



#### 2024

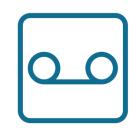
## Point-in-Time Count Planning for Communities

January 4, 2024

## **Meeting Information**







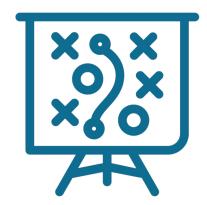


Please mute your line when not speaking. Use the chat to submit questions (or unmute). This training is being recorded.

This training will be posted to the HIC PIT page of the COHHIO BoS website



## **Purpose of this Webinar**





Discuss planning, process, and tools for local Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts Provide information and updates relevant to the 2024 PIT Count

## Agenda

- Purpose & Importance of Point-in-Time Count
- PIT Planning Components
- Counting Us App
- Survey Tools
- Volunteer Training & Safety
- Timeline
- Questions

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# Purpose & Importance of PIT Count

- Provides data about homelessness
- That data is used throughout the year for many important purposes:
  - HUD uses PIT data to inform Congress about homelessness
    - Congress then sets budget to provide federal funding assistance
  - CoC funding competition
    - Which in turn effects how much federal funding a community receives for homeless assistance
  - Helps community form data driven approach to ending homelessness and applying for local grants
  - Educates public and stakeholders
    - It's extremely difficult to advocate for affordable housing and assistance to help the homeless without adequate and accurate data

# Purpose & Importance of PIT Count

- Provides community a chance to do homeless outreach
  - Our CoC has very minimal street outreach. So, this is an extremely important opportunity
- PIT data (along with HMIS data) is used to do a semi-annual needs assessment
  - Which determines our priority regions for funding
- PIT counts are especially important with non-HMIS participating projects because this is the only data we collect about those being served in those projects
  - Which, again, provides insight into the CoC needs analysis
- The PIT count is critical to effective planning and performance management toward the goal of ending homelessness in each community and for the nation as a whole.
- The PIT count is the main national data source and it helps identify where progress is being made and where further efforts are required

# Why is the PIT Count in January?

#### HUD's Reasoning:

- End of the month captures those who have run out of financial assistance/benefit received at the beginning of the month
- Counting in the (typically very cold) last 10 days of January captures those who are unable or unwilling to access emergency shelter or have no other resources to avoid literal homelessness
- Obtaining PIT numbers in January and submitting those in the spring gives HUD a glimpse into a community's homelessness prior to the annual CoC Funding Competition, which typically opens in the fall



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# **PIT Count Planning**

#### **Identify PIT Coordinating Committee Members**

- HIC/PIT County Contact
- Homeless Adult, Youth, or Veteran
- Domestic Violence Survivor
- Volunteers from Homeless Service Providers
- Outreach Team Members
- Mental Health Providers
- Police

## **PIT Count Planning**

#### Persons with Lived Experience (PLE) & Youth PLE Involvement

- Recent CoC Competition has asked for how youth are involved in PIT count planning and implementation
- Recent YHDP awardee areas should strongly consider involving youth (18-24) in the count and using this as opportunity to gather data on how many youth experiencing homelessness are in your community

		D
b. Effectively Count Youth. Implement specific measures to identify youth in the CoC's PIT count.	2	<ul> <li>Demonstrate that for the 2023 PIT count, the CoC:</li> <li>engaged youth serving organizations and youth experiencing homelessness (including unaccompanied youth) in your most recent PIT count planning process;</li> <li>worked with youth serving organizations and youth with lived experience of homelessness to select locations where youth experiencing homelessness are most likely to be identified; and</li> <li>involved youth experiencing homelessness in the actual count.</li> </ul>

#### Incentives

# Identify possible sources for incentives to give those experiencing homelessness:

- Restaurants
- Walmart/Target/Kmart
- Convenience Shops
- Churches
- Shelters

#### If incentives are secured...

- Make note of the donation
- Make someone responsible for obtaining them
- Procure incentives before the Count
- Identify places for volunteers to access them

#### Develop Volunteer Recruitment & Deployment Plan

#### Designate

Command Center

Where do the volunteers train?

