

2020 Homeless Count in York Region

Human Services Planning Board of York Region

October 18, 2019

Christine Hill, United Way Greater Toronto

Nancy Lennox, Region of York



York Region Successfully Conducted a Homeless Count



Purpose of I Count:



The purpose of the homeless count was to connect with as many people as possible who are experiencing homelessness to better understand the scope of homelessness in York Region.

I Count goals:



Better understand the scope of homelessness to make the right investments in solutions



Help connect people to the right services and supports



Help people with the greatest needs get the supports they need



On Tuesday, April 17, 2018, I Count found

389 individuals homeless in York Region.

44 people were living unsheltered.

221 people were staying in emergency housing facilities or Violence Against Women shelters.

124 people were staying in temporary accommodations (provisionally accommodated).



I Count is making a positive difference

- ✓ Built awareness of homelessness in York Region
- ✓ Strengthened community connections and developed new partnerships
- ✓ Data contributed to the provincial and national picture of homelessness
- ✓ Created York Region's first By Name List
- ✓ Formed a Community Collaborative Table, first meeting was July 5, 2018
- ✓ Informed the 2019 update of the *10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan: A place for everyone*
- ✓ Inform planning for the Reaching Home Strategy

Provincial and Federal Requirements for the 2020 Homeless Count?

Provincial:

- Local homelessness enumeration is a requirement for Service Managers under the Housing Services Act, 2011
- In August 2019, the Province announced they are 'pausing' the requirement for Service Managers to conduct local homelessness enumeration

Federal:

- A Point-in-Time Count is a requirement for Community Entities under the Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy
- United Way Greater Toronto will lead the 2020 homeless count



United Way
Greater Toronto

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES IN
**PEEL, TORONTO
& YORK REGION**

Proposed Homeless Count Approach for 2020

- Plan for a Point in Time (PIT) Count – Spring 2020
- Client survey to obtain more information on people experiencing homelessness in York region
- Engage volunteers and community partners to participate in PIT Count
- Host magnet event



United Way
Greater Toronto

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES IN
**PEEL, TORONTO
& YORK REGION**

For Discussion: Board Input into 2020 count

1. How do we engage other organizations to help with and support the homeless count (e.g. hospitals, corrections, and school boards)?
 2. What approaches should we use to attract target groups such as the Indigenous community and youth to events we may host for the 2020 count?
 3. Are there any recommended strategies that may help us connect with people experiencing hidden homelessness?
 4. How do we gain more insights to where people are staying who are unsheltered?
-

THANK YOU

Christine Hill – Manager, Community Investment

email: chill@uwgt.org

Nancy Lennox – Manager, Strategic Initiatives

email: nancy.lennox@york.ca

