

PIT Office Hours: Transcript January 19th, 2021

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Tommy Joe Bednar: Hello everyone, and welcome to the final session of the PIT count office hours for the round for the 2020 -2021 Point in Time count. My name is Tommy Joe Bednar and I am from Abt Associates. I am going over a few pieces on logistical and housekeeping information before we get started in earnest today. First, and foremost, as I am sure that many of you want to know today's session is being recorded and the recording of today's session along with the slide and a copy of the chat and the Q and A will be posted to the HUD exchange, give us about 2 to 3 business days to make those accessible and get those up for all of you. Um, those materials along with other materials, from the task point in time, count, office hours can be found on the HUD exchange. That link is on your screen now. We also hope that everyone has a good audio and to ensure that you have good audio, especially if you would like to ask the question verbally towards the end of our session today. We highly encourage that you connect to the audio, via phone that phone number can be found on your screen now and is also in the chat again it just yields better quality audio for both hearing and potentially asking any question over the phone. Speaking of the chat feature we also hope that you will ask many questions. Shared comments, experiences of what's going on in your community and the best way to do that throughout our webinar is to use the chat feature. While everyone is muted now, chat feature will be your only option for that. To open the chat window as shown in the screenshot on your screen now. There is a chat button in the bottom right. Hand corner of your screen that shows the bubble and chat. If you click on that, it will open a pin on the right hand side of your screen that'll be a chat window. And to make sure that your questions are going to both all of our panelists and the other attendees today please make sure that to field is set to everyone again, make sure that to field is set to everyone, so that your message will go out all of our panelists and the other attendees today. Finally, as I mentioned before towards the end of our session, we'll also have the opportunity for you to ask questions verbally to share that if you want to ask a question verbally please click on the raise hand feature. Session in the screenshot now it's in the bottom right hand corner of your screen there's a little hand button. If you click on that raise hand button, it will raise your hand for us and indicate that you want to ask questions verbally. Towards the end when we get to Q and A, we will unmute you, but you know that you're unmuted so you can ask your question. If you no longer wish to ask, wish to ask a question for your question, has already been asked or, if you have had the chance to ask your question already, just click that button one more time, federal, lower your hand, so that we don't call you if you've already asked your question. Our speakers for today will include and be led by William Snow from the offices special needs assistance program. As well, as Aubrey Sitrler, Meghan Henry, top myself, Tommy Joe here from Abt Associate. With that I'm going to go ahead and hand things over to Williams Now.

William Snow: All right thanks, Tommy Joe thanks all of you for attending. I see. Already our attendance is a little lower, and that actually is probably reflective of the reality that counts started as of yesterday I've given some exceptions to the date, and they have already begun so congratulations for those of you who

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are here. I'm guessing you still have some outstanding questions, and we hope to be able to address what we can today to let us jump into the next slide. Please. All right as a quick reminder what's do this year. The HIC, the sheltered PIT count and the unsheltered PIT Count had some caveats next to it. Right? If you did an unsheltered PIT count, last year in 2020, then you technically do not need to submit a waiver to HUD if you're going to try to wave some or all of the requirements. So, remember, that's a change from what we had been talking about, prior to the memo of January 7th. If you're going to do a counts, you still may need some, some interaction from HUD to change the date or if you want to use an alternate data set to generate most of your data. We'll talk a little bit about that, but there are also a lot of flexibility so let's go to the next slide please. A lot of these flexibilities you don't require HUD to interact on so you can just go ahead and do them but ours Guiding principle for everything remain safety so if your community cannot safely conduct a point in time count and unsheltered point in time count, you still have the ability to take advantage of a waiver, or seek an exception to allow greater flexibility in some areas. You also have flexibility again that don't require a HUD interaction. For instance, if you choose to engage in observation counts, whereas you may not have done that in the past, but you want to do it this year. We encourage that, or use stronger sampling for most of your work, or count with a longer timeframe if you're using a survey. Right? So, instead of just doing the one night, count, counting over 7 or up to 14 days, if you have some way to de duplicate. If you're doing the observation counts, and you want to do it over a couple of days, that also might be available. You just need to look at the dynamics of your own community. So, if you have a lot of transference that happens between a lots of mobility between your CoC. Yeah, that's probably not a good idea because you don't really have a way to deduplicate if you have some fairly distinct areas where there's not a lot of transferring going on. You can conduct your counts in those areas on separate nights. So that's nice. Uh, I know some communities are definitely taking advantage of that so we, we'll talk a little bit about using alternate data sets in just a moment. Let's go to the next slide. So, what's out there and that requires interaction with HUD the waiver memo from January 7th. Allows communities who did not conduct a count in 2020 to seek a waiver. So you can either seek a waiver to do no unsheltered count or to do just a headcount and remember you may want to actually count other things and just the headcount and the headcount means the total count of unsheltered people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Do you want to count more than that? That's fine. But if you're not counting all of the elements, you still need to seek an exception to only submit that total headcount data, and we'll let you submit the other data we want that data if you're collecting it, so you can submit it, but that's just the confines but waiver memo. So those are options. If you did a counts last year, you actually don't need to seek an exception for either of those principles. Right? If you're not going to do an unsheltered count this year where you're going to do a partial count, but you did one did a count last year and then unsheltered a count. You don't need to come to us. That's the beauty of that waiver memo. However, if you plan on conducting an a count, but you need to change the date outside of the last 10 days of January, you still need to send me something and future side will get to that

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if you want to use an alternate data set. Right? Let's say you want to use the binding list to generate most or all. Of your unsheltered point in time count, that also requires in their interaction with me. I need to be able to approve that, you'll need to validate that data is a good substitute and we'll talk about that as well next slide please. So, the memo again, the memo published January 7th, main benefit to all of you is that clarified, and if you had done a count in 2020 and unsheltered count, you do not need to do an unsheltered count in 2021 and you do not need to notify HUD. We like you when you do count, but, again, you just need to look at your own ability and consider your own safety and that and those you're working with if you did not count in 2020, and you do not plan on doing a full count, you must. Send me or not me the 2021PIT@HUD.gov email address a waiver notification. We'll talk a little bit about that. That's due by 5 PM Eastern time tomorrow, so, even if you've sent another email to me. With an exception, and it was even granted, if you do not submit according to that waiver, which requires you to send an email to that box, you are going to be expected to do a full count and there could be penalties for not following that principle, so, I can't reiterate that enough. I will tell you I've heard from almost all of the community that was 46 communities that selling that boat, I think I'm down to maybe 13 or 14. I haven't heard from and some of them may be planning on doing a full count. So it doesn't even matter for those folks, but Uh, but it is something just want to flag it for you. All right, the one final thing about the memo is you should not expect an email back from anyone at HUD if you're going to take advantage of that process, it is a waiver notification, so you send the notification to HUD, and that notification is effective upon receipt as long as it is submitted by the deadline. So there are some investigation that'd be getting some email back saying yes, it's granted. No, it was already granted because of the waiver. You just have to fulfill the notification requirement. Please don't submit questions through that email box. You should not expected to get answers through there. So, if you have questions, you go to me or the AAQ, if you want to use an alternate data set, don't go there. You got to email that to me. So, just a couple points there. Let's go to the next slide. Please. All right, I've done over this enough if there are more questions at the end, or through the chat, we'll, we'll deal with them. Next slide. Please. So, what exactly do you have to do to take advantage of that waiver? Notifications? Send an email to the 2021PIT@hud.gov email box. Notifying us of your name, CoC name and number, and telling us which waver notification you're taking advantage of and there's really two you're either not going to conduct any unsheltered point in time count or you're not going to conduct the full count meaning. For purposes, in a waiver, you are going to count a total number of unsheltered folks or people experiencing unsheltered, homelessness and that's it. So, that's what you would send in the waiver notification and again, you should not expect an email back and I can't see strong enough if it's not in, by January 20th, that's tomorrow 5 PM, Eastern Time. And you did not conduct a count last year. That is a problem. So please make sure that you do that even if you submitted an exception to me. Before just make sure you're, you're addressing that. All right next slide please. So, There is a different process if you want to change the dates, if you need to change the date of your point in time count to something other than the last 10 days of January you do need to submit an email to me

