



We appreciate your time and energy, as well as your compassion for our community's neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. To prepare for the Point-In-Time-Count (PITC), please refresh yourself on the following tips.

## LOGISTICS

Arrive by 5:00 PM and depart by 7 AM the follow morning. Return surveys to your local PITC county coordinator.

## 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
- Flashlights and/or headlamp
- Cell phone (fully charged) and charger
- Energy and compassion; a good set of eyes (visual observation is key)

## PITC 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 PITC 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** hand the survey to the client to complete alone, go through the survey with them
- **DON'T** take photos of or with the people you survey
- **DON'T** assume you know the answer to survey questions
- **DON'T** insert yourself into the person's story
- **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 and ways to enter or exit your surroundings
- 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.
- In case of emergencies, call 9-1-1.

For questions or concerns during the PIT count, call your local PITC regional coordinator.