Hampden County Continuum of Care

1. **POINT-IN-TIME COUNT: SHELTERED POPULATION**

The PIT Count will take place on the night of **Wednesday, January 28**. This year's count has two parts: 1) The regular Point-in-Time Count; and 2) The Youth Survey.

**POINT-IN-TIME COUNT**

To assist with the homeless point-in-time count, we are requesting:

► If you provide data to HMIS, please take extra care to make sure that data is up to-date and correct for the night of January 28, **by 5 pm on January 29**. The City will run the report for your agency and send it to you for confirmation.

► If you collect data in a comparable database, you will record your tallied count on a data collection form that will be provided prior to the count. You will submit your survey data electronically by **Friday, January 30 at noon**.

► If you do not participate in HMIS or have a comparable database, please complete a brief, anonymous questionnaire for each adult on the night of January 28, 2014, and return all surveys to the Springfield Office of Housing by **Friday, January 30 at noon.**

All providers: Please review reverse for important definitions.

**YOUTH COUNT**

Providers should ask **all guests 24 and under** to complete an anonymous survey—online, if you have a computer they can access, or on paper. *These surveys are in addition to the point-in-time questionnaire completed at agencies without HMIS.* Surveys will take about 10 minutes to complete, and we are offering all youth who complete the survey a $10 gift card to Dunkin’ Donuts.

Youth who are homeless or doubled up on the night of January 28 are asked to complete the survey, which may be completed during the period January 28 through February 4. The CoC will collect paper surveys on February 5. For more information on the Youth Count, contact Lizzy Ortiz, lmalave@springfieldcityhall.com.

**CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL**

An adult who meets all three of the following conditions:

1. **Current homelessness**
* In emergency shelter;
* In a Safe Havens program; or
* Staying in a place not meant for human habitation
1. **Lengthy or repeat homelessness**
* Homeless continuously for at least one year; OR
* At least 4 episodes of homelessness in the last three years
1. **Disabling condition**
* Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following: substance use disorder,
	+ serious mental illness,
	+ developmental disability,
	+ post-traumatic stress disorder,
	+ cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or
	+ chronic physical illness or disability; and
* The disability is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration; and
* The disability substantially limits the individual’s ability to live independently.

**CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILY:** Head of household (adult or minor) meets the definition of chronically homeless; Family does not have to have stayed together during homelessness of head of household.

**SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS (SMI):** An adult with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits the person's ability to live independently. The mental illness must be expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration.

**SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER:** An adult with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) that substantially limits the person’s ability to live independently and is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration.

**HIV/AIDS:** An adult who has been diagnosed with AIDS and/or has tested positive for HIV.

**VETERAN:** An adult who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

**YOUTH:** A person under age 25.