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you're stating. Good cause and stating your ultimate date. The one clarification I want to give here is. We're really talking about starting your a counts, right? Like, what's the date you're designating for your PIT count? So you're starting your count within the last 10 days, but you're going to count for 14 days. That's okay. You don't need to send anything that it's just whatever the start date is and that's the date you're going to use to. That's what you're going to call your PIT count night or your HIC night. I'd all be the same. Next slide. Please. So, what about an alternate dataset that we've had a good number of CoCs checked and verify that they can do this? I'd say we're probably around the 20 CoC mark out of 390. That's pretty good. It also shows that it's a difficult standard to meet. So we did not take it lightly and we took a lot of effort to confirm whether, or not this was a possibility. If you think you have an alternate data set that can fulfill the unsheltered point in time count for 2020, which means you have a binding list or a combination of maybe HIMS data. Including coordinated entry, you might have your coordinated entry data in another database. So you might the explanation my data and coordinated entry data and combining them um, uh, there's a couple different variations I've seen. If you think that you might have a data set that meets that ability to, to fulfill your unsheltered point in time count, you can send an email request. Please include in that a comparison of the data set you plan to use run on the date of your 2020 or 2019, whatever your last unsheltered point in time count is you need to run that data. And compare it to the results of that same unsheltered point in time count. So if you're going to do it, let's say you counted last in 2020, I need you to run this alternate dataset. For that date, let's say January 29, 2020, you need to run it for that date and then compare the results to your unsheltered point in time count data submission for that same year. Uh, if you don't do that, I'm going to make you do it or you need to be prepared, be prepared already to saying why you can't do it. Some CoC didn't have that data back that far, so they couldn't we talked about alternate ways to supplant that data. I will say that right now it's January 19, if you send me an email to that effect right now there's a good chance. It won't get approved now. Uh, we're out of the office tomorrow because of the integration and safety concern, so we will not be checking emails tomorrow. Uh, so just want to flag that right? This is not the best time at this point, this late in the day, or late in the game to kind of say yeah, I think an alternate data set will do it. I just won't promise that we'll have enough time to iron out the details. It does make it a little bit easier. If you're a CoC that did count last year, so if you have shelter point in time, count data from 2020, uh, makes it easier for lots of reasons, but if nothing else, you don't have to submit your waiver. Notification by tomorrow at 5 PM, because you already tempted last year, so there is a little more time to kind of iron that piece out. Um, let's actually move to the next slide please. So that we talked a little bit about and the SSVF, and the EHA program I'm going to turn it over to Meghan to talk through the details on that one.

Meghan Henry: Thank you Williams, so, prior to this year, this program, the SSVF emergency housing assistance program was really a small program that served less than 200 people, I think, in the year prior.

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But in this past year, it's been used to serve far more people so much bigger programs. So, we have been thinking through ways in which to include the people served in these programs on the HIC and the PIT. So, what we have determined is because the use of the assistance is for a hotel and motel rooms for the most part, which is a literal homeless situation we are going to count these beds as emergency shelter beds on the HIC and they will be included in your sheltered PIT count. So, SSVF grantees that are using EHA should report these people and beds on their PIT and their HIC head as being served through emergency shelter. I think there's more detail on the next line. So to do, so, the beds on the HIC, they'll be marked as emergency shelter, overflow beds. The funding source will be a specific funding source dedicated to this particular program type and we're gonna be, including a lot more guidance in the data submission guide that will come out later in a just a few weeks and that will help determine whether these beds will be determined, does each HMIS participating or not? And some of the other more inventory specific items will be included in that document. Next slide.

Tommy Joe Bednar: All right, Meghan, thank you so much for that update we're going to go ahead and move for a few common questions before we get to our open Q and A, and William, I think this 1st, one, we're going to start off with, you should we include safe parking and or campsite camping sites in our HIC and on sheltered PIT count.

William Snow: All right great question. The short answer is no. Just, as in years past. We would count the same things that qualify as shelter. We have not to date, changed our standards such that we allow state parking for camping sites to be included in the shelter point in time or the sheltered. Yeah, sheltered point in time count or the HIC as sheltered sites, so they will continue to be included in the count only as persons experiencing and unsheltered and homelessness and the structures associated, right? The tents where the cars would not be included in a sheltered project.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect, thank you so much William. Um, and can you talk a little bit about how emergency shelter beds should be counted and recorded on the HIC if they're from a decompress shelter setting.

William Snow: Yeah, so there's 2 answers to this one it just depends on your local setting. I think that starting place is. It depends on how you set up your shelters way back when. When you did, when you started your engagement, a lot of this has to do with the COVID response, we provided HMIS setup guidance and allowed some flexibility locally the areas of flexibility and include the 2 major categories, right? So if you are a shelter and you had 100 beds and you decompress, and now you have 50 beds in your existing shelter, and you have 50 beds that are now taken care of through hotel motels, but really like as a facility, or as a project, you still have 100 bed capacity, you have the ability to say; In a 100 bed

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facility and just keep it that way and into HMIS and it would show up as a facility based emergency shelter. That's actually how you're reported in the HIC as well. We're not going to make you create another project for the 50. Uh, hotel motel about your beds when they're really part of your existing capacity, so that's the big one there. A lot of you, I think, acted that way in HMIS. We think that's great. Yes. We're going to miss a little bit of the data in terms of how many beds are actually in vouchers versus facilities. We're comfortable with losing. Some of that means not killing you guys the data collection. Right we do enough of that. We're gonna give somebody leeway on this one. However, if you had a project that increased capacity right. Take that 100 bed facility and instead of having 50 beds in hotel motel, you actually had a 150 beds that additional 100 beds. Our guidance earlier was when you're changing your capacity, you're actually changing the nature of your facility. You should create a new, a new HMIS entry to reflect that. And so you would again, you would just take your HIC or your HMIS based project setup as your foundation for this, that additional set of bed are probably set up, or hopefully set up in my HMIS, as separate project you're reported as such in the HIC. So HMIS setup is the real key to all of this. Hopefully all of that is already done. I have been noticing based on some questions I've received that there are some jurisdictions that have local funded or state funded programs where they're not participating in HMIS. That is a, that is a problem, whether that's the decompressed facilities or otherwise we do expect you to collect and report on all of your sheltered data that is one of our requirements. So if they're not an issue, HMIS that could be okay if they're collecting all the elements required for the HIC or, if you have a process for reaching out to folks in that facility, to gather their data, which is normal, right that that happens in every counting year there are plenty of projects that aren't in my HIC and that. CoC has to a count for that by going out and collecting surveys. So if there are concerns with this or a misunderstanding about what to do there, submitted AAQ. Uh, we'll talk to you about that, but I will say that our standard for now is you should be prepared to a count for every bed and the person's in them along with whatever data's required for the sheltered point in time count. All right, give it back to you. Tommy Joe.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Thank you, we're going to go ahead and move into some broader questions that aren't necessarily about the HIC. Um. And this will also head off a few questions that have been added into the chat. William. Can you just explain the deadline for notification of using the waiver and for getting, uh, a request in for using alternative data set for, for changing the date of PIT count?

