



**Department of Children and Family Services Volunteers Needed
for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count
January 26 – January 28, 2016**

All across Los Angeles, there are homeless men, women and children in need of support and vital services. Thanks to caring communities and dedicated resources, we don't have to accept homelessness as an unsolvable problem. We are better situated than ever to bring about an end to homelessness in Los Angeles, but we can't do it alone. Join the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count and change their futures.

The Homeless Count, mandated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and coordinated locally by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), is the largest homeless census count in the nation and helps determine how many homeless people there are in the region, identify their demographic characteristics and the locations where they reside. This data is essential to help LAHSA advocate for and allocate resources where they will serve the greatest needs.

This year The Count is poised to engage 6,000 volunteers to fan out across Los Angeles and be a part of this important hands-on effort. Volunteering for the Count is a safe and meaningful way to raise awareness of the state of homelessness in Los Angeles and create new pathways for involvement among community leaders, businesses, public agencies and residents.

DCFS in partnership with LAHSA and the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is requesting your assistance in helping the homeless population in our community. Just a few hours of your time can make a great difference in better targeting resources and support for the many individuals and families experiencing homelessness; especially many of the children, youth and families we serve each and every day.

To be a part of the solution to address the ever-increasing problem of homelessness affecting our LA County community, sign up to volunteer at www.theycountwillyou.org or for more information, contact Stephanie Inyama, Homeless Count Manager at sinyama@lahsa.org. Thank you for making a difference!

3 Days. 6,000 Volunteers. One Mission: To End Homelessness.



2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

About the Count

All across Los Angeles, there are homeless men, women and children in need of support and vital services. We need your help to know who they are and where they reside. By volunteering for the Greater LA Homeless Count, you are helping to gather important data that is key for us to bring about an end to homelessness in Los Angeles. Thanks to caring communities and dedicated resources, we don't have to accept homelessness as an unsolvable problem -- They Count, Will You?

What is the Homeless Count?

The Homeless Point-in-time Count, led by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), is how we determine how many homeless individuals and families we have in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) on any given night. Over the course of three days and nights, staff and trained volunteers fan across the Los Angeles CoC and count the number of homeless persons, identify their demographic characteristics and the locations where they reside.

In 2015, the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count was the largest homeless census in the country. It engaged more than 5,500 volunteers who counted 89 percent of Los Angeles County's census tracts – a powerful showing of hands-on community engagement. And now we're going annual – to help capture ever-more timely data to support the delivery of services.

Why Volunteer?

LAHSA is part of a coordinated network of City and County agencies, nonprofits, civic and community leaders. Accurate, timely data on our homeless population and where they live is a critical tool to help secure and direct resources where they are most needed.

By donating your time, talents and concern, you will:

Inform the state of homelessness in LA: Understanding the size and scope of our homeless population is essential. You will shine a light on the people experiencing homelessness and tell the important stories of who they are and where they live.

Bring vital community resources: Data from the Homeless Count is the most powerful tool nonprofits and local leadership have to advocate for additional and specialized resources. As a volunteer, you will help the region specify needs and track progress over time.

Drive engagement: Through a shared commitment to serving and reducing the homeless population, we can make powerful progress. Bringing together leaders, residents and other stakeholders will help raise awareness and create new pathways for involvement.

3 Days, 6,000 Volunteers, 1 Mission: **To End Homelessness.**
They Count, Will You?



2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SAVE THE DATES

The Greater LA Homeless Count takes place over three days, counting a different part of Los Angeles County each day. Visit our website to find a Count near you: www.TheyCountWillYou.org.

Tuesday, January 26th

8:00 pm

SPA 3 San Gabriel Valley
SPA 7 East LA County

Wednesday, January 27th

8:00 pm

SPA 2 San Fernando & Santa Clarita Valleys
SPA 5 West Los Angeles
SPA 8 South Bay

Thursday, January 28th

6:00 am

SPA 1 Antelope Valley

8:00 pm

SPA 4 Metro Los Angeles
SPA 6 South Los Angeles

I've never done this before. How will I know how to count homeless people?
All volunteers will be fully trained and provided with equipment and materials.

How old do I have to be to register?
Since we are counting late at night, volunteers need to be at least 18 years old. If you are under 18 or want to get your children involved there are opportunities to help out at a deployment site, just contact your regional coordinator for more information.

Can I select which area I want to volunteer in?
Yes! We encourage volunteers to count in the community they are most familiar with! Visit www.TheyCountWillYou.org to register and indicate your area of preference.

