some agencies and companies may offer incentives for their staff to volunteer. You will be provided verification of your participation, but it will be your responsibility to ensure that you receive any such incentive, if your place of employment does offer anything.

Other questions?

Email Amy Zaremba (amzaremba@atlantaga.gov).