

A dark brown silhouette of a person sitting and using a tablet computer. The person's right hand is on the screen, and their left hand is holding the tablet. The background is a light brown map of Florida.

2026 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT VOLUNTEER TRAINING

- FL-510 Continuum of Care- Duval, Clay, Nassau, and Baker
- Thursday, January 29, 2026
- Changing Homelessness, Inc.

Every Story Counts

WE ARE



CHANGING

homelessness



WHAT IS THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT?



A HUD Requirement: The PIT Count is a federally required activity under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for all Continuums of Care (CoCs) nationwide.



Purpose: Conducted every January, the PIT Count provides a snapshot of homelessness – counting and surveying individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a single night.



Who's included:
People staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or safe havens.
People sleeping outdoors, in cars, abandoned buildings, encampments, or others places not meant for habitation.

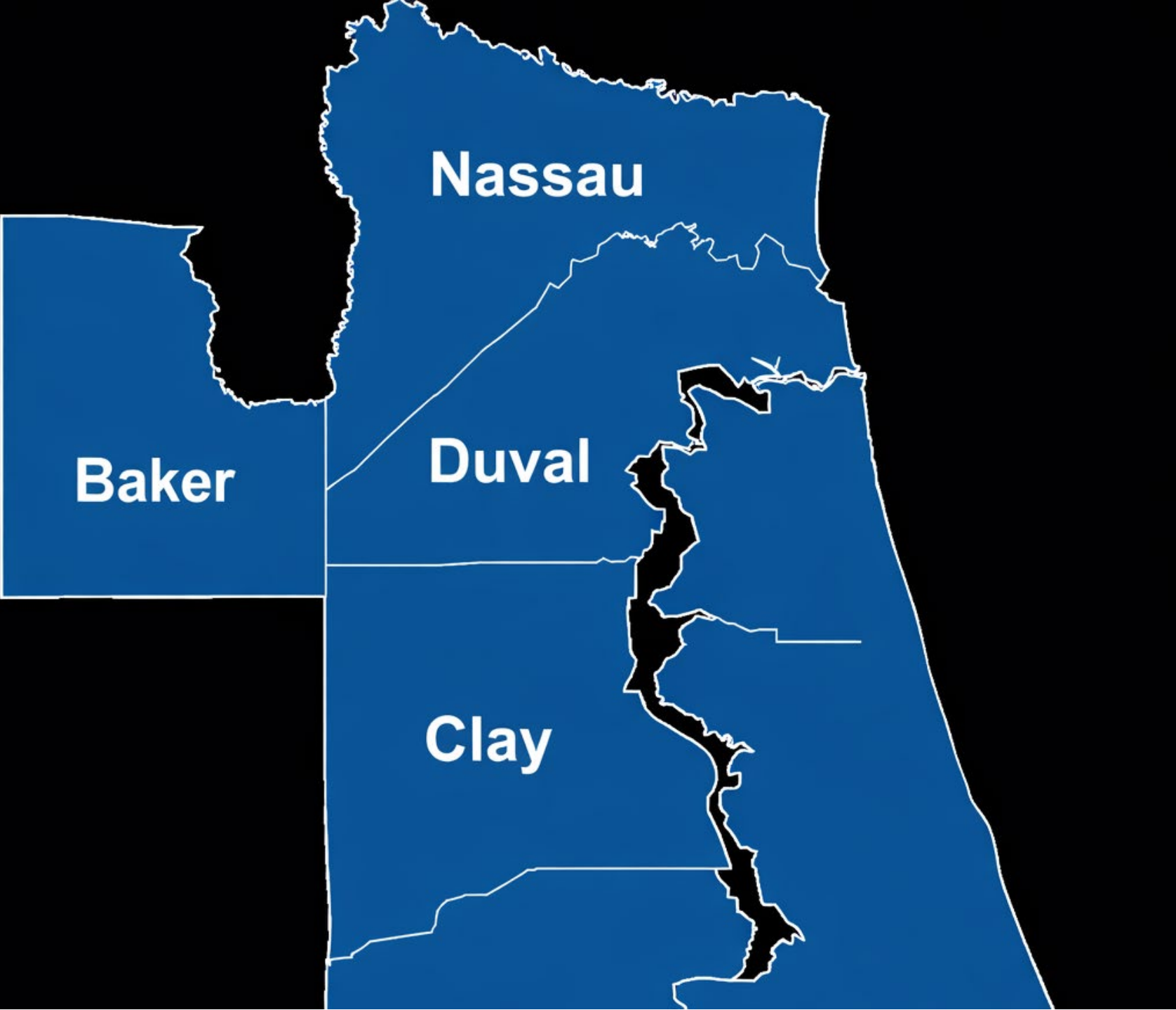


Why it Matters:
Helps identify local trends and service gaps.
Guides funding, policy decisions, and program planning.
Supports the CoC's mission to ensure data-driven compassionate solutions.

HOW DOES THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT WORK?

- Single Night Snapshot: Conducted on January 29, 2026, across Duval, Clay, Nassau, and Baker Counties- all within the FL-510 Continuum of Care.
- Volunteer Teams:
 - Assigned to specific zones.
 - Use Counting Us App or paper forms to collect data.
 - Report location, demographic, and basic needs respectfully and confidentially.
- Data Submission:
 - All counts are verified, de-duplicated, and submitted to HUD as part of the annual CoC report.

Two Main Components	
1. Sheltered Count	2. Unsheltered Count
Data from emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens collected through HMIS and provider reports.	Volunteers and outreach teams survey and count people sleeping outdoors or in places not mean for habitation.



