

HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

CITY OF PALM DESERT

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 1, 2025

PREPARED BY: Ivan Tenorio, Homeless and Supportive Services Manager

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE COUNTY POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT 2025 SUMMARY

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the Riverside County Point In Time (PIT) Count 2025 summary.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Each January, the Riverside County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts a federally mandated Point-in-Time (PIT) count to capture a snapshot of homelessness across the region. This count, required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), identifies both sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness and is conducted in collaboration with local jurisdictions and service providers.

The 2025 PIT count, conducted in January, marked the return of a full unsheltered count effort following a one-year pause. In 2024, the County limited its efforts to a sheltered-only count, using data reported through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) from homeless service providers. In 2025, the full count effort was reinstated with the support of hundreds of volunteers who canvassed neighborhoods across Riverside County to collect demographic data and assess the current landscape of homelessness.

Key Findings:

- In early 2025, 3,990 people were counted as experiencing homelessness across Riverside County — an increase from 3,725 in 2023.
- While overall homelessness has gone up, the number of people living unsheltered (on the streets) went down by 19%, which shows progress in connecting individuals to services.
- At the same time, there was an 11% increase in people accessing shelter, suggesting that more temporary housing options are available and being used.
- These numbers tell us that more people are moving off the streets and into shelter or temporary housing, even as overall homelessness has risen.

District 4 Overview (Eastern Riverside County):

- The Fourth Supervisorial District reported 1,062 individuals experiencing homelessness in 2025.

- Of these, 454 were unsheltered, down significantly from 755 unsheltered individuals in 2023 – a reduction of nearly 40%.
- Meanwhile, the number of sheltered individuals rose to 608, up from 406 the previous year – reflecting a 50% increase.

Palm Desert-Specific Findings:

- A total of 14 individuals were recorded in the City of Palm Desert during the 2025 PIT count.
 - 9 were unsheltered
 - 5 were sheltered — the first-time sheltered placements have been recorded for Palm Desert in the PIT count
- This reflects a 64% overall decrease in homelessness from 2023, when 39 individuals were recorded, all unsheltered.
- The 77% reduction in unsheltered homelessness (from 39 to 9) highlights the City's focused outreach, engagement, and response efforts.
- Though modest in scale, Palm Desert's proportional progress is among the most significant in the Coachella Valley, indicating meaningful system change and improved local capacity to address homelessness.

The 2025 PIT count reflects encouraging progress in Riverside County's response to homelessness, with measurable reductions in unsheltered populations and expanded access to shelter placements. These trends suggest that regional investments in crisis response, outreach, and interim housing are beginning to yield positive outcomes, particularly in areas with enhanced coordination and supportive services.

In District 4, the data points to a clear shift: fewer people are living unsheltered, and more are accessing temporary shelter resources. This shift is likely the result of increased shelter bed availability, coordinated outreach efforts, and housing-focused case management deployed across the Coachella Valley

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2025 PIT Count Summary