

Everybody Counts – Point-in-Time Count – Volunteer Job Description

Overview: the Everybody Counts Campaign is an annual effort to get a point-in-time count of those that are experiencing homelessness on one night towards the end of January. This year's count is on January 24th.

On the night of the point-in-time count, shelters collect pre-determined data on the clients that are staying that night. Over the course of the next week, street outreach teams and service locations (e.g. meal sites) collect information regarding where each client was staying the night of January 24th. Only those that are living on the streets, or any other place not meant for human habitation (e.g. car), or staying in homeless shelters are counted. The data collected during the event is used to help improve the services that are provided to our fellow citizens that are experiencing homelessness and/or are at risk of becoming homeless.

You will be asked to collect basic demographic data, reasons for homelessness, and data on the various physical and/or mental health related barriers that each survey taker faces in trying to obtain and retain permanent housing.

This effort is only possible because of the selfless devotion to service exhibited by the numerous social service agencies committed to serving those in need and by volunteers, like you.

Skills

- Adaptable to last minute changes
- Comfortable talking to strangers
- Strong organizational and communication skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Friendly, positive attitude
- Comfortable with using cell phones, tablets, and/or computers
- Accessible via phone and/or email to City of Spokane staff
- Comfortable with ensuring respectful treatment and safety of volunteers on your team and the people they survey
- Reliable means of transportation
- Experience working in homeless services or doing the count before is great, but not required

Physical Requirements

- Stand for long periods of time
- Ability to work in loud and crowded environments
- Ability to handle working in inclement weather

Work Environment: the event takes place throughout Spokane County. You will be asked to staff one of the many housing or service locations where those experiencing homelessness access services. You may be asked to change locations based on unforeseen staffing changes or agency needs. Many shelter/service locations are crowded and loud, which can be stressful. Volunteers should bring warm clothing, as some service locations will be outdoors.

Time Commitment: volunteers will be expected to attend several training session prior to the start of the event. Each session will run approximately two hours. The training sessions will cover the survey tool and the means with which data is collected and reported; instructors will also discuss strategies for how to empathetically engage those experiencing homelessness.

Volunteers staffing housing or service site locations will have four hour shifts. Volunteers willing to work longer/multiple shifts are appreciated!