

PIT Office Hours: Chat and Q&A

January 19th, 2021

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January 19, 2021 3:01 PM from Thomas Bednar to everyone: To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:

+1-415-655-0002 Access code: 178 674 6854

(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

January 19, 2021 3:06 PM from Thomas Bednar to everyone: Please be sure to select "Everyone" in the "To" line of your chat messages

January 19, 2021 3:07 PM from Kelsey Addy to everyone: Will exceptions be accepted until January 31st, or 21st?

January 19, 2021 3:08 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Thomas Bates to all attendees: 3:08 PM

While processing errors for the LSA, we noticed a significant error with our 2020 HIC. We submitted a message through HDX, but haven't received a response. What is the best way to fix this error? Thanks (re-sending with correct "to" field)

January 19, 2021 3:08 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: link to CPD Memo: Availability of Waivers for the Biennial Point-in-Time Count of Unsheltered Homelessness: https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6246/cpd-memo-availability-of-waivers-for-the-biennial-pointintime-count-of-unsheltered-homelessness/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=58464b2907-hud_issues_cpd_memo_pit-count-1.7.21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-58464b2907-19226917

January 19, 2021 3:11 PM from Melissa McWhinney to everyone: If we have received an exception and intend to do a reduced Count, we do not need to request a waiver, correct?

January 19, 2021 3:11 PM from Deepa M to everyone: Are SSVF Hotel vouchers supposed to be counted in the PIT?

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January 19, 2021 3:12 PM from Rachel Cook to everyone: So if we have already received an approval for a full exception request (no outdoor count) from William, we still need to send in the notice to the 2021 PIT email address?

January 19, 2021 3:16 PM from Andrea Carey to everyone: Do SSVF EHA Beds have an HMIS requirement?

January 19, 2021 3:17 PM from William Snow to everyone: @ Kelsey - we are still finalizing HDX setup details. But we will make it flexible to account for the ways you collected data. It will likely mean removing most validations. We will likely add a field to submit the total count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well to allow for that head count submission. The one thing to note is HDX will only accommodate data from the entire CoC - no sub parts of the CoC.

January 19, 2021 3:17 PM from Gaither Stephens to everyone: What about if we had EHA beds before 9/30/2020 but they weren't included in our LSA submission?

January 19, 2021 3:18 PM from George Payne to everyone: 1. What about ES beds that are vouchered to hotels. 2. Which HIC project should they be put in, if they are part of vouchering system coordinated entry that puts them into hotel first and not assign to a shelter?

January 19, 2021 3:18 PM from Kelsey Addy to everyone: @William - thanks so much!!

January 19, 2021 3:21 PM from Corey Root to everyone: If I understand well from a prev Office Hours - we can use program data to complete PIT surveys for people known to our programs - so Street Outreach could use client file info to complete survey for someone who we weren't able to survey during street or service count - is this right? If so, how do we need to get consent for this? If someone does NOT give consent, we should not collect this data and use extrapolation to get data for this person - is this right?

January 19, 2021 3:21 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Thomas Bates to all attendees: 3:21 PM

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If we have an "emergency shelter" that is not connected to CES or any federal funding, and is only serving households in a school program (not literally or HUD homeless), is this something to include in the HIC?

January 19, 2021 3:22 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: Quick reminder -- please send messages to "everyone." If you send to "all attendees," the panelists/hosts do not see them.

January 19, 2021 3:23 PM from Thomas Bates to everyone: If we have an "emergency shelter" that is not connected to CES or any federal funding, and is only serving households in a school program (not literally or HUD homeless), is this something to include in the HIC?

January 19, 2021 3:23 PM from Cara Lundquist to everyone: My CoC has warming centers for cold weather. People are able to sleep on mats if they want to, but not all people who are there sleep/spend the night. How should people in warming centers be counted for the PIT?

January 19, 2021 3:26 PM from Brenda Chamberlain to everyone: Can you show the slide again for the EHA set-up?

January 19, 2021 3:27 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Brenda, here's the content from those slides

January 19, 2021 3:27 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: Veterans using SSVF Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) on the night designated for the count should be included in the sheltered PIT count under emergency shelter (ES)

January 19, 2021 3:28 PM from Brenda Chamberlain to everyone: Thank you!

January 19, 2021 3:28 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: To count these beds on the HIC, CoCs will need to add a project inventory to the HIC to account for SSVF EHA beds:

- Project Type: Emergency Shelter (ES)

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- Emergency Shelter Bed and Unit Availability: Overflow Beds.
- Funding Source: there will be a specific EHA-SSVF funding source to select (specific guidance forthcoming)

More guidance is forthcoming in the 2021 HIC and PIT Count Data Submission Guidance (not yet released)

January 19, 2021 3:29 PM from John Summerlot to everyone: can a CoC conduct a survey based count before the evening of the night of the PIT?

