2017 Point-in-Time Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Summary for SSVF

General Overview
During the last 10 days of January, Continuums of Care (CoCs) conduct Point-in-Time (PIT) counts of all of the sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness during one night. The goal is to understand the numbers and characteristics to better serve these populations. They also complete Housing Inventory Counts (HIC) for the same night. *The Point-in-Time count and Housing Inventory Count are critical to the VA because they are used to determine the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness along with other annual data from CoCs included in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, and VA data.*
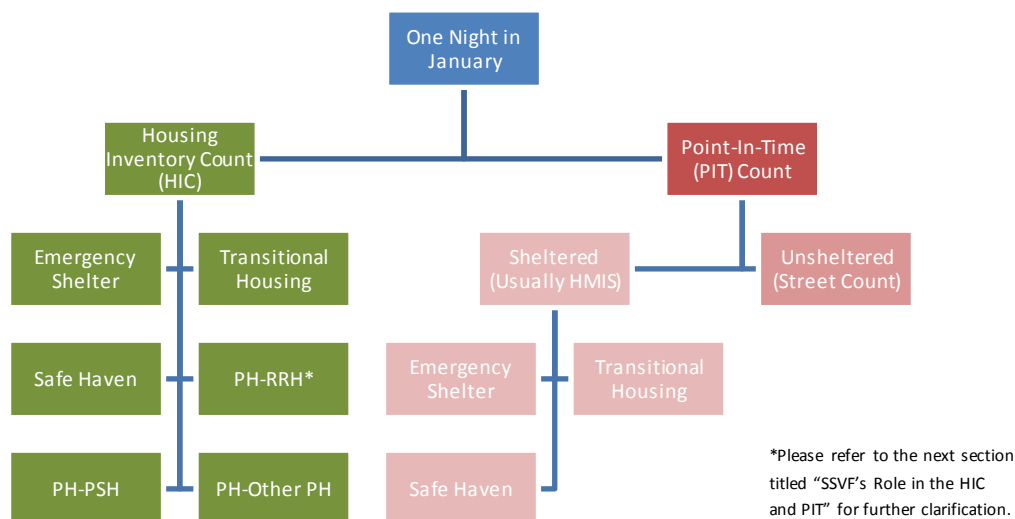
2017 PIT Count and the VA
On November 30, 2016 the VA Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management sent a memo to the VAMC Directors regarding the VA's role the 2017 Point-in-Time Count (PIT). Since the release of this memo, a series of educational webinars and calls have taken place.

- **Background**
  - The January 2016 Point-In-Time (PIT) estimated that fewer than 40,000 Veterans were experienced homelessness and 13,019 were unsheltered.
  - From 2015 to 2016, there was a 17.4% drop. This was the largest one-year drop since HUD began counting Veterans in the PIT Count.
  - Your work directly contributed to this decline. Thank you!
  - Now, we need to continue or work so that **every** Veteran has a safe and stable place to call home.
- **Goal for the 2017 PIT**
  - Our goal is to reduce the 2017 PIT count by more than 17%, as compared to 2016's count; this would mean a 7,000 numerical drop.
- **Strategy**
  - The PIT Count provides a unique opportunity to harness community awareness, momentum, and resources while directly aligning with the existing community planning efforts including master lists.
  - For this reason, the VA has developed several short-term strategies with respect to HUD-VASH, HCHV, and GPD that could be coupled with existing planning work.
  - There are 10 strategies that fall under 4 buckets:
    - *Ensure appropriate targeting of services*
    - *Increase permanent housing rates*
    - *Maximize VA resources (specifically hiring)*
    - *Engage communities*
- **Commitment to Sustainable Systems**
  - Our emphasis is still and will always be on building sustainable systems, and our focus is to use these shorter-term strategies to spark innovation while communities continue to pursue the Federal Criteria and Benchmarks.
  - We could not do this work without partners, and it has been our priority to message this to the field.
- **What does the VA's strategy mean for SSVF?**
  - 1. We expect all SSVF grantees to be involved with the PIT and HIC efforts in the CoCs that they serve.
  - 2. We want you to think about how your work might fit into the 4 buckets described above.
    - As a system, is there readily available access to emergency resources like shelter, HCHV contract beds, or GPD? Is this clearly understood by all community partners so that no Veteran is forced sleep outside?
    - Are there housing resources that you can cultivate so that households enrolled in rapid re-housing can more quickly enter permanent housing? Does the community need any additional support with housing resources outside of SSVF?
    - What else can you do in conjunction with community planning efforts to house Veterans?

