



Fulton County (GA 502) Continuum of Care

Point in Time Count

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. When is the Point in Time (PIT) Count and what time will it start?** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires a basic count of people in shelters and on the streets at least every two years. The 2024 street canvassing days will take place in North Fulton on Tuesday, January 23rd and in South Fulton on Wednesday, January 24th, from 5:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
- 2. How can I volunteer for the Fulton County PIT Count?** To participate in the street canvassing count, sign up online at <https://fulton.pointintime.info>. Volunteers will work in teams using a mobile app called “Counting Us” to ask people experiencing homelessness survey questions. After signing up, you will receive a confirmation email and directions to set a password for your Counting Us Mobile App account. Volunteers participating in the street canvassing count will be provided training virtually on January 18th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to register for the virtual training session.
- 3. Why do we have a PIT Count?** The homeless count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a condition of eligibility for federal homelessness funding. The data collected helps us learn more about the individuals and families experiencing homelessness on any given night in Fulton County – and the need for services.
 - It captures a snapshot of neighbors who are “unsheltered” – sleeping outside, in a car, in an abandoned building, or in other places not meant for human habitation.
 - It provides information on people sleeping in emergency shelters, motels, and transitional housing – as well as those receiving rental assistance and permanent supportive housing who would otherwise be homeless without the subsidy.
 - Surveys ask about demographic information, how long someone’s lived in the County, their recent experiences with homelessness, whether they have experienced domestic violence, their veteran status, and whether they have any disabling conditions.
- 4. What the PIT Count doesn’t tell us?** Because the count is focused only on where someone slept on a given night, the PIT Count can’t tell us how many people enter and exit homelessness over the course of a year. That number is much higher than the number counted on any given night.
 - The Count also doesn’t tell us why people become homeless, how they’re leaving homelessness when they do, what barriers might be preventing them from leaving homelessness or directly show the success of our strategies to provide shelter and housing assistance.
 - The Count is also still technically an “undercount” that won’t capture everyone whose homeless. People’s circumstances change quickly as they move in and out of homelessness, and physical locations where some homeless stay may be overlooked during the planning phase.

- 5. How many people experiencing homelessness were counted in the Fulton County Continuum of Care last year?** The Fulton County Continuum of Care consists of all of the municipalities in Fulton County except for metro Atlanta. During the 2023 PIT Count there were a total of 337 people experiencing homelessness counted - 128 people counted in unsheltered locations and 209 people counted in sheltered locations.
- 6. What about people who are couch-surfing or doubled up?** The definition of unsheltered and sheltered homeless for the PIT Count is set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and does not include these living situations. The Count includes only people who slept on the night of the count in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or without shelter meaning their primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, or camping ground.
- 7. How are people living in vehicles counted?** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development uses the following standards to determine whether a household experiencing homelessness while living in a vehicle should be considered unsheltered as opposed to sheltered.
- **Cars, trucks, and vans:** households sleeping overnight in cars, trucks, and vans are to be counted as unsheltered. This includes households sleeping in their vehicles in safe parking programs, in designated areas, or on a campus maintained by a government or other entity where toilets, showers, and communal food preparation or food service areas are provided.
 - **Recreational Vehicles (RVs):** RVs, including camper vans, are ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation, so not all persons living in RVs qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act definition. However, people experiencing homelessness that live in RVs must be counted as sheltered if the RV is located in a mobile home park or campus that advertises itself as providing temporary stays and the RV is regularly connected to water, sewer and utilities or a septic system, well and generator or campus provide toilets, showers, and communal food preparation or food storage areas. People experiencing homelessness that live in an RV that does not meet the criteria above are counted as unsheltered.
- 5. Who coordinates the PIT Count?** Fulton County's GA-502 Continuum of Care and the County's Department of Community Development's Homeless Division with the support and effort from dedicated community volunteers.
- 6. How does the street count come together?** Municipalities, nonprofit organizations, constituents, and County staff map homeless hot spots and known locations throughout North and South Fulton during the planning phases of the Count. Volunteers canvass these locations on the nights of the count and survey people experiencing homelessness that are encountered.