

# WI BALANCE OF STATE COC: POINT-IN-TIME & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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# Agenda



Point-in-Time (PIT) Count - Introduction

PIT Count Planning & Process

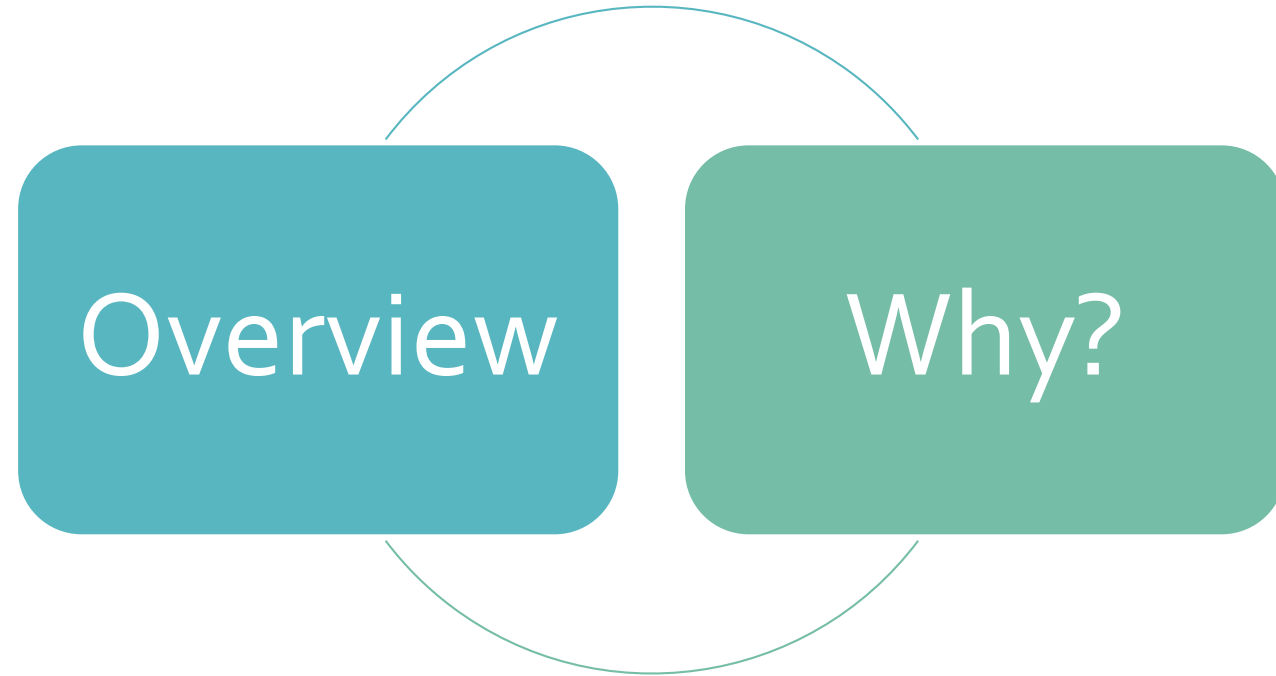
Match, PIT Lead, Coordinated Entry Lead

Resources and Additional Trainings

# Disclaimer

The purpose of this training is not to get too far “in the weeds” with how the PIT is conducted. There are 3 recorded trainings that were conducted in January and cover the various topics that include data collection, coordinate entry and after hour plans, and organizing the PIT count in a community.

This training is designed for partner agencies who interact with people experiencing homelessness because they are seeking other types of services.



# Point-in-Time (PIT) Count



## Point-in-Time (PIT) Overview

- A Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an unduplicated count of people experiencing homelessness during a designated one-night period.
- A PIT count is intended to capture a minimum amount of information on people experiencing homelessness, serve as an outreach opportunity to engage people sleeping in unsheltered situations, and create a “snapshot” of what homelessness looks like in a community.
- A PIT count does not:
  - Count everyone that has ever been homeless in every community
  - Promise 100% accuracy
  - Work without volunteers and community support
- A PIT count is the only data source that brings together data on the following:
  - People in emergency shelter, motel vouchers, transitional housing & safe havens regardless of whether the agency uses HMIS (Homeless Management Information System).
  - People sleeping in places not meant for human habitation (unsheltered)
  - People served through a victim service provider (VSP)
- In the Balance of State CoC, we conduct the PIT on the 4th Wednesday overnight in January and July.