William Snow: Yep, so if you did not count uh, doing and unsheltered, count in 2020 and you do not want to do the full unsheltered point in time count. You must submit a waiver by January 20th at 5 PM that's tomorrow 5 PM Eastern time tomorrow 5 PM Eastern Time. That's got to be submitted that email must state your CoC name and number and must state what waivers you're taking advantage of, and that's either you're not going to do an unsheltered count at all or you plan on doing a total count of

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persons experiencing and sheltered homelessness only so that's the waiver if you did count last year, and you do not plan on counting this year and again, that's only the unsheltered counts you don't have to send me anything uh, prior to the January 7th memo, we were doing exceptions and going back and forth. You don't have to do that thanks to that waiver memo or even if you're going to shorten what you're going to count I appreciate those emails. We're still are keeping track of what data we're getting in we're not getting in, but that's not required if you plan on conducting a count, but you are going to fulfill that requirement by using an alternate data set that means you're not planning on conducting an unsheltered counts and she traditionally would you also need to send an email that needs to come to me while there's not a deadline I will say, you have no guarantees of a response at this point. If you're going to count in 2 days yeah, I'm not guaranteeing that you're going to get an email from me allowing that acceptance, so we're now to the point where your timeline is shrunk, there's not a deadline. But the alternate data set, I will say that would be very hard to get approved after this office hours. How about the date? So you can submit a request to change the date from the last 10 days of January. There's no deadline on that either. Again, I would expect to see almost all of those in, by now but one of the reasons we have that is to a count for things that you don't expect. So, if there is a massive snowstorm that you could not predict, or some other event, maybe an extra surge, that you couldn't predict in your communities or breakout in a major shelter that causes problems, right? Like, anything that needs that date change, you have the ability to email and request an exception the one thing to note on that, that I didn't note earlier. We do not plan on changing your submission timeline. So, if your date changes, that will not change when you submit your data to HUD. And that traditionally has been the end of April, April 30th so, if you're going to request a date exception you must be able to say, and I will be able to submit all my data by April 30th 2021. So that's the one caveat with the data exception that I just want to make sure everyone is aware of.

Tommy Joe Bednar: William, I'm sorry to have to make you talk a little bit more about, uh, exceptions and waivers um, you talked about this, just a little bit what you just said, but just to call it out one more time, because so many people are asking in the chat. So, if a CoC, that wanted to do anything, still wanted to do an on unsheltered count, but not a full on unsheltered count did one last year. Do they need to submit a waiver notification?

William Snow: They only need to submit a waiver notification. If they did not count in 2020. So, if you did a count in 2020, and you want to alter and then reduce what you collect and submit to HUD for the unsheltered point in time count, you can do that without even notifying. You can move forward if you're not sure whether you counted last year and again. It's not really about whether you counted it's about whether you submitted data to HUD, because there are some communities that count. We don't submit their data to HUD. It's really did you submit it to us? So if you're not sure if you submitted your data to HUD if I were you, I would submit the notification anyways. It does not harm you to have that notification

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in it. Just doesn't it's not a benefit either, unless you're just unsure whether or not you have counted already, or your data was submitted. So that's the real parameter. You just got to look at. Did I submitted the unsheltered PIT count data to HUD? Last year, if so, and you have all sorts of flexibility that's great. If not, you don't have a lot of flexibility. You need to submit a way for notification by tomorrow at 5 PM.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect, thank you so much William. Um, and I think we actually got ahead a little bit already on our next common question. Um, so a recurring common question that we want to double check on is. If purchasing PPE for the unsheltered PIT count is an eligible expense?

William Snow: Yeah, I love this. I want you guys to look at the costs available. So this is this is great. Um, yeah. You're in the CoC realm, like CoC program funding you can always use your planning dollars. That's great if you want to use CoC program funding, and you have street outreach, you could use that funding to pay for PPE, either for your street outreach workers um, if they're engaged street outreach work, right? So not doing an observation count, but actually engaging with people conducting traditional street outreach. You can also use the street outreach funds to pay for PPE, for people you are counting right? Because you're providing them that service and an engagement that's allowable that same set of street outreach allowances also apply to ESG funding or ESG ESGCB .if you have street outreach workers, engaged in street outreach activities, and, or you are planning on giving things to people, you're engaging in the count, you can use your street outreach funding to pay for the PPE associated with that you can also use ESG or ESGCB admid funding. The paper to pay for, for volunteers or street outreach staff, or again, if street outreach or other staff are not really doing street outreach activities, right? They're doing an observation counts for instance, not engaging you can still use ESG or ESGCB funds to pay for the PPE for that. That you can't use that funding. For purchasing PPE to hand out the people that's street outreach cost not an admid cost. I think that aligns all of the cost allowances under our funding,

Tommy Joe Bednar: Thank you so much William. Now, that closes what we had already listed as common question. So I want to take a moment to share with you all and go over the resources that are posted to the HUD exchange. Um, the one that we've referenced the most is the new CPD memo on the availability of waivers for the point in time count for unsheltered, homelessness Um, this is the waiver that. Uh, William has been talking about and outlines the process for requesting. I'm sorry for notifying, um, of uses that waiver there's also the, uh, conducting the 2021 on unsheltered PIT counts. The, how do you CoC sampling within a guidance? Um, and an example PIT count observation form and finally as many of you are referencing and asking about. For non-congregate shelter for decompress shelter the HMIS project set up and inventory changes documents. All of this can be found on the HUD exchange when slides grab these hyperlinks will be active and we'll also be putting the URLs into the chat as we continue there are also a number of general PIT count resources on the PIT count and HIC landing page on the

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huddle exchange and these include things like the a count methodology guides. With the PIT count office hours, recordings, such as today once we have that posted in the PIT count survey tool with that we are going to move into our open Q. and A, thank you to all of you who have already been putting questions into the chat. Please continue doing that. Especially if your question has not uh, and asked by anyone else yet, we also want to make sure that, you know, that you can ask questions verbally. If you would like to ask a question, verbally. As shown in the screen shot here, go ahead and click on the raise hand feature. And that will raise your hand and let us know that you want to be unmuted and ask a question. If that happens, we'll let, you know, that you're unmuted if your questions aren't even asked or you have a chance to ask it. Please just click that one more time to lower your hands. At this point, we do not have anyone with their hand raised task question verbally. So we're going to move into some of your chat questions. Um, 1st, and foremost, we have a few questions about surveys and observation. And we have one attendee who would like to know that if they're serving someone who is experiencing homelessness, who doesn't want to answer the question on a PIT count survey. What are the limitations on what can be observed and recorded from an observation? Only. Um, they've heard some talk about things about not assuming gender ethnicity, et cetera, but could we go over what those limitations are and what they should, and should not be recording in an observation.

