

2025 PIT Methodology



Rural Nevada CONTINUUM OF CARE

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1. Introduction

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a critical activity for the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (RNCoC). It provides a snapshot of homelessness in our community on a single night in January. The data collected during the PIT count helps to inform local planning, policy development, and resource allocation to address homelessness.

2. Purpose

The primary objectives of the PIT count are to:

- Estimate the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Understand the demographics and subpopulations of those experiencing homelessness.
- Identify trends and changes to homelessness and track progress toward ending homelessness.
- Help communities understand gaps and strategize around the best ways to utilize resources and respond to gaps in services.
- Identify trends and changes in homelessness over time.
- Fulfill HUD requirements for federal funding.

Results of the RNCoC annual PIT Counts and Reports are routinely used by providers, funders and organizers of the homeless service system including:

- ▷ Nevada Rural Housing
- ▷ State of Nevada Housing Division
- ▷ Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness
- ▷ Provisional Assistance Through Housing (PATH)
- ▷ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- ▷ Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

3. Planning and Coordination

Winged Wolf Innovations (WWI) will lead the coordination efforts of all PIT Count activities. The PIT count is planned and coordinated by the RNCoC in collaboration with local government agencies, service providers, volunteers, and other stakeholders. PIT count planning for the RNCoC will commence in November 2024. Individual meetings will be established with count leads for each of the respective communities that comprise the RNCoC. WWI will participate in HUD PIT Count Office Hours and a PIT guide to align count methodology across each geographic region. PIT training will include background and historical information for PIT Count efforts, as well as PIT count methodology guidance.

4. Methodology

RNCoC will conduct the PIT count and all mandated components on January 24, 2025. HUD requires all CoCs to complete a count of sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness every year but only requires a count of unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness every other year. The RNCoC has historically elected to conduct both counts every year and has identified an opportunity to incorporate summer counts in the future to provide a more comprehensive picture of those experiencing homelessness throughout the 15 counties and cities that comprise the RNCoC. In addition to the sheltered and unsheltered count, RNCoC elected to complete a school count. However, in 2025, the RNCoC, along with the other two CoCs in the state, elected to forgo the unsheltered count.

PIT Components

In previous years, RNCoC conducted additional count components but elected not to include a Motel Count and In-depth Interviews in the 2025 count activities. Through planning and coordination efforts, County leads identified these two components as not relevant to the count of those experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, data was not utilized to inform funding decisions. WWI, in conjunction with Bitfocus, will coordinate the following count activities:

Unsheltered Count

Per HUD regulation, CoCs must conduct an unsheltered count of those living in a place not meant for human habitation at least every other year. The three CoCs in Nevada collaborate to the full extent possible in the date and nature of the PIT count. For the year 2025, all three CoCs in Nevada collectively chose not to conduct the unsheltered count since this is an optional activity every other year.

Sheltered Count

Per HUD, CoCs must conduct a sheltered count annually, which counts the number of individuals residing in an Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Safe Haven program on the night of the count. Data informing the sheltered count for the 2025 PIT Count will be extracted from the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The community is aware of several agencies that provide these services throughout the geographic region but do not participate in HMIS. Bitfocus will collaborate with WWI to review and validate HMIS data. Agency data leads will be asked to verify the data from HMIS on all individuals and families residing in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing during the count throughout the geographic region to compare HMIS with information collected.

School Count

WWI will collaborate with McKinney Vento liaisons for each of the school districts represented throughout the 15 counties and cities that represent the RNCoC. Although this information is not

reported to HUD, the data collected provides insight into the number of children experiencing homelessness or housing instability throughout Rural Nevada. WWI will communicate with liaisons in the months leading up to the count. In early January 2025, WWI will provide each liaison with access to Google Forms to complete surveys and identify the number of kids that were in emergency shelter, hotel or motel, transitional housing, foster placement, or other living situations not identified.

5. Quality Assurance

Quality assurance measures will be implemented to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data collected. These measures include:

- Real-time data validation, error detection, and correction.
- Post-count data cleaning and verification processes.
- De-duplication of records to avoid double-counting.

At the conclusion of the PIT count, WWI will analyze the data to generate infographics and provide reports and summaries to each County and jurisdiction:

- Total number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Demographic and subpopulation breakdowns.
- Comparative analysis with previous PIT counts.

6. Dissemination and Use of Data

The findings from the PIT count will be shared with:

- HUD, as required for federal reporting.
- Local government agencies and policymakers.
- Service providers and community stakeholders.
- The general public, through a published report and presentations.

The RNCoc is committed to conducting a thorough and accurate PIT count to better understand and address homelessness in our community. Through collaboration, detailed planning, and rigorous data collection methodologies, we aim to use the findings to drive meaningful change and improve outcomes for those experiencing homelessness.