



For Immediate Release May 5, 2014

Lane County Human Services Releases Annual One Night Homeless Count

EUGENE, ORE -- On Wednesday, January 29, 2014, Lane County Human Services, the anti-poverty program for the county, along with non-profit partners, conducted a one-night count of people who are literally homeless in our community.

Nine organizations counted sheltered and transitionally housed homeless people on January 29, 2014. While the sheltered count occurs annually, the unsheltered count (street count) is administered in odd number years. Both counts are required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which provides \$2.5 million in housing and services to single adults, families and youth who are homeless in Lane County. As HUD instructs, we carried over the 1,102 people from the 2013 unsheltered count.

The 2014 "sheltered count" includes emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs designated for homeless people. **The combined 2014 number (1,769) includes the 2013 unsheltered count** of people who were counted on the streets, under bridges, in parks, at food pantries, day access centers, and churches.

Of the 1,769 people included in this count:

- 338 individuals were staying in Emergency Shelter
- 329 individuals were living in Transitional Housing (up to 24 months) designated for people who are homeless
- 1,102 men, women, and children were without shelter (carried over from the 2013 unsheltered count)

Total 1,769 individuals (1,447 households)

"This snapshot in time only paints part of the picture of homelessness locally," said Pearl Wolfe, Human Services Supervisor. "Annual figures show that 9,856 individuals who sought services from local programs were homeless at some point during the year. Fortunately, these numbers decreased by over 1,000 from last year. So, progress is being made locally. The count helps to inform public opinion, increase awareness, and attract resources that will lead to reduce and to perhaps someday end homelessness."

Homelessness – A Bigger Picture

- 9,856 individuals who were homeless sought social services through Lane County Human Services Commission funded programs during calendar year 2013.
- 1,124 unduplicated individuals were served at the Egan Warming Center during 19 nights of extreme weather at six faith-based sites during the 2013-2014 winter season.
- 2,062 homeless students attended public school in Lane County during the 2012-13 school year (Oregon Dept. of Education).

The data collected from the count ensures our community's continued eligibility for state and federal funding and helps the Cities of Eugene, Springfield and Lane County and their nonprofit partners plan for funding and services needed to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community.

Highlights included in the sheltered count:

- 105 homeless households with children: 336 homeless people
- 79 homeless veterans
- 120 chronically homeless people
- 89 people recently fled domestic violence
- 122 people have a mental illness
- 80 people have chronic alcohol/substance abuse issues