What is the time commitment and expected schedule for the Homeless Count?
Dates and times vary by region and can be found below. The time commitment is generally 3-4 hours for most volunteer roles.

What will I be doing as a volunteer?
There are many volunteer roles available to help make the Homeless Count a success:

Counter – The counters (2 per team) will identify and count unsheltered homeless people in their assigned area. One of the counters will serve as a recorder that will tally the information. Training and materials will be provided on the day of the count.

Driver – The driver's only job will be driving his or her team safely around their assigned area.

Navigator – The navigator will help the driver by providing directions and keeping track of time.

Trainer – The trainer will be responsible for training all Volunteer Counters at a specific Deployment Site for up to 4 hours. Trainers take on a leadership role and must be comfortable giving direction.

Office Volunteer – The office volunteer makes phone calls to recruit volunteers, helps with data entry and provides administrative support to the LAHSA office. There are opportunities to help before, during and/or after the Count.

Special Outreach Teams – We also need volunteers that are familiar with remote areas and marginalized communities to support outreach to traditionally underserved regions and segments of the population. Shifts vary.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Homeless Count, sign up today!
www.TheyCountWillYou.org

Connect with us!

[GreaterLAHomelessCount](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterLAHomelessCount) [@LAHomelessCount](https://twitter.com/LAHomelessCount)

[#TheyCountWillYou](https://twitter.com/TheyCountWillYou) [#HC2016](https://twitter.com/HC2016)

Coordinated by:

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority with help from community & business partnerships throughout Los Angeles County.





2016 Greater Los Angeles

Homeless Count

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

VOLUNTEER CONTACT:

First Name (required) _____ Last Name (required) _____

(_____) _____ - _____ x _____

Telephone _____ Extension _____ Email Address (required) _____

HOME ADDRESS:

Street Address _____ Unit/Suite/Floor _____

City _____, CA _____ ZIP Code _____

ORGANIZATION:
(IF APPLICABLE)

Name of any agency or organization with whom you are affiliated

AREA/SPA:

(name of City or SPA you want to Volunteer at)

PREFERRED ROLES

Please rank your preferred roles from 1 – 6 below:

- _____ **Volunteer Trainer** – Trainers will be responsible for training all Volunteer Counters at a specific deployment site. Trainers will take on a leadership role and should be comfortable giving directions. Please provide phone number if you are interested in becoming a trainer.
- _____ **Driver** – Drivers are part of the count team and will be responsible for safely driving their team around the assigned area.
- _____ **Navigator** – Navigators are responsible for guiding their team around the assigned area and giving directions to the team’s driver.
- _____ **Counter** – Counters will receive training and materials on the day of the Count from trained volunteers and be deployed in groups of 2 or 3 to count specific blocks in an area. Counters will be outside counting for up to 4 hours.
- _____ **Office Volunteer at LAHSA** – Office work includes making phone calls to recruit volunteers, preparing deployment site materials, and helping with data entry both before and after the Count. Please provide phone number.
- _____ **Office Volunteer in a Count Community** – Office work includes making phone calls to recruit volunteers and helping with data entry during shifts of 1 – 3 hours.



2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

Tuesday
January 26, 2016

8 PM
SPA 3
SPA 7

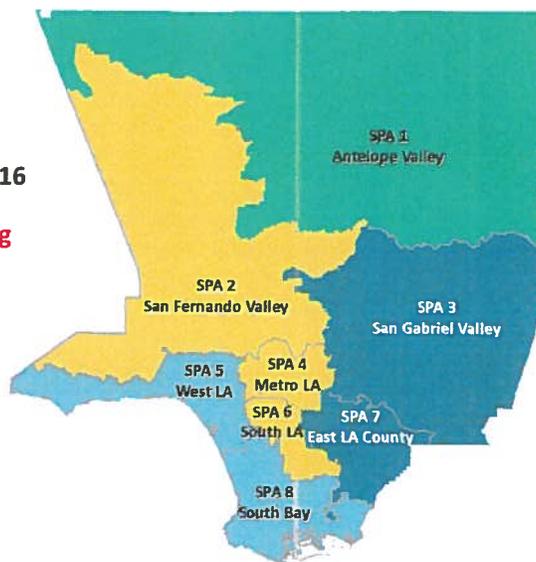
Wednesday
January 27, 2016

8 PM
SPA 2
SPA 5
SPA 8

Thursday
January 28, 2016

Early Morning
SPA 1

Night
SPA 4
SPA 6



For more information, please visit

www.TheyCountWillYou.org

Find us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/GreaterLAHomelessCount>

Follow us on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/LAHomelessCount>