• Staging Area

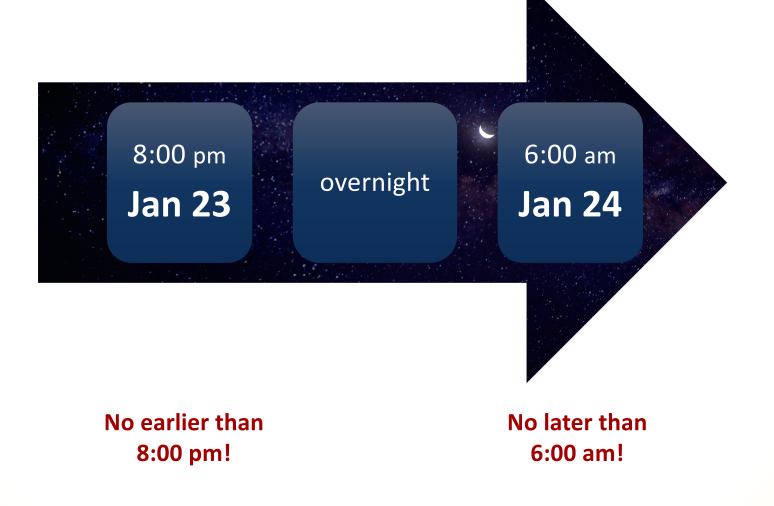
Where do the volunteers meet?

• Communication Plan

Who will answer what questions?

Where do you send people that need immediate assistance?

# 2024 Ohio BoSCoC Point-in-Time Count



## **PIT Count Overview**

#### **Sheltered Count:**

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Persons residing in hotels/motels (paid for by public or private organizations for purposes of providing emergency shelter)
- Extreme weather shelters/cold shelters

*There is a Sheltered Count for HMIS Participating and Non-HMIS Participating providers* 

## **PIT Count Overview**

#### **Unsheltered Count:**

Persons who, on the night of the count, are living in a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes persons staying in cars, encampments, or abandoned buildings, etc.

\*AND must be located in a designated high or low census tract

#### **PIT Count Overview**

#### Unsheltered

#### **Street Count**

Sending enumerators to specified locations to interview individuals/households sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation:

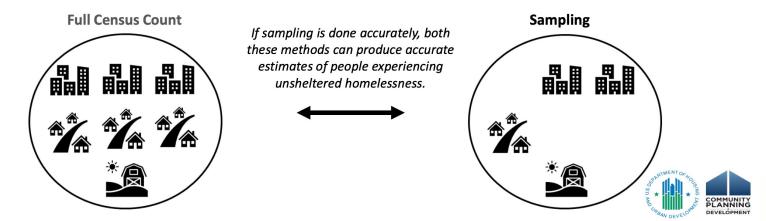
- These locations will be very specific U.S. Census tracts
- No unsheltered surveys area outside of the specific census tracts area's will be included in the PIT count

#### **Geographic Sampling**

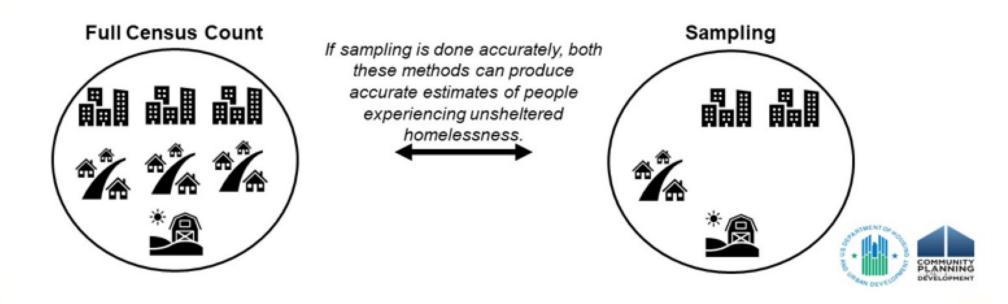
- An approach that involves conducting unsheltered PIT Counts in a select number of areas on the night of the PIT Count
- A CoC-wide unsheltered PIT Count is then generated from that sample of data



All communities are still encouraged to do unsheltered outreach on the night of the PIT Count



## Geographic Based Sampling Approach



#### **Options for those who prefer to do a full county canvas**

- Counties that have the ability and capacity to do a full county canvas can enter all data into the Counting Us app
- The full CoC-wide unsheltered number will be populated using the sampling approach
- However, communities that want to know how many people in their entire county are experiencing unsheltered homelessness can enter data outside high/low probability census tracts

#### **Options for those who prefer to do a full county canvas**

- Communities can do their own PIT count on a different day/night
- Let the CoC team know if you would like support in conducting your own sheltered and unsheltered counts

\*Still must participate in the January 23<sup>rd</sup> count regardless



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All Ohio BoSCoC communities MUST use the free data collection app or web application "Counting Us". Specifically, those who need to enter data in the app would be:

- Those required to do Unsheltered Count
  - Non-HMIS participating Shelters



**Important Points:** 

-No need to buy any new equipment

-No need to hand your device to anyone you're surveying

-Download the app now!

