Homeless Services Advisory Committee Meeting October 6, 2022



# What is the PIT Count?

- The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count provides an annual assessment of the overall state of homelessness in Long Beach at a given point in time.
- Every Continuum of Care (CoC) is required to conduct a PIT Count by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- A CoC is a network of agencies and providers who coordinate services and programs to ensure best practices
- PIT Count data is used to:
  - Allocate federal, state, and local resources
  - Determine gaps and needs
  - Guide policies and programs to support best practices
- Long Beach PIT Counts are held annually in the last week of January



# **Components of the PIT Count**

#### **Street-Based Enumeration**

- Count of all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Long Beach
- One day count utilizing 250+ staff and community volunteers

#### **Specialized Street-Based Enumeration**

- Count of "harder to reach" areas, such as large encampments, riverbeds, train tracks, freeway infrastructure, etc.
- 3-4 days leading up to the Street-Based Enumeration, conducted by City staff

#### **Service-Based Access Centers**

- Count of all people experiencing homelessness who utilize service centers such as food programs, social service agencies, medical facilities, etc.
- Conducted by Access Center staff on the day of the Street-Based Enumeration

#### **Housing Inventory**

- Count of all people experiencing homelessness residing in shelters, transitional housing, or other residential programs
- Conducted by service provider staff on the night of the Street-Based Enumeration



# **PIT Count Surveys**

### **Demographic Survey**

- 35-40 question survey including personal ID, demographics, homelessness status, and subpopulation information
- We hope to capture this information for every person experiencing homelessness we encounter

#### **Visual Count**

- Shortened visual count survey for instances where an individual declines to respond to a demographic survey or is otherwise inaccessible
- Counts of individuals, vehicles, and/or makeshift shelters



The 2022 Point-in-Time Count was on February 24, 2023

- Street-Based Enumeration:
  - 197 Field Team Volunteers and 23 Count HQ Volunteers gathered at 4:00am and canvassed the entire City
  - Specialized outreach teams including HSB Outreach Staff and LBPD focused on highly impacted areas, such as the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Riverbeds, freeway overpasses, embankments, and onramps, railroad tracks, certain parks, and large encampments
- Service-based Access Centers also partnered to conduct the Count via mobile app
- Housing Inventory Enumeration was pulled from HMIS and specialized form





#### **Successful Innovations:**

- Virtual volunteer recruitment and trainings
- Full transition to the mobile app
- Hosting the Count outside of the MSC to simplify logistics and ensure continued MSC operations on the day of the Count

#### **Count Results:**

- 1,801 unsheltered persons on the street
- 485 unsheltered persons in vehicles
- 1,009 sheltered persons
- Full Report on the City's Website: <u>https://www.longbeach.gov/health/services/directory/homeless-services/homeless-count/</u>





### Thurs, January 26, 2023 at the Grand Long Beach (4101 E. Willow St)

- Field Teams of 3 to 5 volunteers with one team lead will be sent to predefined map areas to canvass any individuals experiencing homelessness
- Volunteers should expect to report at 4:30am and spend a total of four hours in the field
- Volunteer Registration will be emailed out and posted to social media in the next two weeks

### 2023 PIT Count Changes:

- New Mobile App Survey123 using Esri ArcGIS
- Updated survey questions and methodology
- Updated map sections



## How Can You Support?

### Volunteer for the Count

- Volunteer as a Field Team Lead (for those who have participated in the past)
- Coordinate a group team in your agency, workplace, family, friends, neighborhood, religious institution, etc.
- Spread the word about the opportunity
- Ensure your clients or program participants are counted
  - Service Locations become a service-based enumeration site
  - Shelter, transitional housing, or residential providers train staff to conduct the Sheltered Count
- Donate small gift cards, socks, or hygiene kit supplies





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