WHERE DO WE COUNT?

- Duval
- Clay
- Nassau
- Baker (1st year)

WHEN DO WE COUNT?

Duval County: 4am - 8am
Location: FSCJ Downtown

Clay County: 6am – 12pm
Location: Mercy Support

Nassau County: 6am – 12pm
Location: YMCA @ Wildlight

Baker County: 6am – 12pm
Location: Meridian Building
(Macclenney)



2026 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Volunteers Needed

Help **survey and count** the number of our **neighbors experiencing homelessness!**

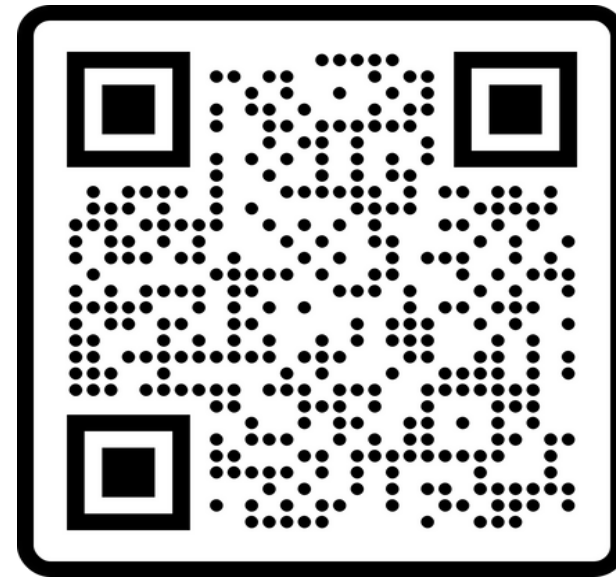
Volunteers will work in small teams and participate in respectful, trauma-informed engagement while conducting short surveys.

Every volunteer must complete a 1 to 1.5-hour training before participating. This training covers safety, engagement tips, survey procedures, and what to expect during the count.

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

Sign Up: nefl.pointintime.info

Questions: Charles Temple |
ctemple@changinghomelessness.org



Scan me to register
as a volunteer!



ZONE COMMANDERS NEEDED

Zone Commanders are key field leaders who help ensure a smooth, accurate, and well-coordinated Point-In-Time Count. Each Zone Commander oversees one geographic zone and serves as the main point of contact between volunteers and the Command Center.

Zone Commander Responsibilities

- Guide and support volunteer teams during the count
- Communicate with the Command Center in real time
- Distribute and collect supplies for teams
- Troubleshoot field issues and ensure zone coverage

Ideal Candidates: Outreach staff, CoC partners, experienced PIT volunteers, or anyone comfortable with leadership and problem-solving.

Interested?

Please contact:

ctemple@changinghomelessness.org

Before 01/21/2026

COUNTING US APP

All volunteers will use the Counting Us mobile app to collect survey data during the PIT count. Please download and set up the app before arriving for the count.

[Generic Portal Version - Getting Started Flyer - 2025](#)

Set-up Key: NEFL

YOUR SAFETY

Your safety is our top priority during the Point-In-Time Count. Please follow these guidelines at all times:

- Stay within range of your team – never work alone
- Remain calm, alert, and aware of your surroundings
- Do not enter unsafe areas, including abandoned buildings or high-risk situations
- Park in well-lit, safe locations and be mindful of traffic and visibility
- Do not carry valuables (or keep them out of sight)
- Gather and save your team's contact information
- If you are law enforcement, please wear civilian clothing
- In an emergency, call 911 immediately, then notify your Zone Commander

If something does not feel safe, trust your instincts and disengage.

ENGAGING WITH COMPASSION: A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

- What it Means: Trauma-informed engagement recognizes the many people experiencing homelessness have faced significant trauma – including loss, violence, or chronic instability.
- Our goal is to create interactions that are safe, respectful, and empowering.

Core Principles:

- Safety: Ensure people feel physically and emotionally secure.
 - Trust & Transparency: Explain who you are, why you're there, and what the count is for.
 - Choice and Control: Always let people decide whether to participate.
 - Empowerment: Focus on strengths, not deficits.
 - Cultural Humility: Be aware of differences in language, identity, and lived experience.
-

ENGAGING
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During Count:

- Introduce yourself calmly and clearly.
- Ask permission before starting questions.
- Maintain personal space and non-threatening posture.
- Thank each person for their time, whether they participate or not.
- Never argue, judge, or press for answers.
- Do not wake anyone up

Remember:

- The PIT Count is not about enforcement – its about dignity, listening, and connection.

WHO TO COUNT & WHICH SURVEY TO USE

The Point-in-Time Count includes people experiencing unsheltered homelessness who are encountered outdoors or in places not meant for human habitation.

Who to Count

- Individual or households living outside, in vehicles, tents, encampments, or other places not meant for human habitation
- People who are sleeping or awake at the time of the count

Which Survey to Use

- If the person is awake and agrees to participate: Use the Unsheltered Homeless Survey
- If the person is asleep or does not agree to participate: Use the Unsheltered Homeless Person Observation

Important Reminders

- Participation is voluntary – never pressure someone to participate
 - Do not wake individuals who are sleeping
 - Count each person only once
 - If unsure which survey to use, contact your Zone commander
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SURVEY OVERVIEW

- [Counting Us](#)

Let's role play



WHAT to expect

Weather

- It changes on any given day!

A lot of walking and driving

- Wear comfortable clothes & shoes

A life changing experience!

QUESTIONS
