



**END UTAH
HOMELESSNESS**
Salt Lake Valley

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact:

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Volunteers to Conduct 2026 Annual Point-In-Time Count in Salt Lake County

PURPOSE: To better understand the issues and impact for those experiencing homelessness

WHAT: The Point-in-time (PIT) count is a nationwide effort to assess the issues and impact for those experiencing homelessness. This nationwide effort originates with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is organized and implemented by State and local Continuums of Care.

Volunteers in Salt Lake County, and communities across Utah and the nation conduct region-wide PIT counts providing a single-night assessment of the homeless situation in the county, state, and nationwide. For three days, volunteers gather information in a coordinated effort regarding a person's homeless situation pertaining to the night of January 28, 2026. Volunteers also offer useful items like warm clothing and food during these interactions.

WHEN: **Thursday, Friday, AND Saturday, January 29 - January 31, 2026**
Between the hours of 4:00 AM and 6:00 AM

WHERE: **Various locations throughout Salt Lake County.**
North Valley Hub: County Government Center (2001 S. State Street.
South Building Lobby.
Mid-Valley Hub: Millcreek City Hall: (1330 E. Chambers Ave.)
South Valley Hub: Sandy City Hall (10000 Centennial Parkway)

WHO: **Volunteers:** Every year we strive for **350 volunteers** from across the county to coordinate this effort. Currently, we have **195 volunteers**.

Organizations: The following organizations are heavily involved in the logistics and collection of information:

- Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness(SLVCEH)
- Professional Outreach Teams (Including VOA, VA, and more)
- University of Utah Faculty & Students
- Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson
- Salt Lake County Surveyor's Office
- Millcreek City and Sandy City Halls
- Salt Lake City
- SLVCEH Lived Expert Task Group
- Salt Lake County Youth Services Youth Action Board
- Utah State Office of Homeless Services
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- First Step House
- Volunteers of America, Utah (VOAUT)
- Jordan River Commission
- Ruff Haven
- Switchpoint
- Unsheltered Utah
- Sunrise Metro

Unsheltered Population: The people surveyed are those spending the night in situations “not suitable for human habitation.” While folks in shelter and other supportive housing will be included in the count, the systems they are interacting with document these circumstances.

HOW: Donations and Volunteers are still needed and in high demand.

Volunteers can sign up to participate individually or as a team at:

<https://endutahhomelessness.org/salt-lake-valley/salt-lake-county-pit-count/>

Volunteering Details:

Participating volunteers are sent to pre-assigned areas early Thursday the 29th, Friday the 30th, and Saturday, January 31st mornings in small teams. Each team canvasses a designated census tract area to identify and survey individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Volunteers record information using an app created by the Salt Lake County surveyor's office.

Through this effort, volunteers will gather information to gain insights into the needs and challenges of those experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake County.

Some survey questions inquire about barriers to housing, physical and mental health, domestic violence, and self-sufficiency currently being experienced and lived by individuals in our community.

Volunteer Training: A mandatory volunteer training will take place on Monday, January 26th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Sunrise Metro Apartments Community Room (580 S 500 W).

Donations: Donations directly support the acquisition of supplies for volunteers to distribute to the unsheltered folks they interact with. Common items are gloves, blankets, handwarmers, and food items.

In-kind and cash / Venmo / Paypal donations are most helpful.

Cash donations are used to buy gloves, handwarmers, socks and other items in bulk. Unsheltered Utah will be collecting cash donations toward the \$2,000 goal.

The following links can be used for cash donations:

<https://givebutter.com/pitcount2025>

<https://unshelteredutah.org/donate/>

Comment "PIT Count" on any Venmo or Paypal donation.

In-kind and physical donations can be dropped off at:

Switch Point

2333 W North Temple

Salt Lake City, UT

OTHER:

You can learn more about this and previous years' counts at:

<https://endutahhomelessness.org/salt-lake-valley/salt-lake-county-pit-count/>

Surveys are sent to a statewide agency and scrubbed for duplicity and combined with other homelessness organizations such as shelters, resource centers, and permanent supportive housing programs to gain a complete picture of the homelessness situation for each continuum, state, etc.

The PIT Count is also a way to survey and gather additional information to connect homeless individuals with available services. The data collected helps policymakers set benchmarks to measure progress toward ending homelessness, and plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs.

“We recognize the importance of gathering data to inform policy and strategies to best address issues that impact those experiencing homelessness and our entire community,” said Rob Wesemann, former co-chair of the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness.

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