

# 2014 Metro Atlanta Homeless Count

City of Atlanta · DeKalb County · Fulton County

## F.A.Q. Sheet

Veterans homelessness is a serious issue across our nation. In 2009, President Barack Obama and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric Shinsecki announced the goal of eliminating Veterans homelessness by the end of 2015. Collecting accurate data on the numbers and demographics of individuals and families experiencing homelessness is a critical part of the VA planning and program development to end homelessness.

To meet their objectives, the VA is sponsoring a homeless count for the City of Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County. The count is scheduled for Monday night, January 27, 2014. The homeless count is crucial for understanding the scope of homelessness in our community, especially Veterans homelessness, meeting federal requirements to continue receiving over \$10 million for homeless services, and tracking the success of local efforts to end homelessness in Metro Atlanta.

## Monday, January 27, 2014

**Bad weather back-up date: January 30, 2014**

### **Under what conditions will the bad weather back-up date occur?**

Postponement of the count will only occur in an extreme weather situation where people are unable to drive, such as an ice storm or snow. A decision will be made by 10 a.m. on the morning of the count as to whether the homeless census is re-scheduled. You will be notified as to the change in date via email. An announcement will also be posted on the Pathways website at [www.pcnl.info](http://www.pcnl.info). Therefore, it is important for you to be committed to both count dates.

### **Count Night Schedule**

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Conduct surveys at emergency shelter and transitional housing programs | 4 to 9 p.m.      |
| Conduct surveys and count people sleeping on street / outdoors         | 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. |

*Coffee/Tea, Snacks, and Continental Breakfast Provided*

**Sponsored by  
U.S. Department of  
Veterans Affairs**



**Who will be counted?**

The goal of the census is to count every homeless person in the City of Atlanta, DeKalb County, and Fulton County on one night.

- 1) Unsheltered Homeless: people who are sleeping in outdoor locations such as sidewalks, parks, encampments, and under bridges.
- 2) Sheltered Homeless: people who are staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

**Who will be surveyed?**

A sample of the local homeless population will be collected. The survey sample will be based on a high degree of representation. Three main characteristics of people (gender, sleeping location and family status) ascertained for the 2013 Metro Atlanta homeless census will be used to determine the sample for the 2014 homeless count.

**Why is the survey being conducted on the same night as the count?**

Typically, the homeless survey follows the count. However, to get an accurate count of the number of Veterans homeless on that one night, the survey needs to occur at the same time.

**How will the rights of participants be protected?**

The census is a visual enumeration so that homeless people are not disturbed. With the survey, all respondents will be read and provided a consent form detailing their rights as a participant. Participation in the survey is voluntary. The answers given by the respondents will be kept confidential. The survey is being conducted in the evening to minimize the number of homeless people that must be awoken from sleep to fill out the questionnaire. Finally, respondents will receive a \$5 McDonald's gift card for completing the survey.

**How do I get my assigned deployment site?**

You can pick from the deployment sites listed on the back of the community volunteer flyer. The sites can also be found at [www.pcni.org](http://www.pcni.org). The locations are spread throughout the City of Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County.

**How do I get assigned to a team?**

You will be assigned to an enumeration team at your deployment site. For survey teams will be comprised of a team captain with several volunteers. The enumeration teams will be comprised of two to three community volunteers and one homeless enumerator guide (depending on the site) per vehicle. One volunteer drives, one volunteer navigates, one volunteer keeps track of the number of homeless people found and the guide assists in identifying homeless people.

**Can I be assigned with a friend, coworker or group member to the same site? Can we drive together in the same car?**

We will try to place friends, co-workers or group members at the same site and in the same car, but we cannot guarantee it.

**How will volunteer safety be ensured?**

Most survey and enumeration teams will be supported by an experienced service provider, professional outreach worker, homeless guide, or a police officer. Additionally, enumeration teams are requested not to leave their vehicles.

## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

To sign up online, go to [www.pcni.org](http://www.pcni.org) and register.

OR, fill out the form on the back of the flyer. Send the information to:  
Josie Parker, Ph.D., Project Manager, Pathways Community Network Institute,  
Email [josie.parker@pcni.org](mailto:josie.parker@pcni.org), Fax to 404-982-0960, or Call 404-704-2958