## Why do we do the PIT?

- It is required by HUD.
- The Balance of State CoC uses time spent by community partners planning, conducting, and debriefing around the PIT as match to our federal planning grant (over \$75,000).
  - Each count generates approximately \$13,000 in donated time and mileage.
- The PIT provides an opportunity to see who is and is not accessing the system. The PIT combines those being served (shelter, transitional housing, safe haven) and those that are not (unsheltered).
- Conducting the count twice a year for almost 10 years provides a wealth of information regarding trends and changes within the CoC as well.
  - Data collected during the PIT can help individual service providers, local coalition agencies, and the CoC to justify requests for additional resources, raise awareness, and allocate resources.

## Why do we do this two times a year?

- In the CoC Competition, we receive additional points because we use the PIT count every January and July to illustrate our coordinated, CoC-wide outreach across 100% of our geographic territory.
- Life in Wisconsin in July looks different than in January. By engaging in the count during each seasonal mid-point, we have a better picture of what is happening across all 69 counties.
  - In 2021, the Balance of State CoC unsheltered count in January was 106 households. In July, it was 377 households.
  - Because of this alarming unmet need and data to back it up, the CoC was able to successfully advocate for more shelter/motel voucher resources to be made available to help address this need. More funding was provided through DEHCR and DCF.

# Point-in-Time (PIT) Planning & Process

Night of the  
Count

Geography

Partners

Targeted  
Subpopulations

Process & Tools

Post Count  
Window

Community  
Debriefing



# The Night of the Count

The PIT count occurs during the overnight hours on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of January and July.

- In 2022, the July count is from Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.
- In 2023, the January count is from Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Balance of State established time parameters around the night of the count.

- No unsheltered street or known location count can begin before 11:00 pm on Wednesday night. The preferred start time is midnight.
- No unsheltered street or known location count can continue after 6:00 am on Thursday morning.

All people counted for the “night of the PIT” must have experienced homelessness during the overnight hours between 11:00 pm on Wednesday and 6:00 am on Thursday.

# Partners

In addition to required agencies, look to your coalition partners. Formally invite elected officials and their staff – city, county, State & Federal level. Reach out directly to student clubs and organizations, community volunteer organizations, and even the media.

This is just the start of a list!

- Nonprofit homeless providers
- Victim services providers
- Faith-based organizations
- City & county government officials
- Businesses & private sector
- Advocates
- Housing Authority – city & county
- School district staff
- Human Services staff
- Managed care agency staff
- Service clubs & organizations
- Emergency services – include fire & rescue
- Emergency Shelters
- Jail & Juvenile Detention
- Probation/Parole
- Workforce resource & Job Center
- Youth-specific organizations
- Food pantries/meal sites
- Head Start/4K program staff
- Park & recreation staff
- Public Health department staff
- Economic Support staff
- Media – radio, TV, newspaper
- Mental health agencies
- Hospitals
- Universities or tech school staff & student groups/organizations
- Affordable housing developers
- Law enforcement – police & sheriff
- Landlords & management comp.
- Veteran-specific organizations
- People with lived experience
- Foundations (i.e. United Way)
- Any one else with a passion for ending homelessness

# Sub-population specific partners



## Partners to Engage - Chronic

- Meal sites, food pantries
- Drop-in centers, libraries
- Hospital staff, free clinics
- Mental health clinics & addiction services
- Law enforcement
- Crisis centers
- 24-hour establishments

## Partners to Engage - Veterans

- VFW and other veteran-specific social venues or groups
- Veteran Affairs staff, State Department of Veteran Affairs staff and agencies contracted to provide services
- SSVF providers and VASH case managers
- County-Veteran Services Officers

## Partners to Engage - Families

- School staff, after school programs
- libraries
- YMCA, boys & girls club, park & rec
- Faith-based organizations
- Children & youth organizations & clubs
- Child welfare & juvenile justice staff, public health

## Partners to Engage - Youth

- Local/regional YAB (youth action board)
- Workforce development board youth specialists
- Church youth groups
- Youth drop-in centers, boys & girls club
- RHY funded providers, Transition Age Youth (TRA) providers

# Process



There are two parts to the PIT count process.

## **Sheltered Count**

- This involves partnership with congregate shelters, transitional housing programs, and any organization that is paying for hotel/motel stays for people experiencing homelessness.
- People are counted if they entered the program/shelter/hotel before the date of the count & exited after the date of the count (or have not yet exited)
- If the agency uses HMIS, they can run a report.
- If the agency does not use HMIS, they can gather the information on a form and submit it to the coalition PIT lead

## **Unsheltered Count**

- This involves a survey administered to those that are staying or sleeping in a public or private places not designated for or originally used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- This can include car, park, trailer, abandoned building, bus or train station, camping ground, etc.
- This is also where partner agencies can engage with people after the PIT, asking them where they stayed on the night of the PIT, and if they describe a homeless situation, use the survey to gather information.

