



## **Fredericksburg Area Continuum of Care 2011 Point-In-Time (PIT) Report**

Communities across the country seek to address homeless issues through government agencies and non-profit organizations working together as a Continuum of Care (CoC). Each CoC is required to undertake community-wide efforts to collect information on the number and characteristics of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires CoCs to use a method called a Point-In-Time (PIT) count at least every two years during the last ten days of January. The Fredericksburg Regional CoC conducts a PIT every year, to more accurately track the number and the needs of the region's homeless population.

The PIT is an important tool in collecting good data on the number, characteristics, and service needs of individuals, families, and unaccompanied children experiencing homelessness. The resulting data is a critical component of local homeless planning and program development. Accurate data helps communities to:

- Understand changes in trends among homeless populations;
- Adjust the types of programs and services available according to need in order to use resources as efficiently as possible;
- Justify requests for additional resources and/or programming modifications;
- Comply with reporting requirements from HUD, other funders, and local stakeholders;
- Raise public awareness about the issue of homelessness; and
- Measure community progress towards preventing and ending homelessness.

Nationally, the PIT count process is used as the primary data source for federal agencies to understand homelessness trends and track progress against the goals and objectives contained in *Opening Doors*, the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. Additionally, the Congressionally-mandated Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is prepared using PIT and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data.

### **Part I. 2011 Point-In-Time Count Background**

On January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, members of the Fredericksburg Regional CoC conducted its local PIT count of the homeless population. Over a 36-hour period service providers and volunteers visited soup kitchens and outdoor locations to gather information from people who are homeless and near-homeless in the Fredericksburg area. School Homeless Liaisons from the region also coordinated with the CoC to calculate the number of school-aged homeless persons. Over 185 individual survey questionnaires were completed. After a review of the surveys and removal of duplicates, 162 unique surveys were available to evaluate homeless adults living in Planning District 16 on the night of the count. An additional 17 surveys were completed by adults who were not homeless the night of the count, but are considered at-risk of future instances of homelessness. In addition to counting homeless individuals and families, the survey

also provides information on the needs and characteristics of the population to better provide services in the future. Getting homeless persons to provide personal information can be challenging, but in 2011, the CoC was able to offer incentives for completing the surveys through the generosity of the community. These gifts included free FRED Bus tickets donated by FREDericksburg Regional Transit, toiletry kits donated by the Salvation Army, free gift cards for phone minutes, food, and a service fair offering intake and referral information from various CoC agencies and the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) was sponsored by Micah Ecumenical Ministries.

## Part II. 2011 PIT Summary Table for Submission to HUD

Fredericksburg Regional CoC-2011 Point-In-Time Count Results (Schedule K) January 27, 2011				
Households with Dependent Children	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	14	7	0	21
Number of Persons (adults and children)	37	19	0	56
Households without Dependent Children	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	86	0	138	224
Number of Persons (adults and unaccompanied youth)	86	0	138	224
All Households/ All Persons	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total Households	100	7	138	245
Total Persons	123	19	138	280

Part 2J Homeless Adult Sub-Populations			
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Chronically Homeless	40	27	67
Severely Mentally Ill	36	12	48
Chronic Substance Abuse	23	5	28
Veterans	14	3	17
Persons with HIV/AIDS	6	2	8
Victims of Domestic Abuse	12	2	14
Unaccompanied Child (Minor)	0	89	89

## **Part III. Comparative Analysis of 1-Year Changes (2010 vs. 2011)**

### **A. Overall Population:**

#### **1. HUD Defined Homeless**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines homeless as, “Individuals and families in shelters, in transitional housing, and sleeping in places not meant for human habitation (parks, alleys, all night establishments such as restaurants, hospitals, Laundromats, in vehicles, etc.).”

#### **2011**

##### **HUD Defined Homeless (Surveyed):**

150 adult HUD homeless

130 children HUD homeless

**280 total HUD homeless**

#### **2010**

##### **HUD Defined Homeless (Surveyed):**

184 adult HUD homeless

104 children HUD homeless

**288 total HUD homeless**

#### **Analysis:**

Overall, the number of homeless persons counted in Planning District 16 decreased by eight persons from 2010 to 2011. The slight decrease in the overall homeless can be attributed to several successful efforts by CoC member agencies. Micah Ecumenical Ministries has moved forward with its Journey Program, successfully providing permanent supportive housing opportunities for previously chronic homeless individuals. Thurman Brisben Center (TBC) has been able to re-house several families while preventing new cases of homelessness since 2010 through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP). Transitional housing programs of Hope House and the Rappahannock Area Council on Domestic Violence (RCDV) have high success rates in transitioning formerly homeless persons/families into permanent housing. Other CoC agencies, such as Quin Rivers, Central Virginia Housing Coalition, and the Salvation Army also serve the public in preventing new cases of homelessness.

Although the total number of homeless persons dropped, the percentage of homeless children increased, from 36 percent of the overall homeless population in 2010, to 46 percent in 2011. The rise in homeless children is a growing trend as shown by the number of unaccompanied youth being identified by the public schools. This population is of great concern for the CoC because many of these youth will be living in the community as homeless adults once they turn 18.

#### **2. Additional HEARTH Act Defined Homeless**

The HEARTH Act of 2009 expands HUD’s definition to include situations where a person is at imminent risk of homelessness or where a family or unaccompanied youth is living in unstable conditions. Imminent risk includes situations where a person must leave his or her current

housing within the next 14 days with no other place to go and no resources or support networks through which to obtain housing. Instability includes families with children and unaccompanied youth who: 1) are defined as homeless under other federal programs (such as the Department of Education's (DOE) Education for Homeless Children and Youth program), 2) have lived for a long period without being able to live independently in permanent housing, 3) have moved frequently, and 4) will continue to experience instability because of disability, history of domestic violence or abuse, or multiple barriers to employment.

The Department of Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program defines the term "homeless children and youth" in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, which identifies individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as homeless. More specifically, the term includes:

- Children and youth who are:
  - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as *doubled-up*);
  - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - living in emergency or transitional shelters;
  - abandoned in hospitals; or
  - awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Once HUD revises its definition of homelessness in accordance with the HEARTH Act of 2009 the following persons will be added to the numbers above:

**2011:**

HEARTH Act Defined Homeless:

12 adults (surveyed) who were not homeless on the night of the PIT, but anticipated being homeless within 14 days following the PIT

588 children who are defined as homeless under the DOE

**600 HEARTH homeless**

**2010**

HEARTH Act Defined Homeless:

376 children were defined as homeless under the DOE

**376 HEARTH homeless**

**Analysis:**

The number of school-aged children who are defined as homeless under the Department of Education continues to climb as parents have lost employment and can no longer provide stable housing for their families. These families are frequently forced to double up with friends/family or live in hotels and motels. CoC agencies have tried to coordinate efforts to identify and re-house families with children through the HPRP but there is still a tremendous need.