

CoC 2018 PIT Count Methodology

Discussion

Sheltered PIT Count Methodology

The Fort Worth/ Arlington/ Tarrant Area Continuum of Care (TX-601) utilizes HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data to conduct its sheltered point-in-time count of the homeless (aka, "PIT Count"). The data is reviewed to the client record level to ensure de-duplication with personal identifiers. Additionally, bed stays, enrollments, and exit data is reviewed for accuracy for the night of the PIT Count. HMIS data meets the required HUD data standards and produces comprehensive PIT Count data.

Organizations that are not Contributing HMIS Organizations (CHOs) are provided templates to gather all required PIT Count data. Each non-CHO has HMIS equivalent data systems that provide universal data elements and de-duplication methods to ensure an accurate count. This methodology was selected due to its HUD compliance and reliability. HMIS staff review HUD guidance to ensure the data is at the highest quality and is compared against prior year data to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Unsheltered PIT Count Methodology

During the night of the unsheltered PIT Count, TX-601 endeavors to canvas the entire CoC geography. TX-601 produces PIT Count route-maps utilizing GIS software for each county. 300+ volunteers in teams of 2-5 persons participate in the blitz count, deploying at the same time from four locations after all shelters have ceased intake. Duplications are prevented by utilizing personal identifying information, conducting the blitz count, and interviewing those who were willing to volunteer their information. All volunteers return their results on the night of the count which ends at approximately 2:00 am.

This methodology is used in order to obtain the highest quality of data. Staff review HUD guidance and provide trainings to volunteers. PIT Count data will be compared to data from the prior years to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Recommendation

The Improvement, Coordination, and Training Committee recommends that the CoC Board of Directors adopt the 2018 point-in-time count methodology.