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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **EVERYONE COUNTS! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL HOMELESS POINT IN TIME COUNT**

The City of Tucson, Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH), and University of Arizona Southwest Institute for Research on Women (UA-SIROW) invite volunteers to participate in *Everyone Counts 2020!* - the 2020 Homeless Point-In-Time Count from 6-11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29. The Point-In-Time Count is an annual count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Pima County on a given day and is conducted by TPCH. A mandatory volunteer training will be held from 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27. The training will occur in the Sentinel Building at the City of Tucson Community Resource Campus located at 310 N. Commerce Park Loop. Preregistration is required.

Teams of volunteers and experts will canvas assigned routes throughout the community and conduct brief surveys with people who slept outside or in other places not meant for human habitation the night before the count. Volunteers do not need prior experience but must be age 18 or older and have a desire to help end homelessness in Pima County. Community members can learn more about the count and register to volunteer at [www.tpch.net](http://www.tpch.net).

“The annual count takes hundreds of local volunteers,” said Claudia Powell, Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness board chair and associate director of the UA-SIROW, which organizes the count on behalf of the coalition. “The data we collect improves resources for people experiencing homelessness in Pima County and makes our community a better place for everyone.”

The annual count is required as part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Continuum of Care program, which provides TPCH and local agencies approximately \$8.33 million in federal funds to address homelessness in Pima County each year. It is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness and provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing trauma and dislocation. It promotes access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness achieve self-sufficiency.

TPCH is a coalition of community- and faith-based organizations, government entities, businesses, and individuals committed to the mission of ending homelessness and addressing the issues related to homelessness in our community. The coalition provides leadership, expertise and advice to local planning and funding bodies on issues that impact services to homeless persons, increases community awareness and support for people experiencing homelessness, and serves as the HUD Continuum of Care for the City of Tucson and Pima County.

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