

# 2007 Santa Clara County Homeless Count

## Street Count Training Guidelines

Thank you for your interest and participation in the 2007 Santa Clara County Homeless Census. Please read the following guidelines before beginning the street count.

### *Who Is Eligible To Be Counted?*

The goal of the street count is to accurately count the number of homeless persons in sample areas of Santa Clara County on our target date: January 29-30, 2007. We recognize the difficulties in determining an individual's compliance to the McKinney Act (see below) definition of homelessness. **Therefore, anyone who you know to be homeless, or based on your knowledge of the community, who is very likely to be homeless, can be counted.** Please use your best judgment while scanning the area for homeless persons. Use your knowledge of the area, the homeless community, and basic common sense to guide you through this process. Further, when you are in doubt about someone's housing status, **make your best judgment.** The following is our official definition of homelessness for the purposes of the study:

### *Homelessness: A Working Definition*

1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and
2. An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
  - (a) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), or
  - (b) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or
  - (c) A public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

This means that a person must satisfy **both** conditions 1 and 2 above.

### *While Participating In The Street Count:*

- Do **not** approach individuals to ask them if they are homeless. Observe and tally only.
- Cover your entire area! Walk or drive down every street!
- Try not to recount. Be aware of what people are wearing and what they look like.
- **Stay with your teammates.** Never venture out on your own unless it is safer to do so alone.
- Finally, remember that safety ALWAYS comes first. Avoid any situation in which you are uncomfortable.

**Thank you for your participation!**

For more information, please call Applied Survey Research 831-728-1356.