



Point-in-Time Count

Cheatham County

We are looking for volunteers to commit a total of about 4-6 hours of their time on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, to help us conduct the first Cheatham County Point-in-Time Count.

Sign up by emailing: CheathamHomelessCoalition@gmail.com

- WHAT:** The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a count of homeless people in Cheatham County on a specific date.
- WHEN:** January 28, 2025 (an alternative date will be announced in case of inclement weather)
- WHERE:** The entire area of Cheatham County
- WHO:** Volunteers of the Cheatham County Homeless Coalition in coordination with the Central Tennessee Continuum of Care
- WHY:** A PIT Count will allow our community service providers, community leaders, church leaders, politicians, funders, and volunteers to better understand the extent of literal homelessness in Cheatham County, and discuss how to serve all people in our community to prevent and end homelessness.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count?

A PIT count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The federal government through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness.

What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?

A CoC is a regional planning body that coordinates services and housing for homeless individuals and families, mainly using funding from HUD. Cheatham County falls under the Central Tennessee CoC, which includes a 19-county area.

Who is the Cheatham County Homeless Coalition?

The Cheatham County Homeless Coalition is a coalition of volunteers that brings together service providers, church leaders, politicians, first responders, and other people working to address poverty and prevent and end homelessness in Cheatham County. Our quarterly meetings are open to anyone interested in learning what services are available for people in Cheatham County. Our goal is to make connections between programs and services to increase efficiency, create awareness, and advocate for individuals, families, seniors, youth, school children, and anyone who is experiencing a housing crisis. Our participating agencies include local and regional organizations that provide legal aid, food, clothing, senior services, housing, case management services, shelter, health care, mental health care, substance use services, etc.

Why are we doing a PIT Count in Cheatham County?

We hear increasingly about people living outdoors, in cars, in campgrounds, and in places not meant for human habitation in our county. Yet, no one has a clear picture of what homelessness in our county looks like. The PIT Count will help us establish a baseline for outdoor homelessness. It will also help us create awareness, and monitor whether homelessness is increasing/decreasing in our area.

Is this the first time that a PIT Count is conducted in Cheatham County?

Yes. Our goal is to create a baseline and set up a process that we can ideally repeat twice a year.

How is the count done?

With the help of county leaders and you, we will identify potential locations where people have been seen staying outside. We then will divide the county into different geographic areas. We are currently recruiting volunteers to join a team of 4-6 people per area to go out on the afternoon and into the evening of January 28 and physically visit those locations to see if we can find people staying outdoors and conduct a survey with them (if they are awake). Note that whenever possible a member of the Cheatham County Homeless Coalition will have already spoken to the individual or family in homelessness, and informed them of the count happening on the 28th. That way people will know to expect volunteers doing the count.

What will the survey ask?

We will use the survey of the Central Tennessee CoC, which will ask questions required by the federal government. The survey is geared toward collecting demographic information to learn more about the people.

What do volunteers need to do?

Volunteers will participate in a volunteer training in mid-January to go over their tasks. In general, we will need people to support a team lead by going out and scanning potential locations. We do hope to have at least one experienced outreach volunteer/worker on each

team. Each team will also have 1-2 people trained to conduct the survey. Another volunteer will carry goodie bags to hand out to people who are homeless. We will have paper surveys and clip boards to record survey information where we might not get cell service for the app, and also note down signs of life where people are not present, but it looks like a place where someone recently slept. We also use paper surveys as a back up to the app..

Isn't this dangerous?

We will ask all volunteers to sign a waiver, but our organizers have helped organize and conduct PIT Counts in Davidson County since 2004. The training will provide detailed safety tips, and the team leaders are experienced in street outreach and/or working with this population.

Can I bring my kid(s)?

No. We only allow adults to sign up as volunteers.

What is the time commitment?

The volunteer training will be about 2 hours and will be conducted ahead of time. We are still determining where to hold the training. The actual count will take an estimated 4-6 hours, depending on the area you are assigned. The exact time of the count will be determined by your team lead, depending on the area your group is assigned to cover. For example, if you are scanning a greenway, abandoned structures, or wooded areas, your team will go out while there is still plenty of daylight. If you are scanning a parking lot for people in cars, you are likely to conduct your count in the evening hours when people are starting to settle in for the night.

Will there be police?

We are reaching out to all police stations and asking law enforcement to help us identify locations. They will be aware of the PIT Count and individual officers may join some of the teams in some areas.

Where can I get more information?

Email us at CheathamHomelessCoalition@gmail.com.

We will invite you to our volunteer training, which is the best way to gain more information.

You can also visit our Website at www.cheathamhomelesscoalition.com .