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COMMUNITY MOBILIZES TO COUNT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The annual point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County was held yesterday, January 25, 2024. Community Shelter Board worked in collaboration with the Continuum of Care, a 41-member planning body that carries out a commitment to ending homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. More than 200 volunteers were mobilized to support this effort.

“Point-in-time counts are an important method used to better understand the extent of homelessness across the nation,” said Shannon TL Isom, President & CEO of Community Shelter Board. “What we already know going into the count is that one year ago in January 2023, Columbus and Franklin County saw their largest ever increase in homelessness, with a 22% rise in individuals experiencing homelessness.”

The method for yesterday’s count was comprehensive and included more than 170 families with children and 1,000 single adults who spent the night in one of several emergency shelters. Other input will be added to the count, including the number of people counted on the streets and at known encampments, and those counted at soup kitchens and community agencies throughout the day.

Careful review and comparison of the numbers is conducted to remove duplication and assure accuracy. Results are typically finalized and made available in April. Last year’s count identified four hundred ninety-eight (498) people living outside, along with 1,839 in shelter and transitional housing.

MORE ABOUT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a planning body made up of representatives of relevant organizations within a geographic area to carry out a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness. In Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, the Continuum of Care provides stewardship for all the strategies developed under the community plan to address homelessness, called [A Place to Call Home](#). The Continuum of Care:

- provides funding for the capital, services, and operations of housing in Columbus and Franklin County;
- coordinates activities for the community plan to address homelessness;
- promotes collaboration to achieve goals and strategies; and
- secures resources for programs and projects.

The Continuum of Care is designed to involve all the players required to further local efforts to end homelessness. The purpose for including stakeholder representation from a wide range of organizations within a geographic area is to ensure that all community stakeholders participate in developing and implementing a range of housing and services.

<https://www.columbusfranklincountycoc.org/>

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community shelter board

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MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD

Community Shelter Board (CSB) leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio. As the system leader for the prevention and response to homelessness in central Ohio, CSB collaborates with service provider organizations in Franklin County, creating a responsive network to ensure an effective and readied use of community resources for people experiencing homelessness. Over the past 10 years, CSB's system of care has housed more than 35,000 men, women, and children facing homelessness.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the State of Ohio, United Way of Central Ohio, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, The Columbus Foundation, and many other public and private investors. www.csb.org