-The areas that will be required to be canvassed for the unsheltered count are very specific and detailed down to census tracts

-Ohio BoS staff will reach out directly to county contacts in the areas required to do an unsheltered PIT Count with more details and maps

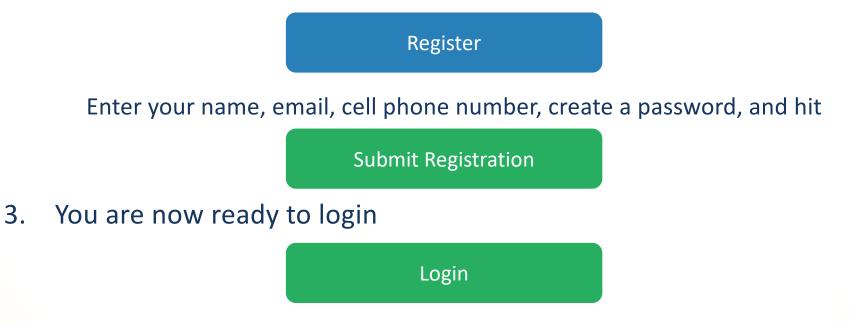
- We very strongly encourage providers to use the Counting Us App for all data entry
- If for whatever reason you must use paper forms, be sure to collect exact addresses of where the person is staying

## **2024 PIT Count App: Getting Started**

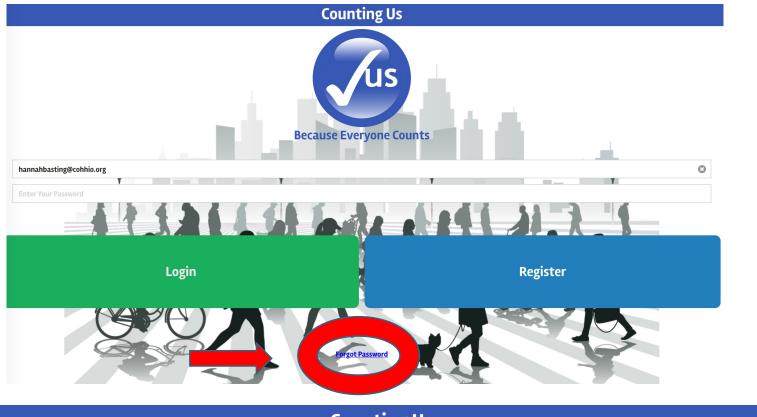
- 1. Download and Access Counting Us for data entry:
  - Web Version <u>https://counting.us/</u>
  - iPhone & Android app downloaded from your app store Search for "Counting Us"



