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Housing for Health Partnership Announces 2026 Point-in-Time Count

The Housing for Health Partnership will lead the 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count on **Thursday, January 29, 2026**. The PIT Count is a federally mandated, one-day effort to count individuals and families experiencing homelessness across Santa Cruz County. Conducted nationwide on a single day, the PIT Count provides a critical snapshot used to secure federal funding and inform local policies and programs.

Community volunteers are essential to the success of the PIT Count. On the morning of January 29, **trained volunteers will work in teams to canvass the entire county from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**, using a secure, app-based data collection tool to ensure the count is thorough, respectful, and accurate.

Volunteers will arrive at their designated deployment center by 5:00 a.m. for a brief refresher training, team assignments, and final instructions.

"Our community's volunteers make this count possible. The data collected on January 29 helps us direct services and funding to where they're needed most," said Sheryl Norteye, 2026 Point-in-Time Count Project Lead.

Members of the media are welcome to observe or participate. Please notify us in advance and indicate your preferred location, North County or South County, so we can connect you with a volunteer team lead. To protect the dignity and privacy of individuals encountered during the count, all media are asked to refrain from photographing people without their explicit consent. Post-PIT Count interviews will be available beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The Point-in-Time Count follows a standardized methodology established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to produce an accurate and reliable census of people experiencing homelessness. In addition to the count itself, voluntary follow-up surveys collect information on living

conditions, service needs, and barriers to housing, helping ensure that local responses are informed by data and aligned with community needs.

ABOUT THE HOUSING FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

The Housing for Health Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homelessness service providers. It acts as the federally-designated continuum of care for Santa Cruz County and helps allocate State and federal funding to address homelessness. The County of Santa Cruz serves as lead agency for the H4H Partnership.

For more information, visit our [website](#), [FaceBook page](#), and [Instagram account](#).