

# POINT-IN-TIME

## Count of Homelessness in Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County, Oregon



### Call to Volunteers: 2019 Point-in-Time Homeless Street Count

The 2019 Point-in-Time Homeless Street Count will occur the **week of January 23 through January 29, 2019** and is being coordinated by Portland State University and the Joint Office of Homeless Services.

The Street Count is conducted once every two years to learn more about the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Portland/Multnomah County who are unsheltered. It captures a snapshot of those sleeping outside on the street, in tents, cars, or abandoned buildings on a given night. In combination with the One Night Shelter Count, which captures information on people receiving emergency shelter, transitional housing, rent assistance, and permanent supportive housing (as well as those seeking services), the Street Count provides important information about the level of homelessness in our community and the need for services.

Communities that receive state and federal funding for homeless services are required to conduct a comprehensive Street Count every two years in order to maintain funding eligibility. Having an accurate count makes our community eligible to receive millions of dollars in funding for essential community-based services. By enabling us to better understand the demographics and needs of those experiencing homelessness in our community, the count also allows the City, County, and their nonprofit partners to more effectively direct resources and design programs to meet the needs.

#### ***WE NEED YOUR HELP!***

Volunteers are a critical part of the Street Count and assist service agencies throughout Multnomah County in conducting a short one-page survey with people experiencing homelessness. Volunteers will be stationed at specific locations throughout Multnomah County where homeless persons congregate or access services, such as meal programs, drop-in centers, and health clinics. Volunteers work with agency staff to talk with people about the survey, invite them to participate, and then fill out the survey form. Specific requirements and shift schedules will vary by agency. Most shifts last from two to four hours. Shifts will be available during morning, daytime, and evening hours. The

majority of the shifts will be scheduled the evening of Wednesday, January 23 through the evening of Friday, January 25, but there will be shifts available throughout the week of January 23 to 29. Even volunteering for a few hours helps immensely.

As a reminder, Street Count Volunteers should be:

- Comfortable approaching people and inviting them to participate in the survey;
- Able to relate effectively with a wide range of people;
- Humble and respectful;
- Able to stand or walk for long periods of time, in some cases outdoors;
- Comfortable spending time on street corners or in crowded waiting areas;
- Able to read the survey questions and record the answers;
- Bi-lingual in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, or Russian is a plus.

Please forward this invite to anyone else you know who may be interested in volunteering.

## **VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION**

**STEP 1:** If you might be able to volunteer again, please fill out the initial interest form linked below and sign up for a training session. We will follow up mid-January with a list of available shifts. Please sign-up for volunteering [here](https://goo.gl/forms/fLSzFcbo5v5oilwG2):  
<https://goo.gl/forms/fLSzFcbo5v5oilwG2>

**STEP 2:** We will be conducting several **trainings** throughout the county in January to provide volunteers with an orientation to the Street Count and instructions for conducting the survey. Please sign-up for a training [here](https://goo.gl/forms/i5S720VQPUQtwBbb2):  
<https://goo.gl/forms/i5S720VQPUQtwBbb2>

Sincerely,

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