



# CITY OF TOPEKA

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## News Release

### Point-In-Time Count of Homeless Persons

Homelessness in Kansas and across the country is on the rise. In the past year, the Topeka Rescue Mission has seen record numbers of guests in the shelter with the biggest increase being in persons with mental health challenges. Kansas schools have also seen large increases in homeless children and youth.

Now, more than ever, it is important for us to obtain the appropriate level of funding so that we can provide needed services to those experiencing homelessness and those at risk for homelessness. To receive funding for programs, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to complete a point-in-time count of the homeless every year.

**This year's Point-In-Time Count will be held on Wednesday, January 23 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

"This is one of the important ways for Topeka to determine whether we are meeting the needs of persons experiencing homelessness," said Corrie Wright, Division Director of Housing Services for the City of Topeka. The information gathered will help Topeka to:

- Understand the face of homelessness within the community;
- Make sure services are meeting the needs of homeless persons;
- Raise public awareness about the issues surrounding homelessness; and
- Measure community progress towards preventing and ending homelessness.

Help us make sure that everyone is counted!

Persons who are experiencing homelessness or know someone who is, please call 785-368-0168 between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Interviewers will also be available at the City Offices – Holliday Building, 620 SE Madison, Holliday Conference Room from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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*This and other press releases are available by accessing the City of Topeka website at [www.topeka.org](http://www.topeka.org).*