

Let's make everyone count!

Homelessness exists in McHenry County, and we're doing our part to put an end to it.



As part of a larger Continuum of Care which works to meet the needs of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, McHenry County will be participating in an annual **Point in Time**

Count from Wednesday, January 26 to Thursday, January 27, 2011.

We need your help to get the most accurate count of homeless people and families in McHenry County.

If we have an accurate count, we can preserve and improve funding and programs to meet the needs of these households. We can also improve programs and outreach to most effectively help homeless individuals and families return to permanent, stable housing.

Who should be involved?

- ⊙ Homeless service providers
- ⊙ Service providers
- ⊙ Municipalities
- ⊙ Townships
- ⊙ County representatives
- ⊙ Churches
- ⊙ Hospitals
- ⊙ Food pantries
- ⊙ Law enforcement officials
- ⊙ Libraries
- ⊙ Schools

What happens next?

Volunteer Training. We are hosting a volunteer PIT training session at 10 a.m., Wednesday, January 19 at Thresholds' offices (109 S. Jefferson, Woodstock, IL). To RSVP for this training session, please contact Mary Lu Seidel at mseidel@cahmco.org or at 815.206.5805 x. 225.

Count Day Volunteers. We need volunteers for the Count itself Wednesday morning (January 26) to Thursday morning (January 27). Volunteers can conduct physical counts, make phone calls to collect data counted by others, or make reminder calls to participating agencies prior to January 26. Volunteers can contact Mary Lu Seidel at mseidel@cahmco.org or 815.206.5805 x. 225.

How will the data be used?

Collecting good data on the number, characteristics, and service needs of individuals, families, and unaccompanied children experiencing homelessness is a critical component of local homeless planning and program development. Accurate data helps communities to:

- ⊙ Understand changes in trends among homeless populations;
- ⊙ Adjust the types of programs and services available according to need and use resources as efficiently as possible;
- ⊙ Justify requests for additional resources and/or programming modifications;
- ⊙ Comply with reporting requirements from HUD, other funders, and local stakeholders;
- ⊙ Raise public awareness about the issue of homelessness; and
- ⊙ Measure community progress towards preventing and ending homelessness.

Nationally, the PIT count process will be used as the primary data source for federal agencies to understand homelessness trends and track progress against the goals and objectives contained in *Opening Doors*, the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. Additionally, the Congressionally-mandated Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is prepared using PIT and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and having your involvement in this Count which means so much to our residents most in need. We can work together to be sure we are best prepared to meet them at their needs and prepare them for permanent, stable housing.