

Fellow CoC Members,

It's that time again! The One Day Count this year is on January 26th!

We are personally contacting you because you are critical to the success and execution of this year's count!

What is the One Day Count? The One Day Count, or ODC, is a community-wide count of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations and a review of all available housing stock in the community that is dedicated towards serving the homeless. The ODC is frequently referred to as two distinct components: the count of unsheltered and sheltered homeless being referred to as the PIT, or point-in-time count, and the count of available housing inventory as the Housing Inventory Count, or HIC.

Why does the ODC matter? Well, the ODC is used to complete a substantial portion of our annual grant application to HUD. (It is also mandated by HUD for CoC's currently receiving CoC Program funds.) The CoC receives millions in funding from the federal government through the CoC program. These funds are **competitive!** This means that the more we can do to ensure the most accurate and comprehensive ODC possible, the better off we'll be when we submit our grant application! We also use the data obtained to identify housing trends, new and/or emerging service gaps, and for strategic planning. No process is perfect, but we owe it to our most vulnerable to conduct the ODC to the best of our ability!

In the ongoing effort to improve our methodology and process for the One Day Count, the HMIS Team is establishing two advisory committees to focus on two of our most vulnerable sub-populations: youth and the unsheltered homeless. These committees will review the methodology and survey tools used, establish the outreach teams, and determine the coverage areas for each team. It is our hope that through leveraging the talent we have in our community we will ensure the most accurate count possible! The HMIS Team is also aware of the need to encourage more participation from our schools and will be working to ensure that a plan is in place to count our homeless youth that are attending area schools. As in previous years, a hotline will be available for those that are experiencing homelessness to call and be counted.

While the ODC is a mandated federal requirement, it doesn't mean that we can't use it as an opportunity to provide for those in need. The HMIS Team will be soliciting donations from area businesses and organizations for distribution during the ODC. We know that there is a huge need for hygiene products, warm clothing, and related items, and we will do our best to ensure that we have those available. Any 'leads' or suggestions on where those items might be obtained would be greatly appreciated!

There isn't much time, so expect to get regular updates on our planning efforts! We will also be regularly updating the HMIS Website with information regarding the status of ODC planning and how you can get involved! (Please note the HMIS Website link in the signature line below.)

I hope to hear from each of you regarding how we can do a better job of ensuring the most accurate ODC possible!

Everyone Counts!



David Lewis | HMIS Manager | Community, Housing & Human Services Department | City of Spokane | Direct: 509.625.6051 | Fax: 509.625.6315 | [HMIS Website](#) | [HMIS Trainings](#) |