



## Fulton County (GA 502) Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Count Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What is the Point-in-Time Count (PITC)?** The annual Point in Time Count (PITC) offers a chance to determine the number of individuals and households experiencing homelessness in Fulton County. This includes those living on the streets or in other unsheltered locations, as well as details about their key characteristics. Gaining a clear understanding of the scope and extent of homelessness helps both local communities and the federal government allocate resources and shape policies more effectively. The Fulton County Annual PITC serves as a tool for measuring progress and gaining insights into the challenges we face each year.

**2. When will Fulton County hold its Point-in-Time Count (PITC)?**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires a basic count of people in shelters and on the streets at least every two years. The 2025 street canvassing days will occur in South Fulton on Wednesday, January 22, and in North Fulton on Thursday, January 23, from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m.

**3. How can I volunteer for the Fulton County Point-in-Time Count (PITC)?** All volunteers interested in participating in the street canvassing count, may sign up online at <https://fulton.pointintime.info>.

Volunteers will work in teams using a mobile app called “Counting Us” to ask survey questions to people experiencing homelessness. After signing up, you will receive a confirmation email and directions to set a password for your Counting Us Mobile App account.

**4. Volunteer Training is Mandatory.** Volunteers taking part in the street canvassing count will receive virtual training on January 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM (EST).

Click here <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/dJ4oSQXIR0SeREqtv2jgBg> to register for the virtual training session.

**5. Why do we have a Point-in-Time Count (PITC)?** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires the homeless count as a condition of eligibility for federal homelessness funding. The data collected helps us learn more about the individuals and families experiencing homelessness on any given night in Fulton County – and the need for services.

- It captures a snapshot of neighbors who are "unsheltered" – sleeping outside, in a car, in an abandoned building, or other places not meant for human habitation.
- It provides information on people sleeping in emergency shelters, hotels/ motels paid for by a charitable organization or publicly funded program, and transitional housing – as well as those receiving rental assistance and permanent supportive housing who would otherwise be homeless without the subsidy.
- Surveys ask about demographic information, how long someone's lived in the County, their recent experiences with homelessness, whether they have experienced domestic violence, their veteran status,

and whether they have any disabling conditions.

## 6. What doesn't the Point-in-Time Count (PITC) tell us?

- The count is focused only on where someone slept on a given night. For this reason, the PITC cannot tell us how many people enter and exit homelessness over a year. That number is much higher than the number counted on any given night.
- The count is also unable to tell us why people become homeless, how they leave homelessness when they do, what barriers might prevent them from leaving homelessness, or directly show the success of our strategies to provide shelter and housing assistance.
- During the planning phase, it is possible to overlook physical locations where people experiencing homelessness stay. Circumstances can change rapidly therefore some people may not be counted.

## 7. How many people experiencing homelessness were counted in the Fulton County Continuum of Care last year? The Fulton County Continuum of Care consists of all Fulton County municipalities except for metro Atlanta. On January 23, 2024, a total of 339 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in Fulton County. Of these, 154 were unsheltered, while 185 were sheltered in emergency shelters or transitional housing.

## 8. What about people who are couch-surfing or doubled up? The definition of unsheltered and sheltered homeless for the PIT Count is set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and does not include these living situations. The Count includes only people who slept on the night of the count in an emergency shelter (including hotel/ motels paid for by a charitable organization or a publicly funded program), in transitional housing, or without shelter, meaning their primary nighttime residence 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, or camping ground.

## 9. How are people living in vehicles counted? The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development uses the following standards to determine whether a household experiencing homelessness while living in a vehicle should be considered unsheltered instead of sheltered.

- **Cars, trucks, and vans:** households sleeping overnight in cars, trucks, and vans are to be counted as unsheltered. This includes households sleeping in their vehicles in safe parking programs, in designated areas, or on a campus maintained by a government or other entity where toilets, showers, and communal food preparation or food service areas are provided.
- **Recreational Vehicles (RVs):** RVs, including camper vans, are ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations, so not all persons living in RVs qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act definition. However, people experiencing homelessness who live in RVs must be counted as sheltered if the RV is located in a mobile home park or campus that advertises itself as providing temporary stays and the RV is regularly connected to water, sewer, and utilities or a septic system, well and generator or campus provide toilets, showers, and communal food preparation or food storage areas. People experiencing homelessness who live in an RV that does not meet the criteria above are counted as unsheltered.

**10. Who coordinates the PIT Count?** Fulton County's GA-502 Continuum of Care and Department of Community Development, along with the support and effort from dedicated community volunteers.

**11. How does the street count come together?** Municipalities, nonprofit organizations, constituents, and County staff map homeless hot spots and known locations throughout North and South Fulton during the planning phases of the count. Volunteers canvass these locations on the nights of the count and survey people experiencing homelessness that they encounter.