William Snow: So that's a great question. We should start with, we always want to respect people's feelings on that I think. Generally, it reflects a lot of how the CoCs is able to train and engage folks. We have found that a good training with a comfortable set of volunteers, generally results in few people rejecting questions or not wanting to answer anything. That's not universally. True though. There are some folks who just are not comfortable. Especially with COVID, right? Like, it's not the same as every other year this year. Who may simply say? No, I don't want to count. So, if I were you at CoC and I were going to have this allowance that I'm going to do, maybe I'm going to do a one night count which is a short survey, but I'm going to have the option for my counters to tally folks who choose to not answer all of the questions, or any of the questions, then you can use the opportunity to tally them. I would take identification pieces. Where were they sleeping? What could you identify? However, I would not suggest doing things like demographics you certainly can't really identify population data. Right? For the H I. V. positive or veteran sense. Like, you can't you just can't know that. So. Plan for having these gaps, yours, the extrapolation tool to a count for them I get what you can in terms of de duplication, and then a count for the demographics and other things through um through the extrapolation. So that would be the starting point. I will say that some people are willing to answer some questions and not all you should do that you should collect whatever, whatever people are comfortable giving you don't assume that they say, no, I don't want to answer this question. It means they don't want to answer any question so I would ensure that that you're very clear on what they're willing to answer what they're not willing to answer and then use that same approach to collect what you can get if not extrapolate to a count for it.

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Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful. Um, we have another attendee who is asking if they're CoC can use. Program data or other data from the HMIS to complete their point in time count and if so do they need extra consent or notification and consent from clients who they're using this data for.

William Snow: It's a great question. So the answer to that one is may be right? Like, it depends on what exactly you're saying if you're saying your folks are not conducting any counts, you're not sending out any staff or people to do a count. That would be the ultimate data set piece you would need to submit something to me and will and be prepared to go back and forth on that. If you're saying, no, we're going to do a count, but in the event that we know those folks are already in the system we don't want to spend the time asking them questions, which is fine. You just need to have a way within your system to flag them for the purposes of the count. I don't believe this would have any issues with your local privacy notice. I always would suggest you look at your privacy allowances for you to be able to go into my HMIS, and tally up the data on for persons, you know, we're in HMIS asked for the purposes, your PIT count again, you're going to use that in aggregate form to submit the HUD, you wouldn't be submitting any API or anything, but it's always good to look at your local privacy notice just to verify what you're allowed to do and if there is a restriction, you may consider just submitting a total count instead of the demographics and other data that way, you don't really have an issue of collecting things. You're really just validating for deduplication purposes and that puts you in a much safer camp if you're at all concerned. So that's the recommendation that I would give. Did that answer the full question Tommy Joe?

Tommy Joe Bednar: uh, it seemed to from what was already asked, but if anyone who either originally asked this question, or has a similar question, feels like there's part of this that still needs to be asked or that you can, uh, get a full answer on, please feel free to, uh, add some nuance or add some specificity or question either again in the chat or, by raising your hand again, if you'd like to ask questions, verbally just click on that little raise hand feature Um, but for now, that seem to answer that question, we have a cup with a methodology question. I'm asking, if a CoC can conduct a service, a survey based count before the evening designated as the night of the point in time.

William Snow: Uh, no does the count is tied to the very 1st day the counts. We don't do perspective sleeping arrangements just because they're tenements, especially with the population we're talking about so. Point in time counts really starts on the night of the 1st survey or observation based events, so that should be your trigger for what you count for your point.

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Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect, And, uh, for Meghan and we may. Have to have a little bit on this question. Um, but we have a few people asking if SSVF EHA beds that have an HMIS requirements and or when we'll know whether is SSVF EHA or HMIS or non HMIS, are participating.

Meghan Henry: So, if these beds are in your HMIS already, they're likely under rapidly rehousing and because there's a sort of discrepancy between how we're asking you to report them for the HIC and how you might have them already set up in your HMIS We are just sort of doing our last due diligence to make sure that. Which that having them marked as non-participating is the best way. That's where we're sort of heading, but by the time we send these slides out and the notes from this call, we'll have that decision made. That's my best. Guess at this point, though.

William Snow: So, I want to add one thing there, we have been talking with the VA, we don't want to make this decision for the VA, even though it's our data collection their inclination, as is ours is to not add an additional data collection burden. So, it is highly unlikely that we would create, or require SSVF. Recipients to create an alternate emergency shelter project, set up. For these EHA project that just is not realistic for anybody Uh, we understand that the, VA , understand it so I would not expect that to be the case we will do what we can to provide guidance so that you can use the existing data to fulfill the reporting requirement. But again, there are certainly implications about participating versus non participating, how that plays out in the future for EHA we're aware of those things and we're working through them, but they shouldn't impact this initial data collection you should count on collecting people and EHA projects or receiving EHA services and reporting them as Uh, sheltered point in time, count folks and be prepared to speak to the number of beds associated with him as emergency shelter and again, we'll provide some guidance to help you with that.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Moving on to a few of HIC and project questions. William, you can you talk about how communities should evaluate whether they should include, um, projects or Um, abode's such as pallet shelters, tiny shelters, those sorts of things in their HIC and their sheltered PIT.

William Snow: Yes, it's hard to cover all of that cause it, uh, they all run the gamut what we generally do is we looked at the nature of the facility and we check to see if they meet some basic habitability requirements the core ones that we require. Every facility to have in order to be counted at all as sheltered would be does it have access to electricity? There has to be a bare number bare minimum level of electricity if for nothing else, there must be some lighting available to folks, so there needs to be some electricity that must be to the unit. So the sleeping unit itself, there must be access to showers and toilets, if it is a larger facility, we don't require that that toilet facility or shower be in everyone's individual unit, but it must be reasonably accessible on the site. So again, if that's one, large community center, that's been

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used as a shelter and they have adequate bathrooms, right. More than one bathroom for 100 people that certainly wouldn't count. Right? So an adequate number. You could use that that bathroom and apply it and that's okay. If you're a type of campus where somebody can't access that without going outside. You just have to take into a count reasonableness of it. For instance, if you're an area that gets into freezing temperatures and somebody has to walk 100 yards to go to the bathroom, I would say that's unreasonable would not allow that. It needs to be some place that somebody can safely lead their unit to get to a bathing or a toilet facility as needed, so that's another one. Um, we also look at the ability to have an eating space, right? A kitchen space for preparing food or eating food that is safe within the facility again that doesn't have to be in the unit itself, but it needs to be in a reasonably accessible place on the campus, or within a single building another one is. Ability to adjust for climate so similar examples before if you have below freezing temperatures, you must have Uh, running each, uh, each factor heating allowance you could do that through a burning stove, right? It doesn't have to be a traditional eating system, but it absolutely has to be some sort of system that is appropriate to the weather you could put that in in really hot temperatures you need to have access to, um, air conditioning or fans that are sufficient to cool folks. So that's. That's one of those. That's four I'm going to give you a 5th criteria that we look at and that is 4 walls and a roof. So, if you do not have an enclosed facility. That has doors to close the facility that is not counted as a sheltered facility. It is not, in fact sheltered. So you must have a facility again four walls a roof and be able to close that facility off for no other reason that's for safety, but certainly to a count for weather conditions. So those are the five main criteria we look for there are some facilities that will not get HUD funding. Uh, and don't meet the HUD requirements. The requirements are a little more strict. This is the lower standard. Its five items. So you need to be able to meet that minimum standard and then you have some discretion. Locally to determine, do I need those standards? Is this something we should count? And sometimes it's tough. I'm gonna, I think of the Alaska example their conditions are really tough already. They asked if they could use a warming cabin. As shelters, and that warming cabin had no way to adjust for weather and it had no electricity, but it was walls that keep people out from extreme snow or cold conditions. We said that cannot be counted as sheltered. Uh, based on our minimum standard there again, does that mean that facility is bad? No, it's better than being outside, but we can't count the shelter. It's a, we still count that as unsheltered. So you just have to look at your own local conditions and see again, do you meet that basic 5 set of requirements? And if you're unsure, send in AAQ, we're happy to kind of noodle through that with you.