January 19, 2021 3:29 PM from Deepa M to everyone: When will we know if SSVF EHA is HMIS or non-HMIS?

January 19, 2021 3:30 PM from Jessica Sones to everyone: In future years, would it be possible to get the PIT/HIC Data Submission guidance before CoCs conduct their January counts? If there are changes, it is helpful to know that in advance of PIT in case we need to ask for different info or ask for info in a different way (esp. for non-HMIS participating programs)

January 19, 2021 3:30 PM from Becky Hall to everyone: Sorry I hopped on late. We have already received an approval for a full exception request (no outdoor count), do we still need to send to the email as well?

January 19, 2021 3:30 PM from Thomas Bates to everyone: While processing errors for the LSA, we noticed a significant error with our 2020 HIC. We submitted a message through HDX, but haven't received a response. What is the best way to fix this error? Thanks (re-sending with correct "to" field)

January 19, 2021 3:31 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Norman Harris to all attendees: 3:31 PM

We have an emergency shelter that the city runs for COVID reasons. However they enter their data into our HMIS system for their own data purposes. Is this something that we could include on our HIC? even though its temporary and not affiliated with the CoC?

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January 19, 2021 3:31 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @John: No, PIT count surveys should never ask about where someone will sleep on a future night. Please see this FAQ for additional nuance on this: <https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3472/when-is-it-appropriate-to-ask-people-where-are-you-sleeping-tonight/>

January 19, 2021 3:32 PM from John Summerlot to everyone: @Aubrey Thanks

January 19, 2021 3:33 PM from KIANA Harrison to everyone: COVID Question @ HIC. What should Emergency Shelters be reporting for their Maximum Capacity? What is during COVID modifications (usually a decrease in how many people they can serve) or should they report their regular contracted beds. Many may reflect as underutilized due to different protocols in place (i.e temporarily not taking clients due to recent exposure etc...)- Just want to give them the right guidance while they are reporting their inventory.

January 19, 2021 3:33 PM from KIANA Harrison to everyone: *Capacity

January 19, 2021 3:33 PM from Catherine Couey to everyone: If we are doing a sheltered count, but are currently keeping a number of units offline in order to physically space out participants, should our HIC count of total vacancies be based on that reduced availability number? Or our total number?

January 19, 2021 3:37 PM from Debbie Boyd to everyone: We have a large number of people in motels due to wildfires this year. Would they be considered sheltered or unsheltered?

January 19, 2021 3:38 PM from Paula Holtsclaw to everyone: Our SSVF provider has agreed to enter into an ES project for their EHA dollars. I assume that's okay right?

January 19, 2021 3:38 PM from Cecil Herline to everyone: This is the first year that our CoC is not doing the unsheltered PIT. How will that affect our System Performance Measures and LSA for 2021?

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January 19, 2021 3:39 PM from Kelsey Addy to everyone: I submitted an AAQ on this, but perhaps it can be answered here. If there is a couple in which one person is under 25 and one person over 25, is this couple considered unaccompanied youth or adults only for the purposes of the HIC? If they have a child, would the family be considered a parenting youth household for the purposes of the HIC?

January 19, 2021 3:39 PM from Deepa M to everyone: Thanks!

January 19, 2021 3:39 PM from Amy Stewart to everyone: Boosting @Kelsey's question

January 19, 2021 3:40 PM from Ashley Smith to everyone: For unsheltered, are you saying it's permissible to have some demographics and information, as well as some observation only? My understanding was that it needed to be one or the other....either all information and demographics on all unsheltered OR all observation only.

January 19, 2021 3:40 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Kelsey: you'll get a response on that today or tomorrow. Here are 2 FAQs that give the answer to both circumstances though. <https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3470/how-should-two-parent-parenting-youth-households-be-reported-in-the-pit/> and <https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3471/how-should-unaccompanied-households-with-multiple-people-be-reported-in-the/>

January 19, 2021 3:41 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Lise Stuart to all attendees: 3:41 PM

If they are sheds (pallet shelters) are they emergency shelter or unsheltered? Using porta potties

January 19, 2021 3:42 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Lise Stuart to all attendees: 3:42 PM

William, can you send these specs to us re the specs on what is allowable as ES?

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January 19, 2021 3:47 PM from Kelsey Addy to everyone: @Aubrey - thanks so much!! (sorry for duplicative questioning)

January 19, 2021 3:49 PM from Debbie Boyd to everyone: What about motel beds due to fire relocation? These are not tracked in HMIS, at least not all of them are in HMIS. Would these be emergency shelter?

