



Mid-Columbia Community Action Council  
Serving Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties  
2505 W. 7th St, The Dalles, OR 97058  
606 State St, Suite 1B, Hood River, OR 97031  
Tel: (541) 298-5131  
www.MCCAC.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 6, 2024

CONTACT:  
Kenny LaPoint  
Executive Director  
541.848.1667  
klapoint@mccac.com

### **2024 Point in Time (PIT) Count Results Show Slight Decrease in Houselessness Across Mid-Columbia Region**

The Dalles, Oregon - Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) has released the results from the January 2024 Point in Time (PIT) count for Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties. **While the numbers have not yet been confirmed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**, the preliminary data shows an overall **16%** decrease in individuals experiencing houselessness compared to the 2023 count, **along with** a decrease in unsheltered individuals **and** an increase in sheltered individuals.

"The slight decrease in overall numbers, particularly in unsheltered individuals, is encouraging and suggests our eviction prevention, **shelter and transitional housing**, and rapid rehousing programs are having an impact," said **Kenny LaPoint**, Executive Director of MCCAC. "However, we still have significant work ahead to address houselessness in our region."

The increase in sheltered individuals reflects additional bed spaces available at **MCCAC's** The Annex **transitional housing and** shelter in The Dalles, as well as strong engagement from partner organizations in the PIT count process.

Rosie Strange, Senior Native American Community Health Worker with Bridges to Health Pathways & Columbia Gorge Health Council, noted the positive impact of expanded shelter services: "We have had success placing multiple families with children at The Annex, who are accessing housing, employment, and medical services that they previously did not have access to. These families are working closely with our Bridges to Health team as well as The Annex staff and have reported feeling safety, acceptance, and understanding for their needs."

The data also highlights ongoing challenges, including a rise in individuals reporting mental illness and substance use disorders. MCCAC plans to continue deepening partnerships with Mid-Columbia Center for Living and other behavioral health organizations to address these needs. The 2024 count also saw increases in Native American and Latinx individuals experiencing houselessness, likely reflecting improved coordination with culturally-specific partner organizations.

MCCAC emphasizes that while progress has been made, continued investment and expansion of current strategies are needed to further reduce houselessness in the Mid-Columbia region. **Below is a**

detailed breakdown of the preliminary 2024 Point in Time Count numbers for Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties. MCCAC has also published this preliminary data on the Data and Reports page of MCCAC's website at [www.mccac.com/data](http://www.mccac.com/data).

#### 2024 PIT Count for Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties (+- from 2023 PIT Count):

- 237 individuals experiencing houselessness (-45)
  - 115 Unsheltered (-78)
  - 122 Sheltered (+33)
  - 77 self-identified as experiencing a mental illness (+7)
    - 44 Unsheltered (-4)
    - 33 Sheltered (+11)
  - 63 self-identified as experiencing a substance use disorder (+18)
    - 45 Unsheltered (+13)
    - 18 Sheltered (+5)
  - 34 self-identified as experiencing both a mental illness and substance use disorder (-17)
    - 19 Unsheltered (-17)
    - 15 Sheltered (+-0)
  - 16 Veterans (-11)
  - 59 Children and Youth under the age of 24 (+12)
    - 18 Unsheltered
    - 41 Sheltered
  - 25 Individuals the age of 60 and Over (-28)
    - 16 Unsheltered
    - 9 Sheltered
  - **Race/Ethnicity**
    - 133 White People (-63)
    - 43 American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous (+10)
    - 26 Latinx Community Members (+6)
    - 20 People of Color and People who Identify as Mixed Race/Ethnicity (+2)
    - 15 People Who Refused to answer this question (+-0)

#### By County:

##### Hood River County

- 55 individuals experiencing houselessness (-56)
  - 29 Unsheltered (-37)
  - 26 Sheltered (-19)
  - 18 self-identified as experiencing a mental illness (-15)
    - 8 Unsheltered (-15)
    - 10 Sheltered (+-0)
  - 6 self-identified as experiencing a substance use disorder (-11)
    - 4 Unsheltered (-6)
    - 2 Sheltered (-5)
  - 6 self-identified as experiencing both a mental illness and substance use disorder (-7)
    - 3 Unsheltered (-3)
    - 3 Sheltered (-4)
  - 3 Veterans (-5)

- 7 Children and Youth under the age of 24 (-4)
  - 6 Unsheltered
  - 1 Sheltered
    - 1 Helping Hands
- 8 Individuals the age of 60 and Over (-13)
  - 5 Unsheltered ()
  - 3 Sheltered ()
- **Race/Ethnicity**
  - 30 White People (-47)
  - 8 American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous (-5)
  - 9 Latinx Community Members (-2)
  - 6 People of Color and People who Identify as Mixed Race/Ethnicity (-2)
  - 2 People Who Refused to answer this question (+-0)

## Wasco County

- 172 individuals experiencing houselessness (+12)
  - 76 Unsheltered (-40)
  - 96 Sheltered (+52)
  - 27 self-identified as experiencing a mental illness (-8)
    - 15 Unsheltered (-8)
    - 12 Sheltered (+-0)
  - 23 self-identified as experiencing a substance use disorder (+1)
    - 22 Unsheltered (+6)
    - 1 Sheltered (-5)
  - 23 self-identified as experiencing both a mental illness and substance use disorder (-12)
    - 15 Unsheltered (-12)
    - 8 Sheltered (+-0)
  - 13 Veterans (-4)
  - 52 Children and Youth under the age of 24 (+17)
    - 12 Unsheltered
    - 40 Sheltered
      - 22 Annex
      - 8 YES
      - 3 TNDI Youth Drop In
      - 4 WINGS (McKinney-Vento)
      - 3 In Hotels
  - 15 Individuals the age of 60 and Over (-13)
    - 9 Unsheltered ()
    - 6 Sheltered ()
  - **Race/Ethnicity**
    - 93 White People (-19)
    - 35 American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous (+18)
    - 17 Latinx Community Members (+8)
    - 14 People of Color and People who Identify as Mixed Race/Ethnicity (+5)
    - 13 People Who Refused to answer this question (+-0)

## Sherman County

- 10 individuals experiencing houselessness (-1)
  - 10 Unsheltered (-1)
  - 0 Sheltered (+-0)
  - 3 self-identified as experiencing a mental illness (+1)
    - 3 Unsheltered (+1)
    - 0 Sheltered (+-0)
  - 1 self-identified as experiencing a substance use disorder (-5)
    - 1 Unsheltered (-5)
    - 0 Sheltered (+-0)
  - 1 self-identified as experiencing both a mental illness and substance use disorder (-2)
    - 1 Unsheltered (-2)
    - 0 Sheltered (+-0)
  - 0 Veterans (-2)
  - 0 Children and Youth under the age of 24 (-1)
  - 2 Individuals the age of 60 and Over (-5)
    - 2 Unsheltered ()
    - 0 Sheltered ()
  - **Race/Ethnicity**
    - 10 White People (+3)
    - 0 American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous (-3)
    - 0 Latinx Community Members (+-0)
    - 0 People of Color and People who Identify as Mixed Race/Ethnicity (-1)
    - 0 People Who Refused to answer this question (+-0)

###

MCCAC is the Community Action Agency serving Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties. MCCAC's mission is to build a better future for our community through partnership and equity-centered programs that prevent and eliminate poverty and houselessness.