



PIT Count Office Hours

Topic of Focus: 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count Flexibilities

November 24, 2020



Housekeeping

- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within 2-3 business days
- Event information for upcoming PIT Count Office Hours, along with copies of all materials can be found here:

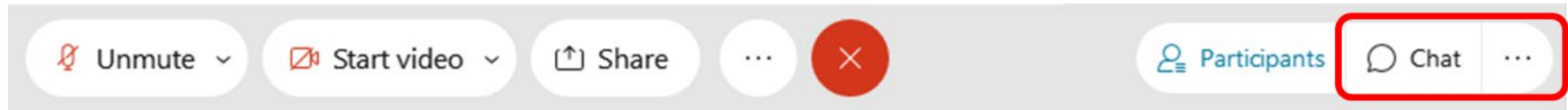
[https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=41d93284a8-2021 HIC and PIT Count Updates for CoCs 11 16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-41d93284a8-19554637#2021-pit-count-and-hic-guidance-and-training](https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=41d93284a8-2021+HIC+and+PIT+Count+Updates+for+CoCs+11+16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-41d93284a8-19554637#2021-pit-count-and-hic-guidance-and-training)

- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:

+1-415-655-0002 Access code: 126 500 2594

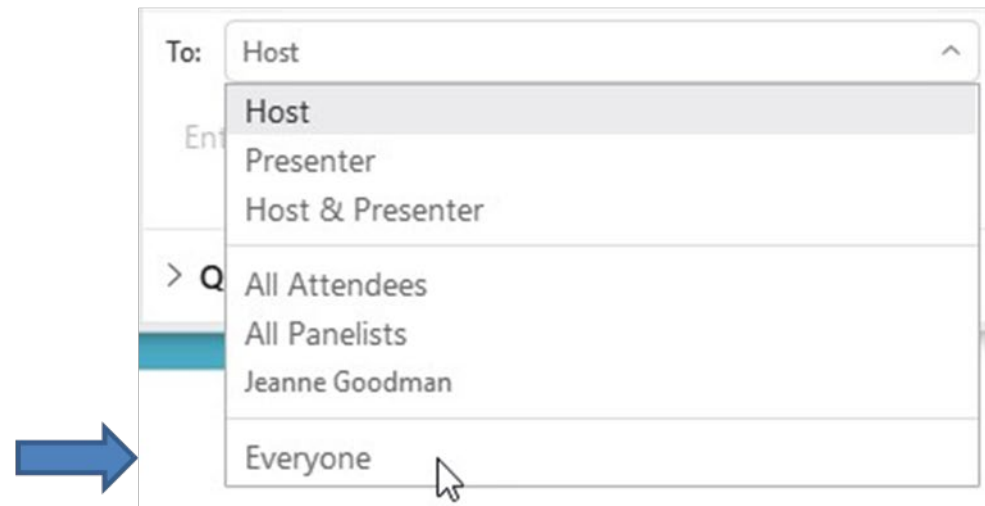
(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

Chat Feature



Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.

Be certain the To field is set to **Everyone**



Raise Hand for Questions

Locate and select
the **Raise Hand**
icon on the right

The screenshot shows the Zoom interface. On the right, the 'Participants' panel is open, displaying a search bar and a list of participants. Under 'Panelist: 1', there is a participant named 'Jeanne Goo...' with the role 'Host'. Under 'Attendee:', there is a participant named 'Mr. Bo Jangles' with the role 'Me'. At the bottom of the screen, there are two tabs: 'Participants' and 'Chat'. In the bottom right corner, there is a yellow box highlighting the 'Raise Hand' icon, which is a hand with a raised index finger.

