Overview:
The annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count & Survey is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the local Continuum of Care (CoC) known as The Way Home. In a typical year, the Count illustrates trends over time (increases or decreases) in homelessness and provides insights into the effectiveness of a community’s housing programs and homeless services.

Due to methodology changes enacted to protect the health and safety of all parties involved in the Count and because of the unique circumstances created by the Coronavirus, the results of the 2021 Count are not directly comparable to those of years past.

The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County serves as lead agency to The Way Home and coordinates the Count as part of those responsibilities. The Way Home encompasses Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, Texas.

Key Findings:
- **3,055** persons experiencing homelessness
- **1 in 7** unsheltered people cited COVID as the reason for their homelessness
- **21,600** people have been placed in permanent housing since 2012

### COVID-19 and Homelessness:
While direct comparisons to previous years cannot be made, the Homeless Count data and information from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS, administered by the Coalition) can be used to draw reasonable conclusions about the pandemic’s impact on homelessness in the Houston region:

- The sheltered Count might have been higher if not for factors such as: limited bed availability due to social distancing protocols, and the potential reluctance of those experiencing homelessness to stay in a shelter due to fear of contracting the virus.
- The unsheltered number may have been higher if not for the innovative Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP), a $65M housing-focused pandemic response that will serve approximately 5,000 people experiencing homelessness by fall 2022. Between Oct. 1, 2020, which marked the launch of CCHP, and Jan. 19, 2021, the night of record for the Count, almost 800 people, most of whom were previously unsheltered, were permanently housed.
- On the night of the Count, one in seven people experiencing unsheltered homelessness cited the Coronavirus as the reason for their homelessness, many of them specifically citing job loss or reduction in hours as the triggering event.