

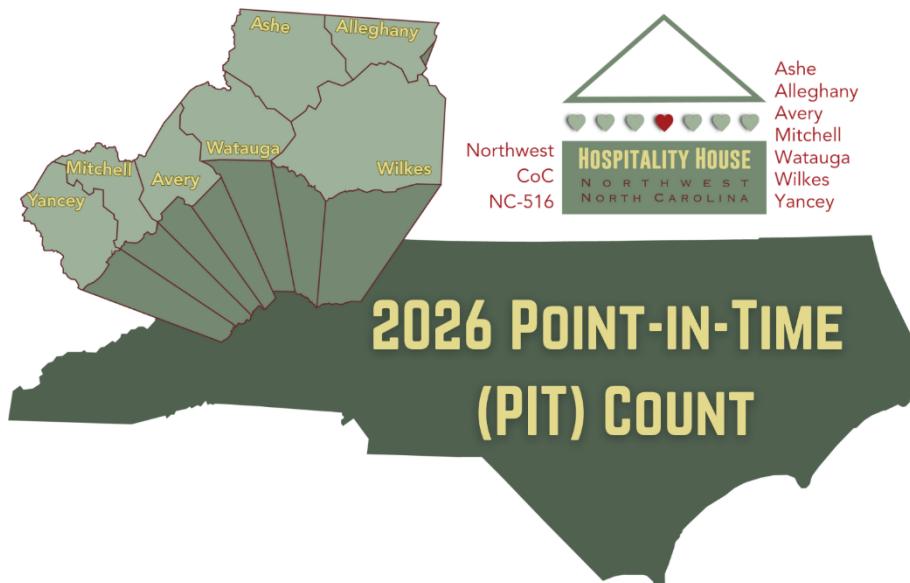


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Todd Carter, Chief Development Director
828.264.1237, todd@hospouse.org

Regional Homeless Point-in-Time Count January 28

Annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families helps determine federal funding for Ashe, Avery, Watauga, Wilkes, Alleghany, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.



Boone, N.C. – (January 20, 2026): Wednesday, January 28, 2026, marks the annual homeless Point-in-Time Count. The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, coordinated by the Northwest N.C. Continuum of Care (CoC), is the annual documentation of the extent of homelessness in the High Country region, which includes Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey counties. The information from the PIT Count provides valuable insight into the extent of homelessness in the region and informs support service providers on the priorities to prevent and end homelessness.

Point-in-Time data is important as it provides an approximate scope of homelessness in the seven-county region and helps eligible agencies in the Northwest N.C. CoC apply for funding to work towards ending homelessness. PIT data is submitted each year by the Northwest N.C. CoC to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) who then submits the report to U.S. Congress in its AHAR (Annual Homeless Assessment Report) each December.

The PIT Count is a one-day unduplicated count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families across the nation. The Point-in-Time Count is a requirement of HUD, which currently supports the Northwest

N.C. CoC member agencies annually in competitive grant funding. Programs that have beds dedicated to serve homeless individuals and families also conduct a bed inventory for the Housing Inventory Count (HIC).

The 2025 PIT Count documented 304 people experiencing homelessness both sheltered and unsheltered, 19 percent of those being children and adolescents under the age of eighteen. During this one-night snapshot, 113 of the total individuals were unsheltered with 12 percent of those being children.

"In order for our region to maximize its voice, the Northwest N.C. CoC needs active communities, across the seven counties, to make the Point-in-Time Count effective in showing the true picture of rural homelessness," states Northwest N.C. CoC lead and Hospitality House of Northwest North Carolina executive director Tina B. Krause.

Continues Krause, "Last year, with resources stretched for agencies across the region due to Hurricane Helene, we feel like the PIT count numbers were under-reported. It is vitally important that our region get the most accurate count possible. These aren't just numbers; these are people's lives."

The CoC asks service providers - food pantries, shelters, community kitchens, and hospitals; as well as, churches, local government agencies, school systems, and law enforcement agencies who are in contact with individuals and families experiencing homelessness to contact Hospitality House of Northwest N.C, the lead agency of the Northwest CoC, so that everyone experiencing homelessness is counted.

To receive a copy of the 2026 PIT Count Survey Please call (828) 773-4952 and speak with director of grant funding Ethan Flynn or email him at grants@hospouse.org. Additional information regarding the 2026 PIT Count Survey can be accessed at hospouse.org/nwcoc-data

Krause adds, "This is a critical time across our community. We have seen steady success in housing people, but the voice of rural communities with less resources is often overlooked. The Point in Time count is one way we can participate by showing a snapshot of what our communities are experiencing with homelessness. This report directly affects decisions made to support this vital work"

If you are experiencing homelessness, **please come forward and be counted** by one of these service agencies. The count respects the confidentiality of anyone experiencing homelessness by removing names once the demographic data is collected and does not obligate anyone for unwanted services. Knowing the extent of homelessness, particularly homeless families, and veterans, assists the development of support services to meet the basic needs of housing for those in need.



Hospitality House Northwest N.C. - Lead agency of Northwest NC-516 Continuum of Care

VAYA Health / O.A.S.I.S. Inc. / Northwestern Regional Housing Authority / U.S. Dept. Veterans Affairs / Daymark Recovery Services / Watauga Housing Council