

**COG Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee  
2015 Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Enumeration Training  
Summary Questions & Answers**

District of Columbia  
Bladensburg\*  
Bowie  
Charles County  
College Park  
Frederick  
Frederick County  
Gaithersburg  
Greenbelt  
Montgomery County  
Prince George's County  
Rockville  
Takoma Park  
Alexandria  
Arlington County  
Fairfax  
Fairfax County  
Falls Church  
Loudoun County  
Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County

\*Adjunct Member

**1. Question: Should victims of a house fire (who may be sheltered by the Red Cross) be counted as “homeless” on the night of the PIT?**

Response: Yes, persons who are receiving a subsidy from the Red Cross on the night of the count should be included in the “sheltered” count of literally homeless.

**2. Question: Does “Primary Source of Income” on the PIT survey include SNAP benefits?**

Response: No, SNAP benefits are non-cash benefits and should not be counted as income.

**3. Comment regarding outreach for the unsheltered count. How to respond when a homeless person says, “But you asked me these same questions last year. Why should I answer them again? What has changed?”**

Response: It’s helpful to find out what improvements have been made or what has changed in the past year in your Continuum of Care. Remember why you are doing this survey and be able to share updates (either new grant funding identified, or awareness of a growing problem for which the CoC will seek additional support, etc.)

**4. Question: How are you dealing with young mothers/youth and family planning? How are you dealing with youth who may have substance use disorders?**

Response: It’s about educating young people and informing them about their choices and opportunities. Substance use disorders are definitely a problem. For all the work that Covenant House does, building relationships and building trust is critical to all of the work that they do. Covenant House also has a daycare option, so that young mothers have a safe, affordable place to care for their children so they can get educated, get a job and break the cycle of poverty.

Youth homelessness is a growing problem, in part due to the lack of affordable housing in DC and in our region. Other big concerns are youth aging out of foster care and LGBTQ youth.