

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH), serving as the Continuum of Care for Orange County, conduct an annual census of people experiencing homelessness on one night – this is called the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. This year's PIT Count will be January 27, 2021. OCPEH works with service providers and community volunteers to count every person. The PIT Count is broken into two categories – the Unsheltered Count and the Sheltered Count. In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Orange County is proposing changes to protect all community members for potential exposure to Coronavirus.

The UNSHELTERED COUNT surveys people sleeping on streets, in camps, cars, and other places not meant for human habitation. It is conducted in two parts – (1) the Street Count and (2) the Service Count – with the goal of counting everyone experiencing homelessness on one night, Wed. January 27.

(1) The STREET COUNT – takes place for 24 hours, Wed. January 27, 6:00pm-Thurs. January 28, 5:00pm

- No volunteers will be recruited for the Street Count in 2021
- The Orange County Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection (SOHRAD) team will conduct the street count on the night of Wed. January 27, seeking to make contact with each person on their caseload and anyone else living unsheltered on the PIT Count night.
- SOHRAD team will continue to count during the Service Count time period, 14 days following the PIT Count night.

(2) The SERVICE COUNT – takes place for the 14 days following the PIT night, continuing to survey people who slept unsheltered on Wed. January 27

- The Service Count will take place Thurs. January 28 –Tues. February 10
- Agencies serving people experiencing homelessness will also be asked to participate
 - Service providers: CEF, Freedom House, HomeLink, IFC Community Kitchen, IFC HomeStart & Community House, IFC Emergency Assistance, Love Chapel Hill, OCIM, Orange Co. DSS, Orange Co. Health Dept. clinics, Orange Co. Health Dept. Home Visiting Program, Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Department, Orange County Reentry Council
 - Emergency services: Orange Co. Emergency Services, CHPD, CPD, HPD, Orange County Sherriff's Dept., UNC Police
 - Schools: CH-C Schools, Orange County Schools
- The Partnership to End Homelessness will reach out to identified agencies, offer to conduct training, share online training links, and send forms

The SHELTERED COUNT surveys people staying in emergency shelter, emergency response programs, or transitional housing and is conducted by running reports from the HUD-required database, HMIS, and by OCPEH staff checking with agencies that periodically offer hotel/motel stays to see if any of these stays happened on the PIT night. OCPEH staff will make any needed changes to report noncongregate shelter beds, which began in May 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- HMIS Reports: OCPEH will work with HMIS Lead, the NC Coalition to End Homelessness, and service providers to pull reports of the people staying in homeless programs on the PIT night
 - IFC HomeStart (single women, 14 beds + 3 seasonal; women & children, 10units/30 beds, no overflow)
 - IFC Community House (men, 52 beds + 17 seasonal)
- Hotel/Motel Stays: OCPEH staff will touch base on Thurs. January 28 to check if anyone in these programs on Wed. January 27
 - Orange County (including DSS, the Local Reentry Council, Housing Dept), Orange Congregations in Mission (OCIM), Red Cross, Compass Center, Orange County Schools, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, local congregations