



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.TheyCountWillYou.org)

Connect with us!

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

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

Coordinated by:

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