January 19, 2021 3:50 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Amanda Stadler to all attendees: 3:50 PM

Back to Emergency Shelter qualifications- our community is looking at using tear drop trailers (which include only a bed and electricity in the trailer), with separate communal restrooms/showers as overflow for emergency shelters. Would that qualify as sheltered?

January 19, 2021 3:52 PM from Catherine Couey to everyone: Can someone provide clarification on what decompressed beds are, exactly? I haven't encountered that phrase before.

January 19, 2021 3:52 PM from Miranda Paggoet to everyone: How do you report beds for a ES hotel/motel when it is voucher based and based upon funding availability?

January 19, 2021 3:54 PM from Miranda Paggoet to everyone: does it follow the rule of how many households served/365?

January 19, 2021 3:58 PM from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: "Decompressed" for Nashville is shelter beds/space that was set up in the Spring to take/host some of the guests at our Rescue Mission, so the congestion/density was reduced, in an attempt to make it safer with CV.

January 19, 2021 4:00 PM from Rita Monson to everyone: Our group has cancelled the Unsheltered Point in Time count due to Covid. What do I need to do?

January 19, 2021 4:02 PM from Rachel Cook to everyone: so, the utilization rate for all voucher programs (rrh or ES) would be 100%?

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January 19, 2021 4:04 PM from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: @Rita- where are you?
We are doing the same. Challenge is to explain to community that the unsheltered homeless population is still out there, and most likely increased- when we will not be able to quantify that. How does HUD-DC hope to educate lawmakers about this?

January 19, 2021 4:05 PM from Rita Monson to everyone: Orange, Texas

January 19, 2021 4:06 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Rita, what CoC are you in?

January 19, 2021 4:07 PM from Rita Monson to everyone: South East Texas

January 19, 2021 4:08 PM from Rita Monson to everyone: @Kyra--Thank you, I am new and still learning.

January 19, 2021 4:09 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Rita, the decision of whether or not to submit PIT count data rests with the CoC, not with specific sub-regions or individual agencies of the CoC. If your CoC completed an unsheltered PIT count in 2020 and does not intend to conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2021, it does not need to do anything. If your CoC did NOT submit an unsheltered PIT count to HUD in 2020, it must email 2021PIT@hud.gov to tell them it intends to use the 2021 unsheltered PIT count waiver. If it is just your organization that is opting out of the PIT count but the rest of the CoC intends to complete a PIT count, then they are hopefully working with your area to account for what you do and don't have the capacity to contribute to.

January 19, 2021 4:10 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3470/how-should-two-parent-parenting-youth-households-be-reported-in-the-pit/>

January 19, 2021 4:11 PM from Catherine Couey to everyone: Regarding the parenting youth question, if the family have emergency shelter *because* of the younger parent, does that change how they're categorized?

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January 19, 2021 4:12 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3471/how-should-unaccompanied-households-with-multiple-people-be-reported-in-the/>

January 19, 2021 4:12 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Chris Kau to all attendees: 4:12 PM

our SSVF programs have been entering their EHA clients in their RRH or HP projects - does it need to be separated out as ES?

January 19, 2021 4:13 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Austin Barrett to all attendees: 4:13 PM

^I have the same question as Chris.

January 19, 2021 4:14 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Lise Stuart to all attendees: 4:14 PM

I hope we don't have to separate out the motel vouchered SSVF clients. If so, I would have preferred that a voucher project have been set up.

January 19, 2021 4:17 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @all: the 2021 HIC and PIT Count Data Submission Guidance will provide specific guidance on how to pull SSVF EHA data from HMIS without adding a new project to HMIS.

January 19, 2021 4:18 PM from Linda Loughin to everyone: Can you state the date of the count again please.

January 19, 2021 4:19 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Anna Garcia to all attendees: 4:18 PM

We also have two non-congregate shelters operating under Project Roomkey: Homeless Housing Project and Project Safeguard. can these shelters be added as part of the HIC count?

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January 19, 2021 4:19 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: Here are a couple of FAQs that speak to drawing lines between sheltered/unsheltered locations:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/1818/for-purposes-of-the-point-in-time-pit-count-who-does-hud-consider/>

January 19, 2021 4:19 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3474/should-the-pit-count-include-individuals-residing-in-rvs-on-the-night/>

January 19, 2021 4:20 PM from Amy Stewart to everyone: When would we expect the 2021 PIT/HIC Data submission guidance. (I notice you said "will provide" above.) thanks

January 19, 2021 4:20 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Carrie Bosch to all attendees: 4:20 PM

In our CoC we have reserved hotel rooms as covid isolation and quarantine spaces for individuals experiencing homelessness. We have a set number of rooms set aside at all times, with the option to expand to additional rooms as funding allows if the need arises. These rooms are only filled in consultation with our Public Health department when they are needed. How would we report that in the HIC?

