



“STAND UP AND BE COUNTED” 2009 HOMELESS COUNT AND SURVEY

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition

Mission:

To provide dynamic, proactive leadership that engages policy makers and the community to end homelessness.

Goal:

A community fiercely focused on ending homelessness.

What have we learned?

In 2007, the “point-in-time” homeless count of the homeless population in Austin/Travis County was at least 3,451.

This number reflects the number of homeless persons receiving homeless services as well as those that are on the street.

www.AustinECHO.org

January 29, 2009

What is the homeless count?

The homeless count is a point in time census of all homeless persons in Travis County. Cities nationwide will be participating in the homeless count this year and reporting the data to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Why is it important?

The homeless count will help identify who is homeless in Travis County and provide us with a baseline number of homeless individuals. The data collected will be useful on many levels:

It will give Travis County leverage when applying for federal or private aid to maintain and/or improve service delivery to the homeless population. The count can be used to measure progress towards ending chronic homelessness by 2014.

It will increase public awareness of the homeless population in Travis County. It will allow agencies to improve their ability to plan and implement effective services for homeless persons.

What do I do as a volunteer?

This year’s count is on **Thursday, January 29th from 4:00-9:00 pm**. Volunteers will be broken up into teams—each team includes 1 team leader and 1-2 drivers. Volunteers will be assigned a part of Travis County to count and survey the homeless; some groups may be visiting encampments and working in outlying areas of Travis County.

Do volunteers receive training?

All volunteers will attend 1 of 2 training sessions that will focus on the use of data collection instruments, communication strategies, safety tips and survey strategies.

Training sessions will be taking place on Tuesday, January 27 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm and Thursday, January 29 from 2:00-4:00 pm (before the count).

Locations of trainings: St. David’s Episcopal Church (304 E. 7th, Austin 78701)
Food will be provided at the trainings.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please contact Kassi Darakhshan at (512) 305-4138 or kdarakhshan@frontsteps.org.

Together we can make a difference.

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