

Stipends for Persons with Lived Experience for 2025 Unsheltered PIT Count Information for County Coordinators – Eastern and Western PA CoCs

The CoC has funds available to pay stipends to people with lived experience to participate in/assist with their local PIT. This could include participating in planning meetings or participating in shifts during the count (e.g, going out with teams to survey individuals). Below is more information.

Eligibility

- Persons with lived experience of homelessness, including current homelessness or recent homelessness within past 7 years. (**Note: Within past 7 years is general guideline from HUD for what is considered lived experience for CoC Board members**). If you have interested folks who do not fall within this time period and want to discuss further, please email DMA at pahomelesscount@dma-housing.com.
- Persons with lived experience may assist with planning for the PIT, or participation in shifts during the count. Specific volunteer opportunities/hours available should be determined by county coordinator.
- There is no official limit on how many persons with lived experience can be engaged by a county to assist with the PIT. ***However, if you anticipate having more than 5 persons volunteering more than 5 hours each (e.g. more than 25 total hours for your county), please let DMA know.***

Payment Information:

- Payment rate for persons with lived experience assisting with local PIT count will be **\$15/hr.**
- There are 4 options for how individuals can be paid:
 1. Check (to be sent by mail; participant must provide address where they can receive mail)
 2. Venmo (to be sent via Venmo; participant must have a bank account linked to a Venmo account)
 3. Gift card to McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, or Amazon (to be sent by mail; participant must provide address where they can receive mail)
 4. If counties have cash available to pay participants (e.g., petty cash from your organization), county coordinators can pay participants in cash and submit invoice to DMA for reimbursement. Invoice should include names of volunteers, hours worked, and total payment (hours worked X \$15/hr). Invoices can be emailed to pahomelesscount@dma-housing.com. ***If your county wishes to use this option please let DMA know at pahomelesscount@dma-housing.com.***
- **For the first 3 options (check, Venmo, or gift card), participants should fill out a brief survey following the PIT documenting their participation. Coordinators should provide this link to participants to document their participation, and participants should submit survey no later than February 12th (two weeks after the count).** DMA will confirm submitted info with coordinators.
- **SURVEY LINK FOR PARTICIPANTS TO REQUEST PAYMENT:** <https://forms.gle/8fughHWxz6SFdSBR8>
- For the first 3 options above (check, Venmo, or gift card), DMA will aim to send out payment no later than February 28th, 2025.

Next Steps:

- We recommend that county coordinators share this information with community partners to recruit interested individuals with lived experience.
- Interested individuals with lived experience should connect with their PIT county coordinator about volunteer opportunities, including planning meetings or street-based count shifts.
- All volunteers, including individuals with lived experience, should receive training prior to the PIT (DMA has provided recorded volunteer training materials).