

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
FROM: Vahid Brown, Deputy Director, Housing & Community Development Division
RE: 2023 Point-in-Time Count
DATE: May 2, 2023

REQUEST: The Housing & Community Development Division of Health, Housing & Human Services is seeking to provide the Board with an update on the 2023 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness in Clackamas County. This is an informational update only.

BACKGROUND: The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night. (Sheltered means staying in a safety off the streets program and unsheltered means living in a place not meant for human habitation.) The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuums of Care (CoC) plan, coordinate, and carry out these counts no less than bi-annually and report on the data and findings. As the local Continuum of Care Lead Agency, Clackamas County's count is carried out by the Housing & Community Development Division. In addition to providing valuable information about the prevalence of homelessness in our community (in-flow vs. out-flow), HUD uses the PIT Count to measure the performance of the CoC's efforts to respond to homelessness.

Beginning in 2022, Clackamas County has joined Multnomah and Washington Counties in conducting annual, coordinated, regional PIT Counts. For this year's Count, carried out in January, the three counties contracted with Portland State University and Focus Strategies to support the regional count and conduct data analyses of regional data. Performing a regional count presents a number of system improvement opportunities, including furthering regionalization efforts consistent with the implantation of the Supportive Housing Services Measure and improving the consistency and quality of the data collected across the three counties. A regional report on the outcomes of the 2023 PIT Count will be provided in coming weeks, and a local Clackamas County PIT report will be produced by staff by June.

This update is to provide the Board with high level outcomes of this year's PIT Count and its relation to the previous regional count conducted in January 2022. Raw data was finalized last week for submission to HUD by Friday, April 28th.

The 2023 PIT Count does show significant reductions in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness counted this year over last year, in both the unsheltered and sheltered populations. The 2022 PIT Count identified 597 people experiencing homelessness, 327 unsheltered and 270 sheltered individuals. The 2023 PIT Count found 410 people experiencing homelessness in Clackamas County, a decrease of 31.3% from last year. This includes 178 counted as unsheltered, a decrease of 45.3%, and 232 counted as sheltered, a decrease of 14%.

This year's data, as with every Point-in-Time Count, should be considered an undercount of people experiencing homelessness. Because of Federal rules, the Count does not include

thousands of people who did not have a home of their own on the night of January 25th, but were “doubled up,” staying with friends or family. Culturally specific providers tell us that people of color are more likely to experience homelessness this way, and are underrepresented in the Count as a result. It’s also not possible to definitively find, survey, and count every person experiencing homelessness during one week in January. However, the PIT Count assists the county in identifying trends, and, for the second count in a row, Clackamas County saw significant reductions in the numbers of people counted. This is indicative of the success of the county’s efforts to respond to the housing crisis in our community, to implement new programs and services with Supportive Housing Services Measure funding, and in furtherance of Clackamas County’s goal to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vahid Brown, Deputy Director, Housing & Community Development