2. Register yourself and create account by clicking:

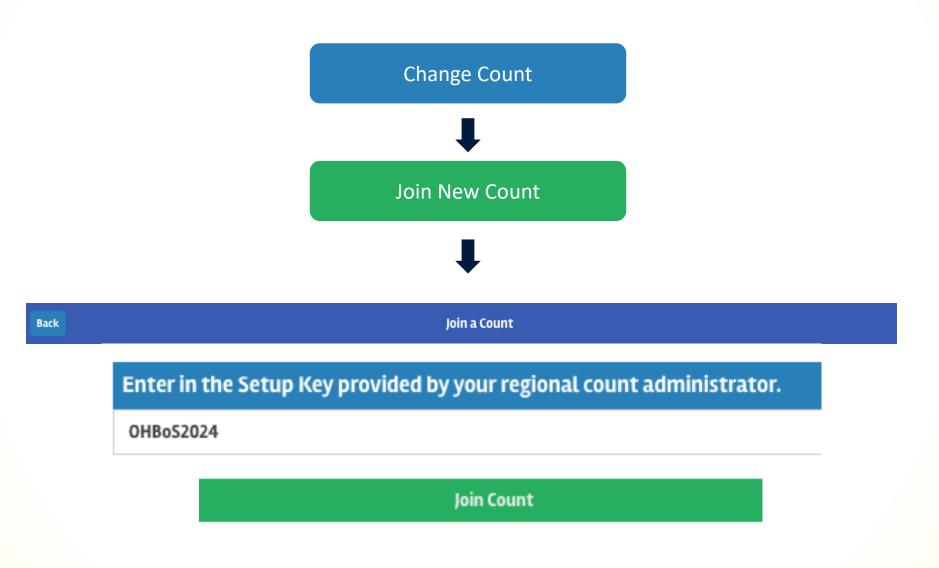


## 2024 PIT Count App: Forgot Login



Back	Counting Us	
	Forgot Password	
Enter your email address here		
	Submit	

## **2024 PIT Count App: Getting Started**



#### **2024 PIT Count App: Getting Started**

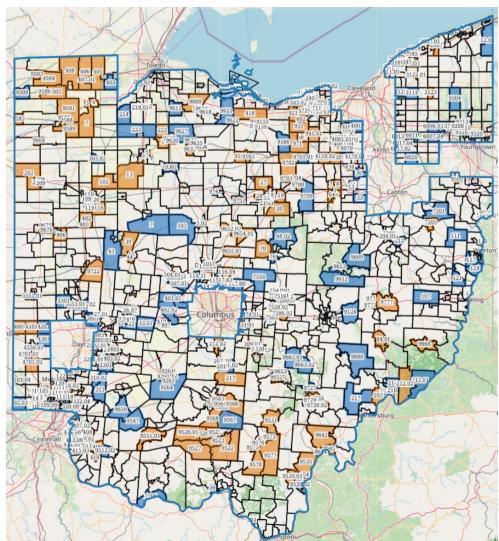
# Setup Key: OHBoS2024

# 2023 PIT Count App: Required Census Tracts

Sampling Setup:

- 570 Known Locations surveys submitted this year
  - ~600 submitted last year
  - ~400 submitted in 2022
- With feedback from providers, it was decided to use all Known Locations with a minimum of 2 people identified
- This brought us to 292 High Probability areas
- Added a random sample of 150 low-probability areas to get 442 census tracts that must be canvassed for the unsheltered count
  - 99% confidence interval

# 2024 PIT Count App: Required Census Tracts



# 2023 PIT Count App

Counties that DO NOT have to do an unsheltered count:

- 1. Champaign
- 2. Harrison
- 3. Holmes

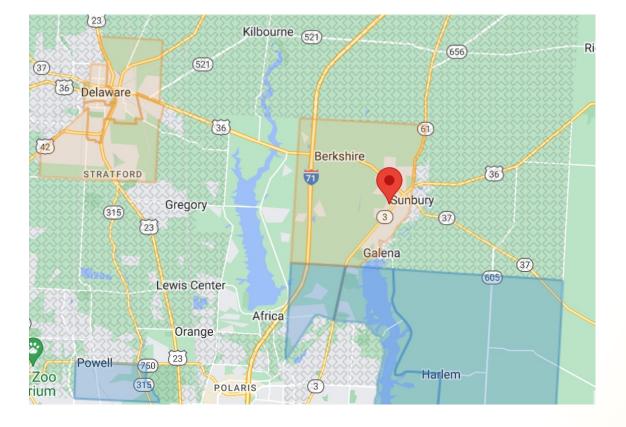
#### 2024 PIT Count App: Required Census Tracts \*Why Low Probability Tracts are Important!

- Low probability census tracts (highlighted in blue) are randomly sampled and did not have any Known Locations submitted
- Still important for sampling!
- People found in high probability areas do not get extrapolated, but people in low probability areas do
- Please make sure you're still canvassing low probability areas to the extent possible

# 2024 PIT Count App: Required Census Tracts

#### Demo of how to find census tracts:

-Delaware county

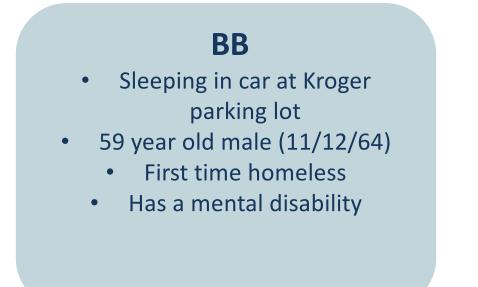


# 2024 PIT Count App: Demo

https://counting.us/

Scenario #1:

- You are an enumerator in Delaware county
- The PIT Count Lead directs you to do outreach in Sunbury
- While out, you encounter:



# 2024 PIT Count App: Demo

https://counting.us/

Scenario #2:

- You are a data administer at Safety Promise Shelter
- Safety Promise Shelter is non-HMIS Participating
- You have the following client that needs counted:

