



## SACRAMENTO STEPS FORWARD

Ending Homelessness. Starting Fresh.

### **2022 Sacramento Homelessness Point-in-Time Count Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What Is the Point-in-Time Count All About?**

Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) is coordinating the [2022 Point-in-Time \(PIT\) Count](#) on two nights in February 2022. It will be held between the hours of 7 p.m. and midnight on Wednesday, February 23 and Thursday, February 24. Volunteers will converge on the main deployment center at Sacramento State University. Satellite locations will operate out of the cities of Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova. The Folsom area, the American River Parkway area and other scattered remote sites will be surveyed separately, using nonvolunteer, regular outreach workers. Shelter operators will count their residents in a separate effort.

PIT Count is performed by doing a physical survey of individuals on a single night found living in places not meant for human habitation. It includes people in sheltered and unsheltered populations. The 2022 count is a full community-wide effort that requires more than 500 volunteers to complete.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that a PIT count be performed every two years in order to receive federal funding for homelessness programs.

#### **Who Leads This Effort?**

SSF, a private non-profit 501(c) (3) charity serving the Sacramento region, is the lead agency for the [Sacramento Continuum of Care](#) (CoC), the regional planning body that coordinates housing and services for homeless families and individuals in the Sacramento area. The CoC is comprised of a 25-member board which includes representation from local government, homeless service providers, people with lived experience, and the broader community of business, health, advocates and faith-based groups. Since 2019, the CoC has overseen the administration of \$50 million in federal

funding and \$25 million in state funds for area rehousing, planning and other related programs.

### **Why Is This Important to our Community?**

The PIT Count provides critical data upon which solutions can be based. It helps the Sacramento region plan for services and programs to appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness and identify strengths and gaps in our homelessness response system.

The PIT count provides valuable data on the number of people experiencing homelessness. It identifies the number of unhoused individuals, families, or unaccompanied youth under age 18; length of time being homeless; age; marital status; ethnicity, and whether they are a veteran or disabled.

### **What Definition of Homelessness Is Used for the Count?**

HUD's definition of literal homelessness is used in the PIT Count. The definition includes individuals and families who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, streets, sidewalks and underpasses, bus or train stations, airports or camping grounds.

### **What Is Done with the Information Collected?**

The results undergo extensive analysis performed by our research partner, the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) and result in a report scheduled to be made public in the spring. The 2022 PIT Report will be used to improve homelessness knowledge of Sacramento, which can contribute to the improvement of equitable and accessible homelessness programs, services and resources. View [this report](#) to see results from the last PIT Count in 2019.

### **Where Are Deployment Centers Located?**

In addition to the main deployment center at Sacramento State's University Union facility, other deployment centers will operate out of the cities of Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova. Moreover, the Folsom area, the American River Parkway and other scattered, remote sites will be surveyed by professional outreach workers.

## How Do You Know Where to Find Those Living Unsheltered?

SSF has been working with local jurisdictions, community groups, homelessness service providers and stakeholders who are aware of locations, and this information has undergone extensive pre-mapping of locations where there is a reasonable probability of people living outside. The effort will ensure that volunteer canvassers' time is put to efficient use.

## Will the PIT Count Confirm If There Is a Substantial Increase in the Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness?

While there are many more tents and homemade shelters visible to the public, we won't know the extent to which homelessness has increased without the count. The PIT report will look at trends from previous PIT Counts.

## Where Do I Sign Up to be a Volunteer?

SSF is seeking 500 or more members of the community to help. [Volunteers can sign up now](#). You can also help by sharing this opportunity with your colleagues, friends, family and networks.

Signing up is easier than ever! Go to our [Timecounts](#) 2022 PIT Volunteer Registration platform. You can learn more about all the types of volunteer opportunities and sign up to select your preferred days, times and locations.

## What Commitments Must Volunteers Make?

All volunteers must be at least 18 years old and show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Fully vaccinated is defined as having had at least two shots of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or one shot of Johnson & Johnson vaccine. A booster shot is not required. Anyone who has active symptoms of a cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms will be unable to participate.

Volunteers who do canvassing are also being asked to attend one training session and must be willing to use personal supplies such as smartphones and flashlights.

Transportation will not be provided; volunteers need to be willing to travel by car and foot.

## **What Kind of Volunteer Roles Are There and Will There Be Training?**

Volunteers are needed to be part of a small team of street canvassers who conduct the surveys, record counts, and distribute gift cards to survey participants. (SSF will do its best to match volunteers to preferred shifts, locations and team members.) Canvassers must undergo training in a [one-hour Zoom training session](#) prior to the event. Canvasser volunteers need to sign up for training, which is offered between 5 and 6 p.m. on Feb. 9, 15, and 22.

There are also a variety of essential support functions from which to choose. They include: serving as a canvassing concierge who distributes packets with canvassing details and addresses canvassers' questions and needs while in the field; working at the check-in and check-out station, completing health screenings and facilitating canvasser deployment; be part of a team serving food and beverages to those assembled or help with deployment center set up and/or tear down. Pre-training for noncanvassers is not required; deployment center training is provided on site the night upon arrival at the deployment center.

## **How are Health and Safety Factored Into the Effort?**

The PIT Count operation uses standards provided by HUD and follows Sacramento County's COVID-related protocols. All volunteers have to show proof of vaccines, wear masks and keep six feet of distance between themselves and others. Teams are kept small, with only three or four volunteers per team.

SSF has worked closely with law enforcement agencies in determining safe locations and will work in tandem with deployment centers to identify any location of concern, so the right resources can be provided.

To make sure unsheltered individuals know what to expect, the information about the upcoming PIT Count is communicated by professional outreach workers, day centers, and other providers. In overly dark or remote areas, professional outreach workers experienced working with those living in large encampments will be used instead of volunteers as appropriate.

## **Where Can Someone Get More Information?**

Visit [www.sacstepsforward.org](http://www.sacstepsforward.org) to learn more about the PIT Count, view volunteer-specific information and resources and to stay up-to-date.

## **Who Can I Reach If I Have a Question Now or Later?**

Contact our team at [sacpitcount@sacstepsforward.org](mailto:sacpitcount@sacstepsforward.org)

