

# TAMPA HILLSBOROUGH HOMELESS INITIATIVE

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Homeless Count?**

The 2014 Homeless Count is a comprehensive street and service-based enumeration process designed to identify how many people are homeless in Hillsborough County at a given point-in-time.

### **When will the Homeless Count take place?**

The Homeless Count will be conducted on Thursday, February 27, 2014. Planning and organizing activities will take place throughout the months of December 2013 through February 2014.

### **Where will the Homeless Count be conducted?**

The Homeless count will be conducted on the streets, locations where homeless individuals can be found, and at service provider locations in every city and unincorporated area in Hillsborough County.

### **Who will be counted in the Homeless Count?**

Persons that will be counted will be those individuals and members of families that are considered homeless on the day of the count based on the definition of homelessness provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### **Why are we doing a Homeless Count?**

We have undertaken this project to obtain an unduplicated count of homeless individuals and families in Hillsborough County at a given point in time in order to help us better understand the nature and extent of the current trends in homelessness in our communities. The completion of the 2014 Homeless Count will provide us with a battery of information that will serve as the basis for: a) responding to the unmet needs and gaps in services for homeless individuals and families in Hillsborough County; and b) help in developing local community and County-wide strategies to meet the goal of ending homelessness.

### **Who can volunteer for the 2014 Homeless Count?**

The Homeless Coalition is working with the Community to raise an army of volunteers adequate to ensure the count is thoroughly conducted throughout the County. Community Key Informants and other volunteers are needed from every community, including representatives of local government, social service agencies, outreach programs, law enforcement, school districts, faith-based institutions, business and neighborhood associations, community service organizations, currently and formerly homeless individuals and others, who will help identify service providers and street locations where homeless people can be found in their communities and who will help recruit and serve as volunteers to help conduct the count in their communities.

### **How can I get involved with the Homeless Count?**

You can contact the Homeless Coalition 813.223.6115 for further information. Sign-up forms for participating as a Community Key Informant and serving as a Volunteer can be emailed or faxed to you.