



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:

January 21, 2013

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St. Louis County conducting annual homeless count

Combine heavy snowfalls and bitterly cold temperatures, and this winter is proving to be one of the more difficult ones in recent memory. It's true for people who have the benefit of a warm house and bed, and is devastatingly true for those in our community without homes and who are not in community shelters.

St. Louis County's Public Health and Human Service Department is once again working to get as accurate a count as possible of these "unsheltered homeless" people this month. The County is working with community service providers and agencies to conduct a Point-in-Time Homeless Count. The purpose is to identify people who are homeless and not staying in a shelter on the night of Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

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. 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.

St. Louis County will be collecting information over a 10-day period in January in order to

find and document where homeless people spent the night of January 22, 2014. County staff will set up a table in the lobby of the Government Services Center in Duluth on Thursday, January 23, for citizens who have information or for people who are homeless and willing to complete a brief, five-minute survey. AEOA will be coordinating similar surveys in Northern St Louis County.

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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