



January 4, 2021

Dear City and Community Partners,

This is the time of year when we are typically preparing for the Point-in-Time Count, our biennial effort to measure the prevalence of homelessness in our community, and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as people sleeping on the streets, in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation.

This year, due to COVID-19 conditions and safety protocols, HUD has indicated that CoCs should, “prioritize the safety of people experiencing homelessness, staff and volunteers,” in planning the 2021 count. The San Francisco Department of Public Health has also [recommended](#) that the City cancel the unsheltered count to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Therefore, San Francisco has joined many regions in requesting an exception to some or all of the components of the count.

Today, the Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB) voted to request a [HUD waiver](#) to cancel the 2021 unsheltered count and survey components of the PIT in order to remain in compliance with the Shelter-in-place ordinance and DPH’s written recommendation.

Additional reasons for cancellation:

- SF assignment to Tier One (purple) county risk level
- Modeling from the CCC indicating that SF will likely remain in Tier One through the end of February
- Projections from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) indicating hospital utilization will peak in mid-February

This morning LHCB unanimously voted to apply for an exception waiver for this year’s PIT count. HSH agrees to ongoing and future data collection by:

- Conduct the sheltered component of the PIT count in January 2021
- Conduct a full PIT count in 2022
- Conduct a full PIT count in 2023
- Continue to improve tracking of unsheltered populations in the ONE System (HMIS)

Thank you for your continued support, flexibility and understanding during this very challenging time. If you have additional questions or concerns, please reach out to HSHExternalAffairs@sfgov.org.

Onward,
HSH