#### HH

- Safety Promise Shelter
- 59 year old female (11/12/64)
  - Experienced homelessness
     before
    - Has a physical disability

### 2024 PIT Count App: Important Reminders

https://counting.us/

- If you want to enter data, always answer "No" to the first question "Have you already been interviewed today for the PIT"?
- Answer as many demographic questions as possible
- Race and ethnicity have now been combined into one question, and gender has updated options
  - People can choose more than one in each of these categories
- If you don't see your non-HMIS project listed as a dropdown option, let me know
- If you want to do outreach and enter data outside the required high and low probability census tracts, you can!
  - Just be certain you're canvassing the required areas



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## **PIT Count Collection Tools**

Sheltered	Unsheltered
<image/>	<form><form><form><form><form><form><form><form><form><form><form></form></form></form></form></form></form></form></form></form></form></form>
	1. Including workth from many people and the same location and the same location and the same location     App 154 App 15-24

### **Service-Based Count Form**

- Not required
- Communities must contact COHHIO of intent to hold service-based
- Service-based count specific information will be provided during PIT Open Office Hours on 1/16

	RVICE-BASEI DUNT FORM	Use for: Perso	Use on: January 22 - 31, 2020 (days following the Street Count) Use for: Persons not identified during Street Count	
Location:	County:			
Interviewer:	Date:	Time:	am/pm	
anyone not associated with our se	y (Go to Q1) ght of □ Street □ Vehic □ Park □ Abank □ Bus, t		y through. Can I h	s to questions will not be shared with ave about 10 minutes of your time? f and survey]  Emergency shelter Transitional housing Metal-houging for with publiciprivate funds, House or publiciprion for with teatment program
	C Other	Is or outdoor encampment location (specify):	)	
1a. Enter the physical or geog location where the person sle January 22nd.		nple, "under Main Street Brid Walmart parking lot".	ge" or	
<ol> <li>Did another volunteer or surv already ask you these same or about where you were staying night?</li> </ol>	on that	□ No		
<ol> <li>Including yourself, how many were there in your household were sleeping in the same loo with you on that night?</li> </ol>	who ation	_ Age 55 and older _ _ Age 25-54 _ Age 18-24	Age 17 ar	nd younger

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# **Volunteer Training**

- Create training
- Publicize training dates for volunteers
- Send emails, texts, etc. to get info to volunteers
  - Express the need to attend
  - How they can attend
  - Time commitment involved
- Conduct training
  - Document training attendance

# **Volunteer Training - Street Count**

- Build rapport (make eye contact, be welcoming, etc)
- If they are sitting, kneel or sit at their level
- Do not shine light in their face
- Be cognizant of body language
  - Avoid crossing arms
  - Leaning back
  - Frowning
- Be respectful
- Social distance (stay 6ft apart)
- Wear PPE yourself, and offer to anyone being counted (if able)

# Volunteer Training How to Ask Questions

- Try to start conversation casually, not scripted.
- For unsheltered, please remember:
  - When encountering unsheltered homeless on the night of the PIT Count, always offer them a shelter bed or stay in a hotel/motel, if available
  - Collect detailed contact information so that you can follow up and offer housing assistance where person is eligible and desires assistance
  - Any time unsheltered families with children are encountered, you MUST offer shelter, if available
- Ensure that volunteers are comfortable asking questions and know why they are asking survey questions

# Volunteer Training – General Safety

- Stay with assigned team in assigned area
- Carry a cell phone
- Dress warm and comfortably
- Follow traffic laws
- Trust your instincts
- Don't enter abandoned buildings (unless instructed otherwise)
- Leave a situation if you and your team are not comfortable
  - If person becomes hostile or threatened, apologize and leave
  - Record in Unsheltered Observation Form
- Announce yourselves when approaching

# **Volunteer Training Toolkit**

### PIT Count Volunteer Refresher [SAMPLE]

### Thank you for volunteering to assist with this year's PIT count!

We appreciate your time and energy, as well as your compassion for our community's neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. To prepare for the PIT count, please refresh yourself on the following tips.