Tommy Joe Bednar: William, thank you so much for going into the detail on that question to help answer Um, a lot of the questions from our attendees on today's office hours in a similar and related question, we have a number of attendees who are asking about how to handle their warming shelters, especially once it may, or may not have math handles as, um, or that they might be optional and not everyone is sleeping overnight in warming shelters. How do they handle those on their sheltered PIT count and their HIC?

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William Snow: Yeah, so we actually follow the same criteria we do for a normal shelters right? Start with. Is the facility can it be considered dedicated the person's experiencing homelessness or notice? Generally covers that and you can use the past notice if there's questions about that but generally you're doing it for light saving purposes, or people experiencing homelessness. You would count the people in the bed and all the beds available in that facility you need to consider beds. Right? So there are some facilities that have overflow and people are not in beds because of maybe an extreme condition or maybe they're sleeping on that. On a chair or some sleeping on the ground we wouldn't count that those folks, we've a count design unsheltered. Right? They're not actually in a bed. So that's another condition that I actually didn't state with the last one, but kind of applies here is they actually need to have a place to sleep and it needs to be a bed of sorts, so it's not uncommon for folks to pull up to use that again as part of their overflow or warming shelter and generally we think of warming shelters as being counted Uh, the one other thing to note is, we do want you to count those that are used for sleeping. There are a lot of day shelters and do a lot of great work. We do not count day shelters. If they're only serving that function of. Providing day, shelter services, we only include facilities that are providing overnight accommodations. Right that actually give a bed, so just bear that in mind, we did have some follow-up questions about that in the AAQ. Never great question. Yeah. Only count those facilities that are used for sleeping time agendas that cover everything. That's a good question. There's a lot there.

Tommy Joe Bednar: There is a lot there. Um, I think that that has covered what we have in about warming shelters so far if your community has a different sort of nuanced warming shelter that isn't covered about what William just shared, please feel free to send that message in again via the chat or if you'd like to ask a question, verbally, you can hit the raise hand feature or if you're joining us by phone for audio or just phone alone you can hit star 3 on your phone and that will raise your hand on our end. So that we can you and call you again if you're on phone that star 3. We don't have anyone with a race hand, though, at the moment. So we're going to move on to we have a number of questions about hotels and motels. Um, 1st, and foremost, just starting from the day 6M, William, for hotels are motels that are used as part of the homeless services system should those be included in the PIT and the HIC?

William Snow: Yes, they should be included.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect and as a, perfect as a follow up for that, um, they are, should they be considered a sheltered or unsheltered?

William Snow: Those be included as sheltered.

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Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful, and if this is part of sheltered, decompression for, uh, ESGCV funding or other, um, non-Congress, shelter, changing or COVID response. How those should be treated and handled on both the sheltered PIT and the HIC.

William Snow: Yep, so for the shelter PIT, it's easy for all of those. All persons in those facilities should be counted. How they're counted again depends on your project set up. If it's a decompression facility, and again, it's you're serving essentially the same capacity through that to modes your existing facility and your project, and your hotel motel vouchers, you would keep it essentially tied to that facility based emergency shelter. You don't need to change anything from your HMIS. I asked, you just essentially use the data on the number of beds available, and the people in them that you already have a coordination in HMIS. If you did something else in HMIS, you wanted to record those decompress bed separately, or you added capacity, so you created a new project to reflect that you can simply follow what you had set up in HMIS already. I know in our HAU we also got questions about project room key and that's the California project used essentially as non-congregate shelters in this COVID environment those are generally included the one exception is, there are some areas that have beds that were exclusively for people experiencing homelessness and some, that that had project set up that really worked for people experiencing homelessness and didn't primarily serve people experiencing homelessness. If you're States or your project that falls in in that category, then you would not include the projects that are specifically, including people not experiencing homelessness. If you have that distinction. Yes. You get to exclude those projects if you don't have the distinction. And you're not sure you should default with those are emergency shelter beds that's the way to think of it, but again, many CoC. Uh, were set up or set up their project collection or data questioning in HMIS, in such a way to make that distinction. So they kind of knew who's reserving homeless. Who's that? So, again, follow those all those guidelines for that.

Tommy Joe Bednar: William, as a converse questions to that, for shelters that have had to lower their specific physical capacity for their maximum capacity because of COVID. How should they record their capacity and availability on HIC?

William Snow: You'll follow the same rules as normal. You'll actually just report what you have on the night of count. Again, I think that one exception there is, if you did decompression and you supplemented your decompression efforts with hotel motel Uh, if you kept that, in the same project setup, HMIS, I asked, you just report it all as one, but if you simply decompress and you didn't supplement at least you as or as a single shelter, you just didn't think of the new hotel motel vouchers factors. I'm sorry, as an extension of that effort or that project, then you'll just report the decompress beds. So. That's okay just recognize some folks are nervous like, what is this going to look like in reporting and how is HUD going to treat it, we're aware there's all sorts of craziness associated with COVID. Some areas are gonna have a huge influxes

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of bed some are going to have huge decreases. We're all over the map. We're aware of it, we don't want you to focus on those implications. We will do our best to make sure that there's a negative repercussions for you taking appropriate safety measures, we just want you to report what you did report what you got on the night of the HIC report the, or the shelter point in time count folks as well.

Tommy Joe Bednar: William, we have some very specific questions, uh, continued on the hotel motel trends. Um, we have a couple of attendees who are asking about hotel motel vouchers, or beds that are used because of fire relocation. What community was asking about, because of wildfires another just said for relocation? Um, and not all of them are trapped in are these considered emergency shelter and should they be included on their sheltered PIT and their HIC.

William Snow: Great question so we allow a little more flexibility when there's a natural disaster that's driving the change generally we would CoC encourage to include them and include them as overflow. And there is a section HIC where you can identify. Specifically disaster based fed this does not actually apply to the COVID beds that this applies to natural disasters so you can indicate that these are natural disaster based bed because especially our interaction with female, like, we've known often its trailers put on the ground very quickly, or disperse or motel, and the data collection, given the timeframe and the nature of the natural disaster, the data collection even out there. And it's not there suffers. So we give CoCs with these natural disasters, the ability to determine what they have, and whether what they have is sufficient to include, if they don't have sufficient data, we've allowed them to exclude them, but they need to be prepared to respond locally as to how the wildfires or whatever, natural disaster, impacted their homeless population. So that's the one caveat. We do give a little more flexibility there knowing largely that this isn't really impacting your, your round inventory so much it's at least in the long term, this is a short term blip and it's and it's hard to get some of that.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect, if anyone else has other specific questions on hotel motels, please be sure to add those to the chat and or to raise your hand, we'll move back to hotel motels in a minute we're gonna continue on with a few questions that we've received about point in time count methodology. Um, William, we have an attendee whose asking if who's asking, if they have pop up events on the week of the counts, and are exploring the option of serving people who will go to the events, but are already planning to do ground/ ground survey/ counts do they need to stick to that methodology? And not count during the pop up. I believe they're asking if they plan to do a night of count Um, can they do, can they combine that with a service based count Uh, point in time, count in the days following.

