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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact**: [Your Name & Organization]

[Contact Title]

Contact Phone Number] [Contact Email Address]

**Annual Count of Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Population**

***Occurring January 24th, 2024***

The Point in Time Count is an initiative to count the homeless population throughout the 101 counties of the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care. The homeless population census will assess the number of homeless individuals and families following regulations set forth by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the night of January 24th, 2024.

HUD requires the count occur biennially during the winter to gauge progress towards national goals of reducing and ending homelessness. In addition to the biennial count required by HUD, the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care conducts an annual count to better track trends and needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Each county’s leader is responsible for ensuring volunteers record unsheltered survey results in a secure, web-based platform, and the Lead Agency of the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care then submits the data to HUD. Sheltered survey information is reported to the Institute for Community Alliances.

For 2024, **INSERT THE NAME OF YOUR NAME AND AGENCY** will be leading the count for **INSERT THE COUNTY OR COUNTIES** county/counties. To complete the point-in-time count, county leaders need community volunteers to help complete surveys. If you are interested in volunteering, please call **INSERT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**.