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) in More Detail

We know that many VA partners and SSVF grantees are actively engaged in the PIT. However, we realize that the HIC may be slightly less familiar. Therefore, we are providing additional details in this section. The HIC is a point-in-time inventory of projects within the CoC that provide **beds and units** *dedicated to serving persons who are homeless*. It is intended to provide HUD and CoCs with information about the shelter and housing capacity of homeless crisis response systems. It should reflect the number of beds and units available on the night designated for the count that are dedicated to serve persons who are homeless (and, for permanent housing projects, were homeless at entry), per the HUD homeless definition.
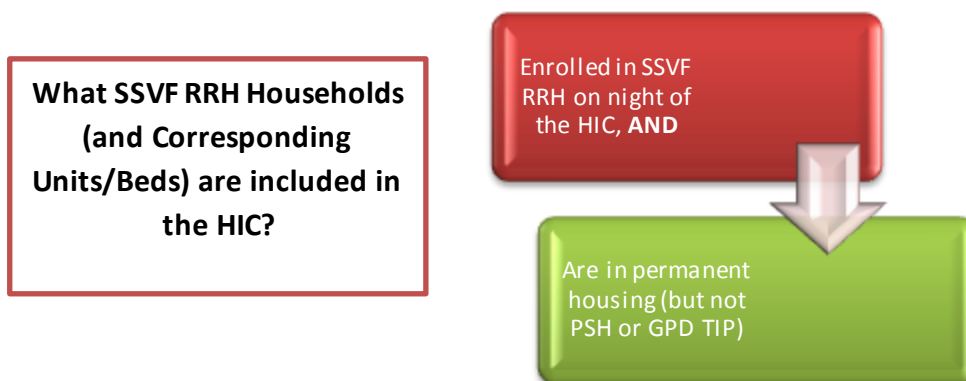
Visual of HIC and PIT

*Please refer to the next section titled "SSVF's Role in the HIC and PIT" for further clarification.

What Information is Included in the HIC Compared to the PIT for VA Programs (Source: HUD)

HIC Project Type	Projects to Include	Include PIT data on the HIC?	Include PIT data in PIT sheltered count?
Emergency Shelter	VA-funded Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) projects, including: • Community Contract Emergency Housing • Community Contract Residential Treatment Program	Yes	Yes
Transitional Housing	VA-funded transitional housing projects, including: • VA Grant and Per Diem (excluding GPD Transition in Place projects) • VA Compensated Work Therapy – Transitional Residence	Yes	Yes
Safe Haven	VA-funded Health Care for Homeless Veterans	Yes	Yes
Permanent Housing - Rapid Rehousing	VA-funded Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) projects	Yes	No
Permanent Housing - Permanent Supportive Housing	HUD-funded Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Yes	No
Other Permanent Housing (OPH)	VA-funded other permanent housing projects, including: • VA Grant and Per Diem Transition in Place	Yes	No

SSVF's Role in the HIC and PIT

- *Housing Inventory Count (HIC)*
    - The data for the HIC is primarily generated in HMIS, and therefore, HMIS System Administrators may reach out to SSVF grantees to verify SSVF data. It is important for grantees to be proactive especially with completing data element 4.17 Residential Move-In date for rapid re-housing households.
    - On any given night, a RRH program will have current participants who are still homeless (e.g., staying in an emergency shelter) and seeking permanent housing and participants who have located and are residing in permanent housing.
    - For the purpose of reporting in the HIC, CoCs should count RRH beds and units based on the actual number of current project participants who are:
        - (1) actively enrolled in the project on the night of the inventory count, including persons who are only receiving supportive services in the RRH project; **and**
        - (2) are in permanent housing on the night of the inventory count [**4.17 Residential Move-In Date**] could be used to identify RRH participants who have moved into permanent housing].

What SSVF RRH Households (and Corresponding Units/Beds) are included in the HIC?

Enrolled in SSVF RRH on night of the HIC, **AND**

Are in permanent housing (but not PSH or GPD TIP)

- RRH projects that do not have any participants in permanent housing on the night of the inventory count (e.g., all participants are still in emergency shelter) should report zero (0) beds and zero (0) participants.
- Since 10/1/14, SSVF grantees have been recording prevention and rapid re-housing in two separate projects in HMIS. Therefore, CoCs should not include anyone receiving prevention services on the night that the HIC is conducted.
- Households are not reported as "served" in the Housing Inventory unless a service record has been entered in HMIS.
- It is important for SSVF grantees to be mindful of HMIS data element 3.16 Client Location (CoC Code). This data element should be completed for the head of household. It should be collected when the household enters SSVF based on their location at entry. It should be updated if the household moves to a different CoC and should include the date of the move under information date. For example, if a household enters SSVF while staying at an emergency shelter in PA-500 Philadelphia but then moves to PA-505 Chester County, the 3.16 Client Location would need to be updated along with the date of the move (information date).

SSVF RRH HIC Information for Each Household That Meets the Above Criteria
- Size of Household
- Number of Veterans in household
- Number of Adults in Household
- Number of Children in Household
- Apartment Unit Size (SRO, Efficiency, 1 Bedroom, 2 Bedrooms, etc.)
- Number of Beds (Ex. 6 people, 6 beds)
- Location of Apartment (CoC where reside)

Again, this information should primarily come from HMIS. However, grantees should verify the information particularly if they do not directly enter into a CoC's HMIS system and instead engage in exporting and importing their data to the CoC's HMIS.

