

**Support Seeking an Exception in Conducting a 2021 Point-in-Time Homeless Count**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Continuums of Care (CoC) to conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in January of every other year on odd-numbered years. In addition, HUD requires CoCs to conduct an annual PIT count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Since 2016, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority has coordinated and carried out these PIT counts for the Los Angeles CoC.

Under normal circumstances, LAHSA would be planning now to conduct January 2021 PIT counts of the Los Angeles CoC’s sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. However, the Los Angeles region, like much of the world, is still navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic and has strict public health orders in place. LAHSA’s annual PIT counts have involved the participation of service providers, local municipalities and agencies, and thousands of volunteers. Moving ahead with the PIT counts would be a risky and challenging activity at best and a dangerous, superspreader event in the

MOTION

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worst-case scenario, quickly infecting a high number of people with a very contagious and deadly disease.

Moreover, the fluidity of the pandemic makes planning the PIT counts a difficult if not impossible task. Guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, statewide and regional health orders from the California Department of Public Health, and local Health Officer Orders from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health are not static and could have an impact on any activity that takes place outside one's home. It is also unlikely that there are enough volunteers available to conduct the PIT count. Our essential workers, which include homeless service providers, have exhausted their capacity to divert their focus from their current work of providing life-saving services to vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness.

Given the current public health crisis, it would be prudent for LAHSA to seek an exception for the unsheltered PIT count. For the safety of staff, volunteers, service providers, and people experiencing homelessness, it would behoove Los Angeles County to support LAHSA's request that HUD provide an exception to conduct the 2021 unsheltered PIT count.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Acting Chief Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to the Office of Special Needs and Assistance Programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, with a copy to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), in support of LAHSA's request for an exception for the 2021 Point-in-Time Count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in order to protect the health and safety of unsheltered

people experiencing homelessness as well as staff, volunteers, and service providers.

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HLS: jv