Participants

Search

Panelist: 1

JG Jeanne Goo... Host

Attendee:

MJ Mr. Bo Jangles Me

Participants Chat

Speakers & Resource Advisors

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- William Snow, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

Abt Associates

- Aubrey Sitler
- Meghan Henry
- Larry Buron
- Tommy Joe Bednar

2021 PIT COUNT FLEXIBILITIES



2021 HIC and PIT Count Requirements

HIC

- Conduct as normal

Sheltered PIT Count

- Conduct as normal

Unsheltered PIT Count

- Conduct based on flexibilities in guidance
- CoCs can seek an exception to some or all of the unsheltered PIT count requirements

Reasons for an Unsheltered PIT Count

- We need a very general sense of what is going on with the unsheltered population
- HUD does not anticipate the 2021 PIT count to be comparable to last year (or future years) in terms of size of change (e.g., 5% increase)
- Rather, it will tell us if unsheltered homelessness is up or down
- Sample – HUD has developed a sample of CoCs in different geography types and has reached out to ask for participation

2021 Unsheltered PIT Count Flexibilities

For the 2021 unsheltered PIT count, CoCs should:

- Prioritize the safety of people experiencing homelessness, staff, and volunteers

For the 2021 unsheltered PIT count, CoCs may:

- Conduct observation-only counts or very short surveys
 - CoCs covering large geographies may conduct observation-only counts in separate areas on consecutive nights for two to four nights
- Conduct PIT count activities for up to 14 days (normally up to 7 days)
- Rely more heavily on sampling, even if that's a change from usual PIT count approach
- Use HMIS or other comprehensive datasets*

*CoCs need to get approval to do this

Resource: [Conducting the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count](#)



PIT Count Exceptions that Require Permission from HUD

1. Exception to some or all of the unsheltered PIT count requirements

- e.g., request to only do a head count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, with no demographic or subpopulation data collection
- e.g., request not to conduct an unsheltered PIT count at all in 2021

2. Request to use an existing comprehensive dataset instead of conducting an unsheltered PIT count

3. Exception to counting in the last 10 days of January

- Note that the data submission timeline will not likely change (around end of April)

CoCs can simply make other changes to their PIT count approaches without seeking HUD approval. HUD will require CoCs to state what changes they made during the data submission process in the HDX in spring 2021.



Requesting Exceptions

CoCs that cannot conduct the full 2021 unsheltered PIT count must submit a request for an exception to William Snow (William.Snow@hud.gov) that describes:

1. Why the CoC cannot conduct a full unsheltered PIT count,
2. Whether the CoC is requesting an exception to some or all of the requirements of the unsheltered PIT count;
3. If the CoC is conducting a count, what exactly will be included in the count (e.g., a head count only);
4. Other efforts they are taking to understand the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their community.

Poll Question

What is your CoC's 2021 unsheltered PIT count plan right now?

- Conduct a full unsheltered PIT count
- Conduct a limited unsheltered PIT count, using at least one of the exceptions
- We will not be conducting an unsheltered PIT count
- Undecided
- N/A – I don't work for or with a specific CoC

Additional Considerations: Mobile Apps

- **Mobile Apps** can help minimize physical interaction (CoCs do not need to distribute printed maps or surveys) and increase geographic accuracy if using GIS to document where people are located.

Additional Considerations: Enumerators

- **Remote PIT count training** can increase safety for volunteers and staff participating in the count. To maximize effectiveness, keep the training short, include a short quiz, and provide a point of contact.
- **Volunteers** normally power the PIT count in many CoCs, but for the 2021 PIT count, HUD discourages CoCs from relying on volunteers at high risk of serious symptoms from COVID-19, including those over 65. Remote trainings and physical distancing may encourage new volunteers to participate.
- **Homeless services staff** are maximizing their capacity in many CoCs. HUD encourages CoCs that will conduct unsheltered counts in 2021 to coordinate across providers and leverage the work their staff are already doing to understand unsheltered homelessness.

Additional Considerations: Safety

- All staff and volunteers conducting in-person PIT count activities must have **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**. CoCs should ask all enumerators to bring masks and should provide masks and hand sanitizer. HUD recommends that enumerators provide masks to anyone they interview in person.
 - Depending on the level of community transmission of COVID-19, CoCs should consider whether to also provide gloves, face shields, N95 masks, or other PPE.
 - CoCs will have to work with their local public health authority to ensure they provide adequate PPE for conducting a safe count.
- CoCs should comply with **social distancing principles** when planning their PIT count activities and training volunteers. This includes maintaining at least 6 feet between people and planning for small counting teams.