### LOGISTICS

[PIT count date]: Arrive at [location] by [8:30pm]. Depart for PIT count by [10pm]. Return surveys to [location] by [2am]

### **BRING WITH YOU**

- Weather-appropriate clothing, including layers
- Your vehicle, if you volunteered to drive
- Shoes: warm, sturdy, comfortable for walking, waterproof if possible
- Small backpack to carry survey items, snacks, water, and more clothing layers, if needed

### PIT COUT DOs AND DON'Ts

- DO lead with respect for the person and their dignity
- DO have a conversation with the people you encounter
- DO get consent before asking PIT count survey questions
- DO remember that you may be entering into someone's personal or private space
- DO respect people's time
- DO write down where you saw the person and what they look like. This will help us make sure that no one is counted twice.
- DON'T take photos of or with the people you survey
- DON'T assume you know the answer to survey questions

Energy and compassion: a good set of eves (visual

DON'T insert yourself into the person's story

· Flashlights and/or headlamp

observation is key)

· Cell phone (fully charged) and charger

- DON'T force people to answer questions if they don't want to
- DON'T make promises you can't deliver, such as promising services or housing resources.

### SAFETY

- ALWAYS stay with at least one other person.
- Maintain awareness of space around you where other people are & ways to get in or out of the space you're in
- Remain standing. It's okay to squat down to speak with someone who is sitting or lying on the ground, but always maintain your balance.
- Stay in places that are lit, including alleyways. If you use a flashlight, be respectful (don't shine it in anyone's face)
- Prioritize your own safety. If you don't feel safe approaching someone or going somewhere, don't go.

- Do not transport anyone other than volunteers in your car
- If someone you encounter is not responsive when you approach, don't panic; they may be asleep and not want to be bothered. Check to see if you can see or hear them breathing, and (depending on weather) assess whether they have enough layers on and under them. If you are still concerned, say something like: "I'm sorry to bother you so late, but I want to make sure you are not in danger. Can you please say something so I know you are OK?"
- ALWAYS call 9-1-1- if you or someone else is in danger

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https://www.hudexchange.inf o/resource/5864/pit-countvolunteer-training-toolkit/

# **Post PIT Follow-Up**

- Provide feedback to volunteers via:
  - Certificates
  - Thank you emails
  - Closing event
  - Or other
- Hold a virtual debriefing meeting with PIT Coordinators.
- Providers should also follow-up with newly identified persons experiencing homelessness.

\*The CoC team anticipates hosting a debrief webinar in the spring to provide preliminary results and demonstrate how providers could use PIT and other data reports to inform others on community homelessness

## Agenda

- Purpose & Importance of Point-in-Time Count
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### 2024 Timeline Sheltered PIT Count for HMIS Participating Projects (ES, TH, RRH, & PSH)

January 22, 2024	Check data quality in Rme for issues.
by January 22, 2024 (before the PIT Count)	Make sure entry/exits dates have been entered for all clients.
by January 25, 2024 (after the PIT Count)	Again, check to make sure entry/exit dates have been entered for all clients.
February 8, 2024	COHHIO HMIS staff will pull reports for sheltered PIT data for January 23.

## 2024 Timeline Sheltered PIT Count for Non-HMIS Participating Projects

December 6, 2023 - January 22, 2024	Providers download Counting Us app, and participate in any training and technical assistance regarding use of app
January 23– 24, 2024	Providers collect information on every client who stayed in their program on the night of January 23, and enter into Counting Us app
February 8, 2024	All data must be entered into the Counting Us app

### 2024 Timeline Unsheltered PIT Count

January 4, 2024	PIT Count Training Webinar (Map of high/low probability census tracts made available)
December 6, 2023 - January 22, 2024	Select communities organize PIT Count, download Counting Us app, and participate in any additional training and technical assistance regarding use of app.
January 23, 2024 - January 24, 2024 8:00 pm - 6:00 am	Select communities conduct Street Count.
January 24, 2024– January 30, 2024	Communities wishing to conduct service-based count (and who have notified COHHIO in advance) collect data on those experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of 1/23/24, and who slept in a high/low probability census tract
February 8, 2024	All data must be entered into the Counting Us app

### 2024 PIT Count Office Hour & Service Based Count Info Session

### January 16, 2024 10:00 am

Register for the Webinar at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87024335116

- Review Service-Based Count Requirements
  - Required attendance for any community planning a service-based count
- Important HIC/PIT Reminders
- Questions

\*Attend at your convenience between 10am-11am. No need to stay the entire hour if you have only a few questions

### **Contact Information**



### HIC/PIT Correspondence ohioboscoc@cohhio.org

HMIS Correspondence <u>hmis@cohhio.org</u>

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## **Questions?**

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## Thank you!

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