San Francisco
2022 Point-in-Time Homeless Count
Agenda

• Review PIT Methodology for approval
• Discuss data collection tools
• Review feedback received on street count team composition
• Preview COVID mitigation strategies
HSH recommends keeping methodology consistent with past years by using a combined approach consistent with HUD standards:

- A **complete census count** of homeless persons
- A **non-random sample** of homeless persons are surveyed to extrapolate demographics
Data Collection Tools

• HSH will bring draft data collection instruments to LHCB in December for review and approval

• Suggested changes include:
  • Updating demographic questions to match new HUD recommendations and 2022 HMIS standards
  • Removing “What was your sex at birth?”
  • Adding a follow-up question to identify if one’s primary cause of homelessness was related to COVID-19 or CA Wildfires
Street Count Team Composition

• Following feedback at the October LHCB meeting, HSH researched opportunities to reduce community volunteers in the street count
• Researched other west coast communities and reviewed HUD guidance
• Our Goals:
  • Prioritize count accuracy
  • Adopt best practices promoted by HUD and other communities
  • Leverage the PIT Count as a meaningful opportunity for community engagement and public awareness
  • Ensure health and safety of participants during COVID pandemic
Street Count Team Composition

- HSH is exploring the following strategies:

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<th>Past Counts</th>
<th>2022 Count (COVID)</th>
<th>Future Counts (Post COVID)</th>
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<td><strong>General Approach</strong></td>
<td>Mostly volunteers</td>
<td>Reduce routes; Minimize general volunteers; maximize outreach workers; Pre-assign routes</td>
<td>Aim for teams with at least 1 skilled worker, 1 PEH, 1 volunteer</td>
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<td><strong>Skilled Outreach Workers</strong></td>
<td>Used for priority routes (~10% of total)</td>
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*City Staff and CBOs are targeted and heavily represented in general volunteer recruitment*
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Update on COVID Risk Mitigation

• HUD will incentivize communities to conduct a full count in 2022
• Updated safety guidance from HUD, the CDC, and National Healthcare for the Homeless Council will be issued soon
• HSH will continue to consult the following for best practices:
  • San Francisco Department of Public Health
  • Applied Survey Research (ASR)
  • HUD
  • Other Bay Area CoCs
Update on COVID Risk Mitigation

HSH is considering various strategies to ensure the health and safety of participants during the street count and survey, including:

- Consolidating routes, limiting team size, and pre-assigning routes
- Allowing volunteers to self-identify teams; minimize assigning mixed household teams
- Providing PPE (e.g. masks, hand sanitizer)
- Requiring self-screening questions for COVID symptoms or vaccine status
- Conducting trainings virtually when possible, outdoors with limits to group size if in person
- Using a mobile app for the street count to limit exchange of tally sheets and pens
- Adhering to DPH guidance when in vehicles (open windows, masks on, spacing)
- Socially distanced stations for surveys