Additional Considerations: Safety

- CoCs should take **health precautions**, including recommending that:
 - Volunteers be tested for COVID-19 no more than 7 days before the count (or at least screen for symptoms and check temperatures)
 - Volunteers stay home if they test positive for COVID-19, are exposed to someone with COVID-19, or have COVID-19 symptoms
 - Volunteers self-observe for COVID-19 symptoms and consider getting tested 14 days after the count.
 - In jurisdictions where contact tracing applications are available, volunteers could download the local app in the event they interact with someone who ends up testing positive.
- HUD encourages CoCs to work closely with **local public health and health care partners** in planning and conducting the PIT count, in part to ensure they operate under the latest safety guidance available.

Common Questions

- Do full exceptions mean not doing an unsheltered count?
 - Yes, if your CoC were granted a full exception to the 2021 unsheltered PIT count, means your CoC would not have to conduct an unsheltered PIT count at all.
 - Your CoC could also request an exception to only collect some information during your unsheltered PIT count, such as only completing a head count or only collecting some demographic or subpopulation data.

Common Questions

- Will CoCs be penalized for exception requests?
 - HUD cannot speak to what will be in future NOFAs

Common Questions

- When is the deadline for exception requests?
 - HUD will review exception requests on a rolling basis through the end of January.

Common Questions

- Can CoCs use a mix of sampling and surveys?
 - Sampling is a type of PIT count approach. Surveys are a PIT count data collection activity. They are not mutually exclusive terms; CoCs could use sampling in conjunction with observations, surveys, or both.
 - **PIT count activities:** observations and surveys
 - **PIT count approaches:** sampling and full-census count

Common Questions

- Can CoCs send out a phone or web-based survey to individuals to complete themselves?
 - No, you should not send out any type of PIT count surveys that are not actively administered by someone trained to conduct a PIT count survey because:
 - It is imperative to validate someone's housing situation on the night designated for the count
 - It is nearly impossible to deduplicate PIT count data when surveys have been sent electronically (i.e., someone could accidentally or intentionally complete the same survey more than once)
 - It is challenging to control who receives an open link to a survey; it could be shared with and completed by many people not experiencing literal homelessness
 - Case managers or outreach staff may call known clients and validate by phone where they slept on the night of the count to ensure they are included in the PIT count if they should be.
 - See also: [FAQ 3124](#)

Common Questions

Can I use HUD funding to pay for the costs of the 2021 unsheltered PIT count?

CoC

- CoC Planning – PPE, incentives, technology, etc
- Street Outreach – only if staff are doing SO activities like outreach and engagement but not if they are merely observing and counting, and they can provide PPE to people they are counting who are experiencing homelessness

ESG/ESG-CV

- Street Outreach – same as CoC above
- Admin – PPE for staff and volunteers

2021 Unsheltered PIT Count Resources

- [Conducting the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count](#)
 - Guidance document that outlines the unsheltered PIT count flexibilities
- Guidance on using a sampling approach within your CoC: **Not yet released**
 - Timing: By 12/3/2020 Office Hours
- Updates to [HMIS Project Setup and Inventory Changes](#)
 - Updated to address non-congregate shelter (NCS) and hotel/motel inventory in the HIC and for the sheltered PIT count
- 2021 HIC and PIT Count Notice: **Not yet released**
 - This will have very few edits and the substantive issues are addressed in the first document above
 - Timing: TBD (probably late December)

All forthcoming resources will be posted to the [2021 PIT Count and HIC Guidance and Training page](#)



General PIT Count Resources

- [PIT Count & HIC Landing Page](#) on HUD Exchange
- [PIT Count Methodology Guide](#)
- [PIT Count Office Hours Recordings](#)

More PIT Office Hours

Upcoming PIT Count Office Hours

- December 3, 2020 | 3:00-4:30pm ET
- December 15, 2020 | 3:00-4:30pm ET
- January 12, 2021 | 3:00-4:30pm ET
- January 19, 2021 | 3:00-4:30pm ET

Registration links available [here](#).

Pulse-Check Question

In the chat, tell us:

What do you want us to focus on during future
PIT Count Office Hours sessions?

Q & A

