

NW Minnesota CoC – Brief PIT Count Guidance

What the Heck is the PIT Count?

The PIT count is conducted annually in January. It's a point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless households. We are asking where people stayed on the night of **Jan. 23rd** (we have from Jan. 23rd to Jan. 31st to ask this).

Major Changes to 2019 PIT Count

Enter each individual separately, instead of simply entering a household. There will be a unique identifier for the first adult in the HH entered. It's the first three letters of the individual's first and last name. You'll need this identifier for additional entries for individuals in the HH.

Sheltered Count

No extra action needed for households (HHS) entered in HMIS. HHs will automatically be counted when emergency shelter and transitional housing staff enter in HMIS. PSH won't be counted – that's considered permanent housing.

BUT...do count/interview people staying in informal shelters (i.e. churches or rotating shelters) who won't be counted in HMIS. And, count your shelter **turnaways** for the night of Jan. 23.

UNsheltered Count

Complete either the Paper Survey or use a tablet/computer to complete surveys using the "PIT Live" link. This link is currently called "PIT Live Demo" – you will receive the "PIT Live" link just before Jan. 23rd.

If you use the paper survey, make sure to have staff enter these paper surveys into the PIT Live link no later than **Feb. 1, 2019**. *Note: This is Becky's deadline because I have so much to do in February! I appreciate your help.*

What is the Observation Tool?

This is a tool to use for individuals who refuse when you ask to count them or for individuals you may not wish to disturb (i.e. people who are sleeping in their cars or other places not meant for human habitation). See instructions in the MN HMIS Surveyor's Guide.

How Do We Find Unsheltered People in January in Minnesota?

Realistically, you might not.

Partner with **natural community allies**...see the list of suggested partners in this brief guidance. Contact your partners to ask them to refer community members to you and/or to welcome you on-site on January 23-24.

If your staff/volunteers go to Food Shelves, Soup Kitchens, and ERs, send them in pairs. Make sure you conduct a brief training and have them practice administering the survey at least once.

Training Resources

<https://www.homelesstohoused.com/point-in-time>

PIT Count Community Partners

CoC member agencies in all communities in the region are encouraged to reach out to the following partners:

All Night Business (Walmart, Laundromats, & Restaurants)
Churches United and local churches that serve people experiencing crisis
Emergency Room Personnel
Emergency Medical Technicians
Food Shelves, Soup Kitchens, & Emergency Food Programs
Informal Shelters, church-based shelters, and seasonal shelters that may not participate in HMIS
Jails, Detox, Treatment Facilities, Hospitals *Ask them to refer individuals being discharged on January 23 rd .
Law Enforcement
Schools

Let's Make Sure to Target the NW Region's Major Population Centers and/or Areas with Significant Homeless Populations:

- Bemidji
- Crookston
- East Grand Forks
- Park Rapids
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
- Thief River Falls
- White Earth Nation and Mahnomen

Engage Natural Allies

- ❖ Have a meeting in early January to explain the PIT Count and the importance of PIT Count Numbers to funding for housing and homeless assistance
- ❖ Ask Partners to Direct Community Members to Your Organization to Be Counted
- ❖ If Community Members your partners connect with aren't mobile, arrange to have some of your PIT volunteers (board members, staff, etc.) go to your partners to conduct brief interviews.

Northwest Minnesota
Resources for People Experiencing Homelessness

Day One (Domestic Violence): 1-866-223-1111

Veteran's Registry: 1-888-546-5838

Bemidji Area Resources

Evergreen Youth Shelter (ages 9 thru 17): 218-751-4332

Village of Hope (Shelter for families): (218) 751-0722

Red Lake Homeless Shelter: 218-679-3171

(Note: Temporarily closed due to frozen water pipes)

Servants of Shelter (seasonal church-based): **Contact Village of Hope**

Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter (Bemidji): (800) 588-6229

Equay Wiigamig (Red Lake Reservation DV Shelter): (218) 679-3443

Leech Lake Homeless Shelter (Bena) - (218) 665-2250

The Wolfe Center (Bemidji): (218) 444-5516

Serving the chronic homeless who struggle w/ chemical dependency

Crookston Area

Care & Share Homeless Shelter: 218-281-2644

Thief River Falls

Violence Intervention Project (DV Shelter): (800) 660-6667

Salvation Army-Northern Minnesota Service Extension

Service Representative: Joanne 651-746-3406 (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Pennington, Red Lake, Roseau)

Service Representative: Cody 701-213-3467 (Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Polk)

**Coordinated Entry Access Sites for Homeless Assistance & Housing
(as of Jan. 13, 2019)**

BI-CAP (Bemidji)	(218) 751-4631 1(800) 332-7161	Beltrami County
Evergreen Youth & Family Services (Bemidji)	(218) 751-8223	YOUTH ONLY (multi-county)
Northwest Community Action (Badger)	(218) 528-3258 or (800) 568-5329	Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Kittson, and Marshall Counties
Housing Matters (Housing Supports/former GRH)	612-834-1470	Beltrami
MAHUBE-OTWA (Park Rapids & Mahnomen):	(218) 935-5022	Hubbard and Mahnomen Counties
Inter-County Community Council (Oklee)	(888) 778-4008, Ext. 6	Red Lake, Pennington, East Polk, and Clearwater Counties
Red Lake Shelter (on the Red Lake Reservation)	(218) 679-3171 (218) 679-3228	Note: Red Lake Tribal members ONLY
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council (Crookston)	1-800-201-3475	Norman, West Polk, and West Marshall Counties
Village of Hope (Bemidji)	(218) 751-0722	Note: Shelter residents ONLY
Violence Intervention Project (Thief River Falls)	(218) 681-5557 (800) 660-6667	Note: DV ONLY
White Earth DHS/ Homeless Program (White Earth Reservation)	(218) 935-5554	Limited to White Earth Reservation