



## Amarillo Continuum of Care 2026 News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
**May 13, 2026**

### **Amarillo Continuum of Care Releases PIT Count Data**

**AMARILLO**— The Amarillo Continuum of Care, in partnership with the City of Amarillo, has released results from the 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, the annual 24-hour count of individuals experiencing homelessness in the community.

The 2026 PIT Count identified 728 individuals experiencing homelessness in Amarillo, compared with 641 in 2025. While the overall count increased, the data also show an important local shift: more people were staying in a shelter on the night of the PIT count than were unsheltered in places not meant for human habitation.

A total of 418 individuals were counted in shelter and 310 were counted as unsheltered. Compared with last year, the number of people using shelter increased by more than 30 percent.

The data also indicate that the increase in the PIT count does not appear to be driven by growth in chronic homelessness, which remained at 13 percent of the total count in both 2025 and 2026. Instead, the findings suggest that Amarillo is seeing more people enter homelessness for the first time or more recently. Based on voluntary survey responses, 124 people reported this was their first time experiencing homelessness, 217 reported being homeless for less than 12 months and 89 reported this was their first time accessing homeless services.

No children were identified as unsheltered during the 2026 count.

One factor in this year's results is expanded local shelter capacity. On the night of the count, 287 people utilized one of the three emergency shelters. Those beds represent individuals who otherwise likely would have been unsheltered or in other unstable situations.

“These numbers show both the challenge in front of us and the progress our community is making,” said James Bellar, Continuum of Care Board Member and Amarillo Director of the Freedom Initiative. “More people in Amarillo are experiencing homelessness for the first time, and that points to housing costs and other economic pressures affecting people who were already living on the edge. At the same time, the increase in sheltered individuals shows that added capacity is helping more people come indoors, connect with services, and avoid sleeping outside.”

The PIT Count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is used by communities across the country to understand local trends, support planning efforts and inform funding needs. Amarillo's results mirror a broader pattern seen in many communities, where rising housing costs and affordability challenges are pushing more households into homelessness even as local providers work to improve shelter access and service coordination.

Because not every person answered every voluntary survey question, some findings related to duration of homelessness, first-time homelessness, and service access should be understood as directional indicators rather than exact measures of the full counted population.

The Amarillo Continuum of Care and the City of Amarillo will continue using PIT data, provider input, and community partnerships to strengthen prevention efforts, expand pathways to stable housing, and reduce unsheltered homelessness.

For more information, please contact CoC Executive Committee members:

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