



Working Together to Build Strong Communities

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Jan. 14, 2026

Subject: Every One Counts Campaign Highlights Unsheltered Homelessness in the Ozarks

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Every One Counts Campaign Aims to Better Understand Unsheltered Homelessness in the Ozarks

Springfield, MO — Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) is leading the 2026 **Every One Counts Campaign**, a community-wide effort to better understand unsheltered homelessness in Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties. Sponsored by **Healthy Blue**, the campaign collects surveys from individuals experiencing homelessness to help guide local program development and strengthen funding for housing and supportive services.

The campaign is part of a **nationwide count mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** and provides critical data that helps communities respond more effectively to local needs.

“Every One Counts ensures that individuals experiencing homelessness are seen, heard, and represented in the data that shapes services and resources across our region,” said Emily Fessler, CPO’s Continuum of Care Director. “This is also a great opportunity for people to volunteer and to make a real difference in our community.”

Who Can Participate

Anyone who was **unsheltered on the night of Wednesday, January 28** is encouraged to complete a survey, including individuals or households sleeping:

- Outside or in a tent
- In a vehicle
- In an abandoned building
- In a place not meant for human habitation

When & Where Surveys Will Take Place

Surveys will be conducted the evening of **January 28** and throughout the day on **January 29** at the following locations:

January 28 (7–9 p.m.)

- Crisis Cold Weather Shelters
- Intensive Street Outreach

January 29

- New Day (9 a.m.–7 p.m.)
- CU Transit Center (8 a.m.–12 p.m.)

ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS: *The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership’s collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.*

- Schweitzer-Brentwood Library (8:30–9:30 a.m. | 12–4 p.m.)
- Park Central Library (3–5 p.m.)
- Library Center (8 a.m.–12 p.m.)
- Library Station (10–11 a.m. | 1–2 p.m.)
- Veterans Coming Home Center (8 a.m.–3 p.m.)
- NAMI (9:30–11 a.m. | 1–4 p.m.)
- Intensive Street Outreach

Incentives for Participants

Each person who completes a survey will receive a **free tote bag** with essential items such as socks, snacks, a water bottle, hand warmers, and more. Supplies are donated by community partners including **Victory Mission, Burrell Behavioral Health, Healthy Blue**, and others.

Volunteers Power the Effort

Surveys are conducted by experienced outreach teams from **Burrell Behavioral Health and Victory Mission**, alongside trained community volunteers. Volunteers receive training and are paired with experienced surveyors.

CPO is still looking for volunteers for the event. Those interested in volunteering can sign up by emailing efessler@cpozarks.org.

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