# People Who Should NOT be Included

People in housing programs or receiving rental subsidies

People staying with family or friends, doubled up or couch surfing

People living in homes they rent or own

# Counting People in Ambiguous Sleeping Locations

HUD has provided additional guidance to help determine how to characterize someone's sleeping situation for the purposes of the PIT count.

## Ambiguous Sleeping Locations

### Unsheltered

- Tents
- Vehicles – cars/trucks/vans, recreational vehicles
- Tiny Homes

### Housed

- Possibly RVs
- Possible Tiny Homes

People in Hard to Access Structures

People sleeping in tents are unsheltered if the tent is for an individual or single household.

People sleeping communally in huge tents are considered sheltered if it is located on a campus maintained by a government or other entity and provides barracks style sleeping with toilets, showers, and communal food prep or service areas

# Tents

# Vehicles

Households sleeping in cars, trucks, and vans are counted as unsheltered. This includes those parked in safe parking programs, in designated areas, or on a campus maintained by a government or other entity.

Households sleeping in recreational vehicle (RV), including camper vans, are ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations, so not all persons living in RVs qualify as homeless.

- If the RV is in a mobile home park or campus that advertises itself as providing temporary stays AND the RV is regularly connected to water, sewer, and utilities or a septic system, well and generator, or the park or campus provides toilets, showers, and communal food prep or service areas = sheltered
- If the RV does not meet the criteria listed above = unsheltered



# Tiny Homes & Sheds

Does not contain a toilet, shower, kitchen, sleeping & living space = unsheltered

Does have a toilet, shower, kitchen, sleeping & living space but is not connected to water, sewer & utilities, or a septic system, well & generator AND it is not on a campus maintained by an organization = unsheltered

Does have a toilet, shower, kitchen, sleeping & living space = sheltered

Does have a toilet, shower, kitchen, sleeping & living space but is not connected to water, sewer & utilities, or a septic system, well & generator AND it is on a campus maintained by an organization = sheltered

In climates where the temp falls below 32 degrees = the unit must have heat to be counted as sheltered

## Post Count Window

Thursday 6:00 am to  
Wednesday 5:00 pm

- We are allowed to continue the window for identifying those that experienced homelessness on the night of the PIT for up to 7 days after the PIT.
- This allows partner agencies to provide additional support and work with the homeless service system to identify those that might not have been seeking shelter services or were not found during the overnight hours.
- The service-based count serves as a SUPPLEMENT to the night of the count approach.
  - The post count requires face-to-face or virtual contact with the person and completion of the Unsheltered PIT Survey form.
  - **The window opens at 6:01 am on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> and ends Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00pm.**

# To Participate in the Post Count:

Need	Staff will need the Unsheltered PIT Survey and instructions
Watch	Watch this recording and have access to the slides
Track	Track amount of time (to submit as match)
Know	Know the coalition's PIT lead and coordinated entry lead's name and contact information

# Unsheltered PIT Survey



- This is the same form used during the overnight count. This should help reduce the amount of duplicate if the person being surveyed recognizes the form.
- There are 3 sections: 1 required page, 1 encouraged but not required, and 1 optional.
- There are 2 survey forms – one is the short form (to be used with someone being surveyed) and the form with instructions (to help educate the person administering the survey).
- There is a required footer containing two yes/no questions that must also be answered by the person administering the survey.
  - Did you use the after-hour plan to try and connect the person to emergency shelter services?
  - Did you provide information on how to access the coordinated entry system?



# UNSHELTERED PIT SURVEY

Each coalition has a specific Google form link available for volunteers to document their donation of time and/or mileage associated with the PIT. There is a paper version available as well.

In 2022, the rate for donated time is \$26.26/hour. It is important that each person identifies what part of the PIT process they were involved in and for how many hours.

Time can only be donated if that time and/or mileage was not paid for with CoC funds or used as match to another grant.

If you work someplace where your time is not used to match a different grant, then you can record the number of hours spent reviewing the training, using the survey, and connecting people with coordinated entry as match.

# Match

# Key Roles

**PIT lead** – at least 1 designated person in each coalition (a back-up is a good idea) & responsible for the entire coalition's PIT count process.

This includes the planning, outreach, and community engagement; providing training and support; and data collection & reporting.

**Coordinated Entry lead** – the designated person responsible for the coordinated entry process in the coalition.

This includes making sure those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness have access to a referral to the prioritization list for services



# QUESTIONS

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## Contact Information



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