

HUD'S PIT COUNT MINIMUM STANDARDS

General PIT Count Standards

Standard #1

CoCs are responsible for planning and conducting, at least biennially, a PIT count of homeless persons within the geographic area that meets HUD's requirements.

Standard #2

The sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts must be conducted during the last 10 days in January and represent all homeless persons who were sheltered and unsheltered on a single night during that period.

Standard #3

The final PIT count methodology must be approved by the CoC in accordance with the CoC's governance charter.

Standards Regarding Coordination of the PIT Count with the Con Plan Jurisdiction

Standard #4

All CoCs should consult and collaborate with all Con Plan jurisdictions in the geographical boundary of the CoC, including those that do not have ESG funding, to assist the jurisdictions in submitting PIT count data that is relevant to completing their Con Plans.

Standard #5

CoCs must provide PIT count data to the entity(ies) responsible for the Con Plan jurisdiction(s) associated with the CoC.

Sheltered PIT Count Standards

Standard #6

CoCs must account for and report on all sheltered homeless people residing in the CoC through a census (complete coverage) or one or more sampling and extrapolation methods that are consistent with HUD standards and guidance. HUD will evaluate the nature and basis for estimation and extrapolation of CoCs' sheltered count in the annual CoC Program Competition.

Standard #7

CoCs must be able to verify that the sheltered homeless people identified in the count are sheltered on the night designated for the count, as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 of the **Homeless Definition Final Rule**:

“An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals).”

For more information on PIT Count Minimum Standards, see section 1.3 of the Methodology Guide:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4036/point-in-time-count-methodology-guide/>

Standard #8

CoCs should use client data already collected and entered in HMIS as the primary data source for the sheltered PIT count for emergency shelter, Safe Haven, and transitional housing projects that participate in HMIS.

Unsheltered PIT Count Standards

Standard #9

CoCs must account for and report on all unsheltered homeless people residing in the CoC's geography through a census (complete coverage) or one or more sampling and extrapolation methods that are consistent with HUD standards and guidance. HUD will evaluate the nature and basis for estimation and extrapolation of CoCs' unsheltered count in the annual CoC Program Competition.

Standard #10

CoCs may exclude geographic areas where the CoC has determined that there are no unsheltered homeless people, including areas that are uninhabitable (e.g., deserts). CoCs must document the criteria and decision-making process used to identify and exclude specific geographic areas.

Standard #11

CoCs must be able to verify that the unsheltered homeless people identified in the count are unsheltered on the night designated for the count, as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 the **Homeless Definition Final Rule**:

“An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.”

Data Quality Standards

Standard #12

CoCs must ensure that during the PIT count homeless persons are only counted once. It is critical that the counting methods be coordinated to ensure that there is no double-counting. Therefore, CoCs must also collect sufficient information to be able to reliably deduplicate the PIT count (i.e., ensure that the same homeless person was not counted more than once).

Standard #13

Surveys of people for the sheltered or unsheltered count must be administered in a manner that protects participant privacy and safety, as well as the safety of the person completing the survey.

Standard #14

CoCs are required to ensure that people conducting the PIT count, including project staff and community volunteers, are appropriately trained about count standards, data collection procedures, and protocols for privacy, security, and personal safety.