

News Release
For Immediate Release
-2012 Central Oregon One Day Homeless Count

For the seventh straight year, the Central Oregon Homeless Leadership Coalition is conducting a one-day count of people who are homeless or in transitional housing in Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties. This count is a part of a national effort to identify the number of people struggling to find appropriate and adequate housing.

Throughout the day on Thursday, January 26th, 2012 volunteers will be conducting confidential and anonymous surveys in Bend, LaPine, Sisters, Redmond, Prineville, and Madras. This one-day count will provide the most up-to-date information about the number of individuals in Central Oregon who are struggling to find adequate housing. Through this data, local agencies and programs are able to qualify for increased funding, better target support services, and develop comprehensive plans to address poverty and homelessness in Central Oregon.

Individuals and families counted through this effort include people living in:

- Weekly motels
- Shelters
- Transitional housing
- "Doubled up" with other families
- Camping or sleeping in cars
- Other places not designed for long-term human habitation.

The Homeless Leadership Coalition often relies on friends and families to aid in identifying people who should be included as a part of this One Night Homeless Count. If you, or someone you know, should be included in the count, please contact (541) 280-1137, or visit the nearest Command Center site on January 26th to complete a confidential and anonymous survey. To be counted as a part of this effort, it has to occur on Thursday, January 26th, 2012. Please do not try and be counted before that day. Free food, blankets and sleeping bags, pet food, propane, and other items will be available at various Command Center sites throughout Central Oregon, while supplies last.

For additional information about the impact of homelessness in Central Oregon, please visit the Homeless Leadership Coalition's web site at www.cohomeless.org/. This site will provide the most up-to-date details about the location of command centers, contact numbers, and additional information about the count.

To learn more about efforts in Jefferson County, contact Ana Young at: anay@neighborimpact.org.

To learn more about efforts in Crook County, contact Karole Stockton at: karoles@crestviewcabale.com

To learn more about efforts in Deschutes County, contact Janet Merrell at: janetm@neighborimpact.org

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Interviews will be provided the afternoon of Wednesday, January 25th and the morning of Thursday January 26th. Due to the limited number of staff available the day of the event interviews with volunteers and individuals participating in the count need to be scheduled in advance.