January 19, 2021 4:20 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: @Amy: It usually comes out in February

January 19, 2021 4:20 PM from Amy Stewart to everyone: Thanks, Aubrey

January 19, 2021 4:21 PM from Amy Stewart to everyone: Boosting Carrie's question re set aside quarantine rooms

January 19, 2021 4:23 PM from Ashley Smith to everyone: Will observation forms be turned in to HUD or just a final count?

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January 19, 2021 4:23 PM from David Stevens to all panelists: from Austin Barrett to all attendees: 4:23 PM

Historically, the number of RRH beds reported in the HIC has been a highly valued datapoint in the annual NOFA (worth 10 points). Since this is a one-night glance at RRH utilization, it is limited in communicating how widespread RRH assistance is throughout the year. Do you know if future NOFAs will devalue the amount of NOFA points given to the RRH beds reported on the HIC? Instead, could the NOFA reference year-round households served in RRH via the CoC's LSA submission?

January 19, 2021 4:25 PM from Jessica Sones to everyone: ^^I second Austin's question/suggestion

January 19, 2021 4:25 PM from Rachel Cook to everyone: @ austin FYI your question only went to "attendees"

January 19, 2021 4:27 PM from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: Is the result really "de-value" if we all are ranked this same one-night way? (Personally, I agree that a year-round figure gives a much truer picture.)

January 19, 2021 4:27 PM from Amy Stewart to everyone: boosting question re observation forms being turned in?

January 19, 2021 4:28 PM from Rebekah Zahn-Pittser to everyone: Thank you!

January 19, 2021 4:28 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

January 19, 2021 4:28 PM from Aubrey Sitler to everyone: ^ AAQ link!

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Q&A Session for PIT Count Office Hours

Session number: 1786746854

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Starting time: 2:31 PM

-Erin Gallaher - 3:12 PM

Q: Joined late, we have to submit a waiver if we've already gotten an exception to not conduct the unsheltered count?

Priority: N/A-

-Aubrey Sitler - 3:37 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Matt Manlangit - 3:16 PM

Q: Hi HUD Team, should a homeless client not want to answer the survey and we are to do an observation count only on that person, what are the limitations again? We are not to assume gender, ethnicity, age, and race?

Priority: N/A-

-Gaither Stephens - 3:17 PM

Q: What about if we had EHA beds before 9/30/2020 but they weren't included in our LSA submission?

Priority: N/A-

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-Matt Manlangit - 3:35 PM

Q: We potentially have pop up events on the week of the count and we are exploring the option on surveying people who will go to these events. If we are already planning to do ground survey/count, do we need to stick to methodology and not count during the pup

Priority: N/A-

-Aubrey Sitler - 4:26 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Deborah Ashcraft - 3:55 PM

Q: When is the actual count for Montgomery County TN? Where is the link for the form that we are to use this year?

Priority: N/A-

-Aubrey Sitler - 4:00 PM

A: Hi Deborah - your CoC must determine the date, methodology, and any forms that will be used for the PIT count in your CoC. The Central Tennessee CoC's contact information is here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/tn-503/>-

-Thomas Bates - 3:59 PM

Q: While processing errors for the LSA, we noticed a significant error with our 2020 HIC. We submitted a message through HDX, but haven't received a response. What is the best way to fix this error?

Priority: N/A-

-Aubrey Sitler - 4:25 PM

A: Thank you for your interest in ensuring high quality HIC data! Unfortunately, prior years' HICs cannot be altered after the data cleaning period closes. Please make updates to this year's HIC.-

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-Thomas Bates - 3:59 PM

Q: If we have an "emergency shelter" that is not connected to CES or any federal funding, and is only serving households in a school program (not literally or HUD homeless), is this something to include in the HIC?

Priority: N/A-

-Meghan Henry (she/her) - 4:24 PM

A: Hi Thomas. Only projects serving people who meet the definition of literal homelessness (per HUD) should be included on the HIC -- regardless of funding source or connection to CES.-

-Deborah Ashcraft - 4:10 PM

Q: has anyone submitted a waiver for montgomery county tn?

Priority: N/A-

-Aubrey Sitler - 4:14 PM

A: Montgomery County, TN is part of the Central Tennessee CoC. Please visit the page I linked above (<https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/tn-503/>) to reach out to the CoC and see if the CoC is conducting an unsheltered PIT count.-