William Snow: So it depends is a short answer and the dependency is based on how you do your normal point in time count for whatever it is that we're calling normal for this year if you're doing some sort of

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survey in that night count efforts. Then absolutely you would have enough data between the two data sets to be able to distinguish or de duplicate the data. That's a great thing to do. It's great to do it on nonCOVID years, but on these rough this rough COVID year. Absolutely. Acceptable. If your folks are only doing an observation counts and then you're also having this service based counts with surveys, you probably don't have a way to de duplicate. So that's going to be a problem. I would say, it's not likely that you can do that. There are some communities, especially states where they developed a strata already, right? Like, they determine what communities are similar to each other, and some of them are saying we're going to do surveys in these types of communities and we're just going to do observation and these other types that you actually can mix your methodologies in that in that case, you just have to make sure you're kind of keeping your parts of the CoC together. Right? So they keep all the data from your survey based sites together. You can even try to create strata within app, but those need to stay together you shouldn't mix those at least for sampling and extrapolation purposes. You shouldn't mix those together so that's a complicated last answer there. Really? That shouldn't be happening. Unless you're a large CoC we're you know, there, you can count differently in areas because there's no real transferring of people experiencing homelessness into other areas uh, if you're unsure if that applies to you, you certainly can send an email or an AAU to you and we'll talk through that um, that's a great question, but a lot of nuance to it.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful Thank you, William, um, we have someone who is saying that they like some clarification on if it's permissible for an unsheltered PIT count have some demographics and some observation they're saying that they, they thought it was only all questions answered with all demographics or just observation only. So, could you talk a little bit about having some observations with missing demographic information William?

William Snow: So, we would discourage collect these demographic data through observation, largely because we want people to identify with their gender identify with their race, and that is something that we discouraged others making those decisions for them, Right? Like, that's an important identification principle to them and we want people to have that opportunity, so we discouraged collecting demographic data through observation, you may still be collecting observation data along with survey, though. In that case, we would just encourage you to do extrapolation rights so treated as if there was no data collected other than a headcount on those folks that you observed and then use the extrapolation tool to, and that would be again facing the data you did collect and survey using that as the basis for the gap that you have to fill so, you'd extrapolate to a count for the observations that you had with no other data.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Right. So returning to non-congregate, shelter, decompress a decompress COVID beds and hotels we've had quite a few questions on that, even though we haven't had the opportunity to

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answer many of them. Um, 1st, and foremost William, we haven't attends any asking for a definition or general definition of what decompress means what decompress beds.

William Snow: Yeah, that's a good question. So, uh, I don't know what the technical term is, but I'll tell you how we're using it for the purposes of the HIC decompress means you shrunk your existing capacity, so you change or altered your capacity, you lowered it. In order to a count for COVID safety precautions, that's the decompression piece of it. And again, the example would be, you had a 100 bed. Closely stays together maybe 2 to 3 feet apart that did not need the safety precautions outlined by CDC, which. Carried a little bit from 6 to 12 feet, depending on the on some of the timeframes of the memos, so you, in order to comply you spaced out your bed, and as a result, you couldn't house as many people in that facility. That's the act of decompressing your facility to allow for the safety precautions to be put into place, so when we say decompression, that's what we, that's how we're using that term.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful Thank you to the attendee who asked when we have another attendee who says that they have an emergency shelter that's run by their city specifically for COVID reasons Um, and does enter data into the HMIS system is that something that should be included on the HIC? Even though it's temporary and not affiliated with the CoC.

William Snow: Yeah, they're not affiliated with the CoC is less important, right? If they're in the CoC jurisdiction and they're serving people experiencing homelessness. Yeah, absolutely should include. I think your challenge. Is determining whether or not that those beds are actually going to people experiencing homelessness right? Is this. Larger effort that also encompasses maybe retirement or, uh, or different facilities for the elderly ride, like nursing homes or. You just need to look at the parameters of your actual. Effort there, if it turns out that it's largely homeless, maybe not 100%, but largely yeah. Include the whole thing if they have a good sense of, like, 50% and on any given day, it's 50%. How are you? I would just enter the project using the 50% number. Right? Pro-rated from the from the get go again I would say, look at your HMIS date, hopefully, some of those parameters are already set up and you're really just kind of cheating and using your into my HMIS data to feed the feed the HIC to get responses.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful. So we have a question a little more generally about how to report that for an emergency shelter hotel motel projects. If its voucher based and based on hunt funding availability, so the report that that night.

William Snow: So, how should they report it if it's not like an It's not project based. They can't say I have 100 beds on any given night they just have whatever voucher amount to have available that night.

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Tommy Joe Bednar: Exactly availability until the funding runs out.

William Snow: Yeah, you just report based on the night of like, that's what the HIC does. That's a good and bad thing, right? In a case like this, where there's high fluctuate flexibility or fluctuation that makes it difficult. We found this is one of the struggles with rapid rehab. Is it a lot of times those vouchers programs? By the time you get to January, some of those programs, though, they operate all year round. May have few of any vouchers available during that night and they don't get counted again. Rapidly housing, permanent housing doesn't impact your sheltered tent, but for the purpose of the heck, it was this same principle applies to shelter or other voucher based facilities you're just going to report. What's going on the night of the HIC?

Tommy Joe Bednar: Great so I have a question we're gonna I'm gonna throw out to all of our panelists. Um, we've had a few people who have asked about. Um, the set up HDX for reporting, based on submitting no, one, unsheltered, data head counts. Having different, uh, and COVID inventory, um, mostly just wanting to know if it will be set up to accommodate all of these differences this year. So, I'm going to defer to Meghan or Aubrey to answer that.

Meghan Henry: In short, yes, all of the combinations made by HUD will be reflected in the HDX. So, if you are just doing a head count, and there are no demographics, we will likely be removing validations around those demographic checks and similar checks around funding sources on the HIC And just, it will be a bit of a different year on the suspect, but anything that you were allowed to do through HUD, you will be able to submit through the HDX

William Snow: So the only clarification I would give based on some, a cues and chat think in the past, is this really is a CoC level submission. So, the one thing that we definitely will not accommodate is if a CoC wants to submit for one city. But it's a 10 city or 10 count CoC. You can't do that Uh, it's all or nothing for the CoC, just be aware that this is CoC wide level data if you're missing something, but you have enough to extrapolate do that if you're missing some things and you don't have enough to extrapolate. I hope you've asked for a waiver, right? Just in case for your other unsheltered data. So just remember CoC wide level submission.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful. So, we have a question from an attendee who their CoC is planning on, not their unhealthy point in time count this year and the attorney wants to know if this will how this will affect their system performance measures and their LSA in 2021.

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William Snow: Meghan, or Aubrey maybe you guys should start on that one that might be the best start.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Meghan, you are muted.

Meghan Henry: I'm not sure we've actually put in place any sort of understanding around the SPM for next year already. Have you. Have you, Aubrey do you have anything to add here? I actually do not have anything to add.

Aubrey Sittler: I do not have anything to add to that. No.

William Snow: Yeah, so it depends on if the question is about like. Will, how will this impact your data submission versus how will this impact how, how HUD reviews the data those are definitely 2 different types of questions for the purposes of submission again we're actually going to follow a lot of the same HMIS project set up rules. So that again, it's going to lead so much about you submit both in the yellow, say. And once you submit in SPM the so make sure you follow the project set in the HMIS guidance, that's really, really important and that's what we're going to be using. The implications may be hard to kind of tease out in terms of, like, scoring or how that gets presented for discussion around performance. I will say that we are aware again this year is crazy, and it actually really impacts like 3 years. Right? And you. Hard to compare this year to last year. It would be hard to compare this year. The next year and the next year. We'll be kind of an odd baseline as well. So we just know that. There's, there's weird implications and it'll touch really 3 years of data for purposes of comparison, so. Uh, we'll take that into a count as best we can with the parameters we have.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect William, speaking of this year, being different from other years and we've had a few questions past and present about this how would you guide communities to help present and explain this data? Not just not in their HDX submission, but as they talk with their community with their lawmakers, with their partners, with their funders about how different this year is and what HIC and PIT count data mean this year.

