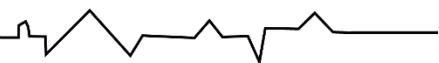


# 2019 HOMELESS

## POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY



### **Alameda County EveryOne Counts! Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions**

**Thank you** for considering being a Volunteer for EveryOne Counts! Over 500 Volunteers are needed to help us quantify the number of people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County. Volunteers tell us their time participating in the Count was invigorating, worthwhile, fun, and a great way to learn about their community. We hope to see you on January 30, 2019.

#### **What will I be doing as a volunteer for the count?**

Two or more volunteers will be matched with a “Guide” from the community who has personally experienced homelessness. These Guides will lead you and other volunteers in completing a visual tally of individuals experiencing homelessness in an assigned census tract(s). While count teams will not be surveying individuals during this process, many of the same Guides working on the morning of the count will help to administer surveys in the weeks following the count.

#### **Where will the count take place? Where do I go on the day of the count?**

The count will be taking place across the entire geography of Alameda County, as teams canvass over 350 census tracts in the region. On the day of the count, Volunteers will meet at deployment center locations placed strategically throughout the county (three for north county and one each for mid, south, and east county). You get to select the deployment center you want to leave from. The exact locations of these deployment centers are currently being finalized, and information will be posted here on our website and emailed to registered volunteers as it becomes available.

#### **What time will the count take place?**

The count will take place during the very early morning hours of Wednesday, January 30, 2019, from approximately 5:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Teams that will be going farther afield may be out counting until 10AM and not return to the deployment center until 10:15-10:30AM.

#### **What is the time commitment to volunteer?**

The total time commitment is 5-7 hours, including a 1-hour training held in the weeks before the count and 5-6 hours on the day of the count.

#### **What do I need to bring with me on the day of the count?**

Wear comfortable shoes and clothes, as you will be outside and walking around throughout your count shift. Dress warmly and in layers, wearing a jacket, sweatshirt, or raincoat, and other clothing appropriate for the elements. *We will count rain or shine, so bring an umbrella!*

Bring a fully charged cell phone and a flash light, and if you are driving make sure you have a full tank of gas. You may want to pack a small snack and water.

Last but not least, please make sure to get plenty of rest the night before!

### **What safety measures are being put in place for count teams?**

The safety of all count participants is our number one priority. Safety measures being implemented include the training of all count participants on safety protocols, the involvement of paid guides (individuals experiencing homelessness) on every team, coordination with law enforcement, and specialized teams and strategies to count specific encampments or high-volume areas.

### **What are the requirements for being a Volunteer?**

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, be registered in advance, and able to walk 2-3 miles comfortably. For interested volunteers unable to meet the walking requirements, please contact Ruby Butler at [RButler@EveryOneHome.org](mailto:RButler@EveryOneHome.org) or (510) 507-9339 to inquire about other ways you can help with the Count activities at the deployment centers.

### **Can I bring my friend, family member, or co-worker to volunteer with me?**

Yes! We certainly welcome you to volunteer alongside someone you know, so long as they meet the minimum volunteer requirements. Please note that children under the age of 18 are not allowed to participate in the street count, even with parental supervision.

You may indicate if there are specific individuals you would like to bring with you when you complete our online volunteer registration. You are also welcome to share the link broadly with your networks: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019AlamedaPIT>

### **Do I need a car to volunteer?**

Volunteers are not required to have a car in order to participate but must arrange their own transportation to arrive at their assigned deployment center location on the day of the count. If you do have access to a vehicle and are willing to help transport your teammates on the day of the count, [please be sure to indicate so during volunteer registration](#). Please note that EveryOne Counts! does not reimburse volunteers for mileage.

### **Why does the Count matter? How does the data get used?**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that communities receiving federal funds from its Continuum of Care homeless program conduct a count of all sheltered people in the last week of January annually. Unsheltered counts are required every other year. The Count is important because it establishes the magnitude of homelessness in our County and helps policymakers, program administrators, and our community track progress towards the goal of ending homelessness. Collecting data and tracking progress can inform public opinion, increase public awareness, and assist us to advocate for resources towards the effort of ending homelessness.

At the local level, Count data helps Alameda County and its 14 cities to plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in our housing crisis response system.

**Will there be a training?**

Yes. There will be a YouTube video available in early January, as well as in-person one-hour training sessions held January 15-18. All training information will be posted here on our website as it becomes available and will also be shared with registered volunteers.

**What if I have additional questions not answered here?**

You are more than welcome to be in touch with additional questions, and may contact Connie Chu at Applied Survey Research at [connie@appliedsurveyresearch.org](mailto:connie@appliedsurveyresearch.org) or (669) 247-7085, or, Ruby Butler at EveryOne Home at [RButler@EveryOneHome.org](mailto:RButler@EveryOneHome.org) or (510) 507-9339.