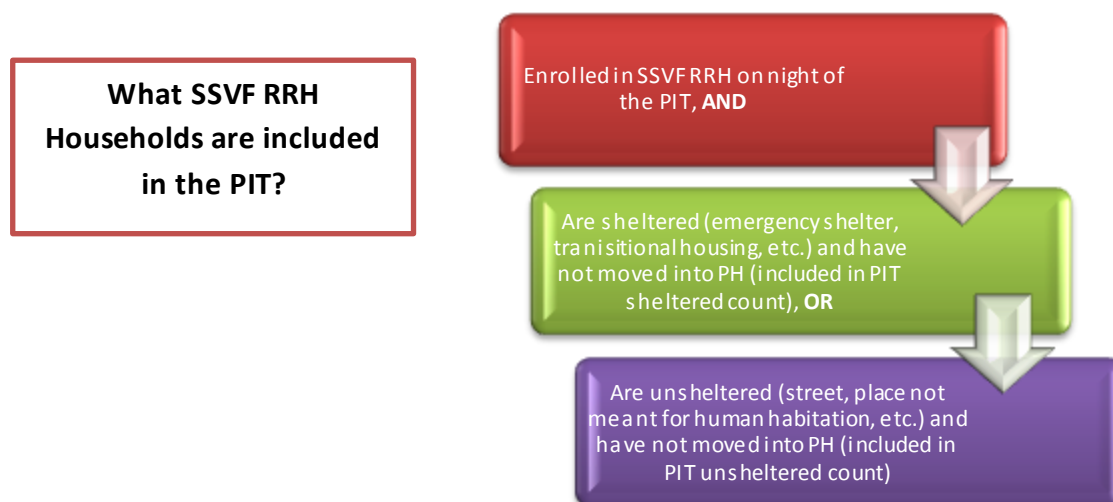*Other Notes-Co-Enrollment and Reporting Beds/Units for the HIC*
- HIC beds can only be reported once, even if funding for the housing and services are from multiple sources that may be associated with different project types. For example, when SSVF funds are provided to pay for a security deposit for a household who is served in HUD-VASH, the bed/unit inventory is only reported in the HIC under the PSH (HUD-VASH).

Other Notes-GPD Transition in Place
- We realize that many of our SSVF grantees also operate GPD programs. There was one change with respect to the HIC this year for GPD Transition in Place (TIP). In the past, TIP has been counted as transitional housing. This year, it will fall under the category, "Other Permanent Housing" for purposes of the HIC. TIP will not be included in the CoC's sheltered PIT count.

- *Point-in-Time Count (PIT)*
  - The Point-in-Time count looks at the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, if they are sheltered or unsheltered, and their demographics.
  - Households experiencing literal homelessness who are *sheltered* (emergency shelter, transitional housing, hotel/motel paid for by a charitable organization, federal, state, or local dollars) and households experiencing literal homelessness who are *unsheltered* (street, place not meant for human habitation including: car, park, abandoned building, train or bus station, airport, or camping ground) who are enrolled in SSVF but have not moved in to permanent housing will be included in the Point-In-Time Count. Please note that these households may already be included in the count if they are staying at an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.
  - However, if you are aware of a Veteran household on the street or a place not meant for human habitation through your work with SSVF, you may play a role in helping to document them based on the guidance from your CoC.

What SSVF RRH Households are included in the PIT?

Enrolled in SSVF RRH on night of the PIT, **AND**

Are sheltered (emergency shelter, transitional housing, etc.) and have not moved into PH (included in PIT sheltered count), **OR**

Are unsheltered (street, place not meant for human habitation, etc.) and have not moved into PH (included in PIT unsheltered count)

Note: In most cases, Veterans experiencing literal homelessness will already be included in the *sheltered* count if they are in emergency shelter or transitional housing. SSVF grantees do not need to report this information if it is already collected by the CoC. SSVF grantees can help with the *unsheltered* count reporting if they know of an unsheltered Veteran whose location is not known to the CoC.

What happens to the data?

- After the PIT/HIC, communities begin a data cleaning process. At the end of March/early April, HUD opens the HUD HDX where CoCs enter their data (due end of April). HUD then begins their own data review process. In the meantime, CoCs may prepare local reports to share with stakeholders.

Next Steps

1. *Reach out to your CoC and HMIS System Administrator regarding the Point-In-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count*

   - Confirm the date for each CoC's PIT/HIC that you serve and clarify the information the CoC might need from you and their due dates

2. *Leverage the Point-In-Time Count with your community planning work and your outreach.*
   - How can your team help? What role will you play?
   - How does this align with community planning efforts?
   - How does it align with the VA's strategy for the PIT?

3. *Review these PIT and HIC resources*
   - ***2017 Housing Inventory Count and Point-In-Time Count Guidance (August 2016)***
     https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#2017-pit-and-hic-reporting
   - ***General Point-In-Time Tools***
     https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#general-pit-guides-and-tools