

Get Ready For the 2019 Point-In-Time Count of literally homeless persons

In January of 2018, 359 Chittenden County Vermonters were counted as homeless, on that particular night, including 40 fleeing domestic violence, 25 Vets, 58 Children, 35 young adults, 63 families, and 220 with chronic health conditions, including mental health and disabilities. Had we been able to include towns outside of Burlington, these numbers would certainly be larger.

Vermonters typically care about their neighbors and the homeless and economically challenged are assisted with food, clothes, and meals all across Chittenden County. As part of this community and the national effort to combat homelessness, members of the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance have made it their mission to make home-lessness rare and brief through concerted efforts to house people who are un-housed.

HUD expects the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance to provide services to the entire county, and indeed individuals and families without housing come to Burlington from all over the county to get help. But we know that there are homeless and distressed families all over the county, and we are determined to reach them. With the annual PIT count, we make our first effort to find and count homeless persons outside of the three or four towns that have received the attention in the past.

The PIT calls for homeless persons to be counted on a single night in January. For this count to succeed, each homeless person must be known to someone and through that relationship, assessed for status on that night. This "knowing" is through local persons of compassion, those serving in churches, libraries and food shelves who have conversations with the homeless, and know who they are. (Police are also knowledgeable, but they can only be asked who the homeless are, not to do the count.) Thus for the best possible count, we need volunteers from each town to step forward and help.

We here begin to recruit you to help with the PIT count. Talk to others you know, find someone to connect with us, and send someone to the planning committee. Shown here is a Doodle poll for the next meeting of the 2019 PIT Count committee. If no one you know can make it, but you know you care, be in touch, write to me, and we will keep you informed.

<https://doodle.com/poll/khqzm37ewvu44xsy>

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