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## **POINT-IN-TIME COUNT SET FOR FEBRUARY 23**

*County conducts its annual snapshot of homeless population*

The County of Santa Cruz today announced the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count will take place Thursday, February 23, 2023. The annual PIT Count is vital for funding and the development of policies that will help resolve homelessness in Santa Cruz County.

The Count will take place county-wide with the help of volunteers, including those experiencing homelessness, community members, staff from multiple city and county departments and law enforcement. Using an app-based data collection tool, volunteers will cover the entire county in one morning from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed for the Count. Volunteers will work in teams and are asked to lead a visual count of people who are experiencing homelessness in the County. All teams are led by a trained guide. To sign up as a volunteer, email [alex@appliedsurveyresearch.org](mailto:alex@appliedsurveyresearch.org) or call (877) 728-4545.

Annually, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless population to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care. The data collected provides a "snapshot" of the homeless population and demographics. The Count approximates the number of people experiencing homelessness in each community and collects information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing.

"The PIT Count is an important resource for our community," said Robert Ratner, Director of Housing for Health Division, Human Services Department. "The data collected influences and informs our efforts to resolve homelessness in Santa Cruz County. We look forward to conducting the Count in late February with our passionate and dedicated group of volunteers."

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*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 wSanta Cruz serves as lead agency for the H4H Partnership.*