William Snow: Yeah, it's a great. My messaging is gonna be tough. So this is the way we're approaching it in HUD, especially knowing that we have a lot of CoC that are not going to do any calendar we're gonna do some sort of modified count we are planning on messaging and very, very general terms Uh, none of this, like, 8.3% increase or decrease, we're not going to talk in those terms we're going to be talking in terms of it appears that in this type of geography that there was an increase where there was a decrease, we won't be able to say much more than that, and you are likely in the same camp, even for those of you who have data I would again be very cautious and how you present that and just say COVID

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impacted us this is the data we have based on how we collected it and we made some modifications to a count for safety reasons it tells us generally we went up. We went down if you did not do a count. I've also quite frankly, but do you use that as an opportunity to say we, our community was heavily impacted. This was the known impact of COVID on our community, not using PIT data using other data. You've already have and tell the message that your population, these people that were serving, they were impacted and we needed to assist them and you didn't do an unsheltered point in time count because they're impacted and you couldn't safely count them so, with a commitment that you're planning on, getting that data in the future, and you're continuing to monitor the situation, do all, you can serve them, but let them know that we value and prioritize their safety and we will act accordingly and that actually, hopefully will flow through with the other data sets system performance. If all of you use non Congress, shelter or many of you, your length of time homeless is going to look very different, Right? We made some modifications to allow for people to be longer. I tried to encourage people to be able to stay longer in various settings, so, you may have to a count for that. That's fine. That's part of your like, we are responding this is a pandemic national. And international wide pandemic, and we are responding. So, again, that's HUDs take I'd encourage you to do that. Hopefully you can cheat and use our messaging a little bit and just say, look, how does HUD Have said this right? Like, don't look too far into this. This is how you should look at it. You should absolutely leverage that if it benefits, you.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Thank you so much for that. William, we have a very normal, um, PIT and HIC question next. Um, an attendee is asking given a scenario where there's a couple with one person under the age of 25 and one person over the age of 25 is this couple considered and unaccompanied, youth household, or adults for the purposes of the sheltered PIT counts.

William Snow: I'm going to let Aubrey answer that one I'll support, but.

Aubrey Sitrer: Thanks, William, so I had stuck into the chat to different FAQs that we published a couple years ago that speak to this and honestly, looking at those FAQs is probably going to be your best option for figuring out how to submit this because there's some nuance to it that you might not pick up on just from a verbal response. But the long story short is we've heard from people before who have said we have someone who is 17 who's dating somebody and is apparent with somebody who's 27. How do we report them in our head count? Because technically they are a young person who has a child. So, they are parenting, but there's somebody over the age of 25 and their household and the long story short is the age of the older parents and a parenting household determines whether or not, you're counting the household as a parenting youth household and where to where to stick those folks on your PIT count and there's a little charts. On the FAQs which I will stick back in the chat that clarifies. Kind of what to do with that information when it is an unaccompanied young person, so they're not with a parent, but they are,

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maybe with somebody who is over the age of 25 or older, but they don't have any of their own children with them then it's actually up to your CoC, whether you report those folks as a single household, or whether you separate them and report them as individuals in their own household. If you report them as a single household. And again, you're going to use the age of the older person to determine whether they are an unaccompanied household, or just a household with 2 adults younger person has 18 to 24, or technically a household with children younger person is under 18, but I think a lot of CoC end up just reporting them a separate household for more authentic data collection and reporting and analysis of who it is that they're that they're serving Meghan. Do you have anything else that you want to add to that?

Meghan Henry: No, I would just say the example that was given in the chat is sounds like if one, if the older parent is older, just to clarify if the older parent is older than 25, then that would that household would be counted as a household with children. So, family household. Thanks for that.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful, thank you. Both so much William, we had a few people who jumped on a little bit late, or just missed, um, kind of the top line explanation about who needs to send in a waiver notification and what happens if they've sent an exception quest request and before, can you just go over and break out the groups of who needs to send a notification? And when by when, and why.

William Snow: Yeah, sure so waiver notifications are required to be submitted by tomorrow. January 20th at 5 P. M. this really only applies to CoC who did not conduct a count last year and unsheltered count in 2020, so if you did not conduct a count in 2020 and you do not planned on submitting all of the unsheltered data you must submit a waiver that is regardless of whether you went back and forth with me through exceptions the waiver memo requires you to take advantage of that through that email address in there, which is 2021PIT@HUD.gov, you must submit through that process because the waiver is kind of like regulatory authority in that way that's the way to think of it waving a regulatory requirements, you must follow the requirements of the waiver Uh, so the exception emails we did back and forth do not fulfill that waiver notification requirement. So I can't make that any more clear I think you must submit a waiver if you didn't commit or didn't conduct a count last year and you still want to have some sort of lower a count requirement for 2021 for unsheltered if you did a count last year. You really don't have to do anything, so if you did it on unsheltered counts, whether you decide to count this year or not, you don't have to notify us you can change your plans or do what you will and you don't have to tell us that doesn't alter your sheltered point in time count requirement or your HIC requirement those are required, regardless of your status, but if you counted last year, demand, unsheltered, count, you don't have to do one. This year you don't have to notify us if you want to change the date, you must notify me that one falls a different process, so you must submit an exception request to me, there's some flexibility on the timing. I just got to say why you're doing it. Sure, that you have good cause and provide the alternative date that

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you're using and you must be prepared to submit by April 30th. This year, if you want to use an alternate data set to fulfill your data submission requirements for the unsheltered point in time count that also requires an email to me. You're altering, how would you do you're a count? So, uh, I need to make sure that that data is an acceptable substitute for the normal unsheltered point in time count effort, so we need to go back and forth on that to verify that an acceptable data set. As I said earlier, it's late in the game to be approving alternate data sets if you're submitting or hoping this in an email into that effect, just given again how late it is, you it may, or may not get accepted, right? It's just we're on January, 19th or 15 PM Eastern time. That's going to be hard to hard to approve those, given the back and forth on all the other ones, so, just be prepared on that.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful well, William, we have a follow up question to your question from earlier about voucher programs, and it may be worth breaking out, uh, emergency shelter and rapidly housing separately, um, but we have an attendee who wanted to know if the utilization rate for the point in time, count for voucher programs shelter and rapidly housing would be a 100%.

William Snow: Uh, generally, yes, for voucher or for our yes, it's essentially a one for one if you're using a boxer base approach. For the shelters generally yes, for both of those, we have said, like, if you have a set number of vouchers that you've committed to, and you're going to do every month. So you said, we will always have 20 vouchers in this program on any given day of the month then you would actually report that I'm not really aware of a community that says this is like an absolute most say, we have this funding. We're going to provide vouchers as available we plan on doing as many of this uh, you know, as many as 20, but we'll alter how we provide assistance based on the households we're serving and the request we receive. So, for the most part, you should count on vouchers equal. People or households and we're okay with that.

