



END UTAH
HOMELESSNESS
Salt Lake Valley

MEDIA ADVISORY

January 26, 2026

Contact:

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

PURPOSE: To coordinate media interested in covering the Point-in-Time Count with the volunteers who will conduct the PIT Count.

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 prioritized, organized, and implemented by State and local Continuums of Care as it offers key insights into the causes, circumstances, and population impact.

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: **TRAINING:** Monday, January 26, 2026 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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

WHERE: **TRAINING:** Salt Lake County Government Center, South Building, 2001 S. State Street, Cafeteria, 1st Floor.

PIT COUNT: **Various locations throughout Salt Lake County.** Teams of 2-5 begin at designated Hubs and survey pre-determined tracts throughout the County.

North Valley Hub: County Government Center (2001 S. State Street. South Building Lobby. (This is the MAIN HUB)

Mid-Valley Hub: Millcreek City Hall: (1330 E. Chambers Ave.)

South Valley Hub: Sandy City Hall (10000 Centennial Parkway)

WHO: **Volunteers:** Over 300 volunteers will receive formal PIT Count Training on Monday. Approximately 50 teams of 3-6 people will volunteer each morning, covering pre-determined tracts.

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 will document these circumstances.

HOW: **Volunteering Details:**

Participating volunteers are sent to pre-assigned areas the early mornings of Thursday the 29th, Friday the 30th, and Saturday, January 31st 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.

Media Coverage:

Media outlets can coordinate coverage and interviews with PIT volunteers through Communications Coordinator Tony Pizza (801) 649-9636 or tpizza@saltlakecounty.gov. Tony will be coordinating with teams and organizations open to interview and / or coverage and will work as liaison between teams and media outlets.

Please reach out with your request no later than 5 PM the day prior to the day you wish to conduct an interview or coverage.

Teams can disperse from one of the three HUBS, or coordinate their own meeting places, so coordinating ahead of time will be critical for well-coordinated coverage.

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

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

Completed surveys are sent to a statewide agency to be aggregated, analyzed, and combined with data from 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.

PIT results are typically released in May. The State of Utah verifies the data and performs de-duplication as the selected partner of each of the state's 3 CoCs.

Copies of public notice flyer distributed to the public, homeless outreach teams, and Salt Lake Police Department.



Friendly Community Reminder

Volunteers will be conducting the

2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

Thursday Friday Saturday

Jan. 29 • Jan. 30 • Jan. 31

Between 4:00 AM and 6:00 AM

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a county-wide effort to learn more about the people experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake County. During these mornings, trained volunteers will be walking throughout the valley. Everyone they find will be asked to take part in a short survey, but taking part is your choice.

Please know

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

This helps your advocates

- Ask for more funding
- Improve shelters and services
- Plan for winter needs
- Understand why people become homeless
- Create better programs and support

The PIT Count is **NOT**

- Law enforcement
- A way to track or arrest people
- A way to get anyone in trouble

Your answers are private, and taking part is your choice. Volunteers try to have useful supplies with them and will ask questions about your situation and where you slept on Wednesday night, January 28.

Our goal is to help make homelessness short-term, rare, and something people do not experience again.

If you want help or services, you can:

Call **211** or visit 211utah.org

Homeless Resource Centers: (801) 990-9999

Family Resource Center: (801) 569-1201

Youth Resource Center: (801) 364-0744

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