

What you need to know: Youth Count Texas!



Who: The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) is contracting with Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) to coordinate Youth Count Texas!

What: A count of youth who are experiencing homelessness in Texas. In the coming months in communities across Texas, TNOYS and its local partners will be reaching out to young persons who are “couch surfing,” temporarily staying and moving between groups of friends, living in motels or hotels, staying in an emergency shelter, homeless, or have other temporary housing situations. Volunteers with organizations that serve youth and organizations who serve persons experiencing homelessness will conduct Youth Count Texas!

Where: All across the state

When: Youth Count Texas! will take place from October 2015 to March 2016

Why: The information collected from Youth Count Texas! will allow the state and service providers to better understand and to meet the needs of youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness. Texas Youth Count! is required by House Bill 679 enacted by the 84th legislature, Regular Session, 2015.

How you can help:

1. Volunteering. You can help conduct the count by contacting your local organization hosting *Youth Count Texas!* These local organizations will provide volunteers with training and a survey to use in the field as they count and interview unstably housed or homeless youth.
2. Encourage Youth Participation. Distribute information about the youth count in your community where young people may see it (e.g. schools, youth service centers, churches, shelters, or malls).

**For more information, visit: www.tnoys.org/youthcount
or www.youthcounttexas.org**