Tommy Joe Bednar: All right. Claim returning to a few of the habitability standards. We have an overarching question um, from an attendee who asked if those 4 to 5 have them, build the standards and kind of criteria that you mentioned earlier, if those exist in the document somewhere.

William Snow: It is not in the document. I need to look maybe Aubrey or Meghan. No, I think we have an FAQs. That outlines those standards, and we've used that for people to reference to. We've certainly used it in the AAQ. So if you want it laid out. Especially given where we are on timing, I'd say, submitted AAQ and we can make sure that you have Aubrey or Megan do you know? Did we get that published as an essay to does that ring a bell to, you?

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Meghan Henry: I'm not sure about FAQs, but we certainly have a lot of information that we can provide through the AAQ. So that's what I would suggest. Yeah. I'll take a look and see if there's an FAQs, but if not, I will pull up some language. Hopefully before the end of this call.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Great as we, as we look for that, we do have a few specific questions, um, about habitability and if it meets a sheltered situation, um, so we have one attendee who's asking if sheds/pallets shelters, um, are considered emergency shelter, or unsheltered, location in this situation, uh, they do have Porta potties on sites.

William Snow: So, again, I can't answer that universally because I have seen several communities using different modes and the way they implemented makes a difference. So, for instance. There is a community in California that has cabins they have electricity. And they meet essentially the requirements of the basic habitability requirements. So, again, you'd have to walk through those standards. Does your unit your actual sleeping unit provide that electricity, and the very least it's got to have lighting. That's driven by electricity, right? So you just gotta go through those various requirements whether its pallet, Tiny home, shed those terms and of themselves don't define it. It's the quality of or the other attributes of the facility that define whether or not it meets the requirements.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Thank you so much.

Aubrey Sitrler: We did sorry, Tommy Joe. Um, I did find two FAQs that speak to habitability a little bit, or at least kind of drawing the lines between, um, uninhabitable, uh, spaces that should be kind of sheltered versus those that might be considered sheltered. We do also answer AAQs specific about specific situations though, too if that's helpful.

William Snow: Yeah, thanks for posting. I was I couldn't remember if we publishing, but I thought we had so I would encourage folks to look at those FAQs.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect and it does look like we have our 1st hand raise. So lease or Lisa Stuart. You are now unmuted to ask your question.

Lisa Stuart: I'll take a look at the guidance that you've posted in those FAQs.

William Snow: I'm sorry Lisa kind of breaking up there, can you say that again?

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Lisa Stuart: I'm going to take a look at the guidance, provided those FAQs was just more questions on the habitability.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Right. Perfect. Thank you. Thank you. So much. If you do have a follow up question or if anyone else has a question you have like that verbally please feel free to raise your hand by clicking that little raised hand feature you see highlighted on your screen. Now, if you're on the phone, just hit star 3 star 3 to raise your hand task question, verbally. Um, we have a few follow up questions on SSVF EHA I think these may start with Meghan, Um, one attendee is asking. If the SSVF provider and their community has agreed to enter, um, an emergency shelter project for their EHA dollars. Is that permissible? And okay.

Meghan Henry: I think this is a question for William in the VA actually. So we had decided for this year that we were, and I think as related to a follow up question that we were not asking communities to enter for HMIS data into their agent under a separate project types, so this is something I think I'm going to kick back to William.

William Snow: Yeah, I think from our perspective, if you're you have a provider willing to do that. Absolutely. We're not going to stop you from doing that. I just don't want to require that of everyone because we know there are higher priorities. In double entering data into a project, but there is value in doing it, so if you have that as a priority, you have the ability to do it. Absolutely do it. It will have implications again. We will be able to include that in LSA SBME here have it as project that's set up as emergency shelter and easily. So, yes, if you can do it, if you can't again, look for the guidance, we're going to provide to, you.

Aubrey Sitrer: I also want to clarify real quick, just for those of you who are following along in the chat, that question does not specify whether they were talking about HMIS or HDX, or but both of the responses that William and Meghan just gave assumed that they were talking about entering that data into HMIS, I believe.

William Snow: Yeah, good clarification.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful um, as we enter, uh, towards the end of our time, I do want to remind people if you have any remaining questions to please add them in the chat or to raise your hand, or press star 3, to be able to ask your question. Um, we have another hotel motel, um, COVID isolation question William, I think still go to, you. Um, we're gonna attendee in their CoC has reserved hotel rooms as COVID, isolation and quarantine spaces for individual experience, individuals experiencing

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homelessness. Um, and it's a set aside number of rooms at all times with the option to expand even further, but the rooms are only filled in consultation with their public health department as needed. Should these be recorded on their HIC?

William Snow: That's a great question. So we honestly, I haven't gotten that question. So, I'm going to be thinking out loud here. So, my response is when you have those beds, but the only way to fill them due to the, your relationship with the public health department is to fill them through the isolation quarantine protocols you have I would lean towards include them, but include them based on how they're filled that night. Uh, that would be a different way than we normally approach emergency shelter. And that would just be different than. Different, mainly because of the nature of the beds. So, that's what I'd encourage you to send in AAQ. If you have that specific question for your community because we'll I want to noodle over that a little bit more. Again, that's a little different than we normally do for shelter retailer and say all shelter units are required for us to be reported on the HIC, and all people associate with them. So again, there's no doubt that if you have some people in them, are you going to report them and are you going to report them as sheltered on PIT yes, absolutely. I just again, I think I lean towards. Uh, just doing it based on the number that are there because of the nature of how they can access the beds. So, great, great question. Do you have more to send ads there? I know you looked at these a lot as well.

Aubrey Sitrler: I do not

William Snow: okay, great.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect so we are checking for any final questions again. If anyone would like to ask a question, verbally, um, click that little raise hand feature or hit star 3 on your phone. William we have a question that just came in, and actually this might be brown open um, but an attendee who's saying the number of rapidly housing beds reported in the HIC has been a highly valued data point in the annual and since there might be a one night, this is a 100 clients to rapid utilization. It's limited in communicating their rapid, uh, assistants throughout the year. Do you know if any future will devalue the amount of no points given to rapid re, housing beds recorded on the HIC?

William Snow: Um, so the short answer is, I can't answer that question. I am prohibited from saying anything about a future NOFA. No. However, I will tell you, we have looked at this. We already know that. The rapid re, housing data it is important. We value getting rapid re, housing data. However, the HIC is an imperfect vehicle. It's a better vehicle to data, although now that we have LSA data and other sources, we certainly will look at what we can glean from there, but I can't commit to what we will do in the NOFA. I'm actually not sure what's going to change with regards to the rapidly housing scoring or what questions in

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the next no fault or future NOFA. So you'll just have to have to stay tuned but we are aware of the issue of the historical issue and how it may actually have been impacted by COVID as well.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Perfect, um, as we move to the end of our webinar, um, I do want to remind everyone that these materials will be posted the recording, the slides, the chat the Q and A, will all be available on the HUD exchange and about 2 to 3 days after we're able to make them accessible and get them posted. Um, as we wrap up William, do you have any final comments that you want to share it with us?

William Snow: I'm just thank you again for all your work. We really appreciate all that you do in that, put down a data collection world, but really keeping people safe and doing all. You can help those who are experiencing homelessness and your own staff. Thank you.

Tommy Joe Bednar: Wonderful with that we will be closing out our webinar as operating Aubrey, Meghan, and William has said if you have a question that was not answered, or is very specific, please feel free to submit AAQ here via the HUD exchange. So that we can get you a specific answer to your question and this is a final in the series for the 2021 point in time count so thank you all so much and that concludes our webinar.