



Saint Louis County

Public Health and Human Service Department
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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:

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Annual homeless count in St. Louis County to be conducted this week
Special emphasis on counting homeless veterans and ‘doubled up’ households

Despite the relatively mild weather of the past week, it is difficult to imagine living outdoors without a home. Yet the reality is there are people in our community who, for a variety of reasons, avoid shelters and risk winter’s elements. How many people live this way, as “unsheltered homeless”, is the focus of an annual count, which St. Louis County’s Public Health and Human Service Department will begin conducting this week. The County is working with community service providers and agencies to conduct a federally required Point in Time Homeless Count. The purpose is to identify people who are homeless and not staying in a shelter on the night of Thursday, January 22, 2015.

New this year, those conducting the count are making an extra effort to identify homeless veterans, and will provide the information gathered to LinkVet, a division of Veterans Affairs that provides support services to veterans.

An “unsheltered homeless” person, for this count, is defined as having a primary nighttime residence that is a place not meant for human habitation. Examples include a car, park, abandoned building or storage unit, bus or train station, airport, campground or woods. Additionally, the count seeks to identify “doubled up” households – those that have taken in extra family or friends who have nowhere else to go. People living in this situation meet the state’s definition of homeless.

This is an important count because money and resources awarded to communities to fight homelessness are based on documented counts of homeless persons and families. In 2014, the Point in Time Count tallied 134 homeless unsheltered individuals, 54 of those people indicated they had serious mental health issues. Nine are veterans.

St. Louis County will be collecting information between January 23 through January 30, in order to find and document where homeless people spent the night of January 22, 2015. For citizens who have information or for people who are homeless and willing to complete a brief, five-minute survey, county staff and other partners will be at the following locations on Friday, January 23:

- Government Services Center (lobby), 320 West 2nd Street, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Union Gospel Mission, during breakfast
- Damiano Center, during the lunch hour
- AICHO-Gimaajii at Homeless Connect, 202 West 2nd Street, 3 to 5 p.m.
- MAC-V, 5209 Ramsey Street, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In northern St. Louis County, AEOA will be coordinating similar surveys at AEOA, Range Mental Health and Range Transitional Housing. Surveys also can be completed online at stlouiscountymn.gov/homeless.

For questions in Duluth contact Stacy Radosevich at (218) 726-2543 or on the Range contact AEOA at (218) 749-2912.

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