



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HOMELESS SERVICES CONDUCTS TENTH ANNUAL HOPE SURVEY
ONE NIGHT, THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS BAND TOGETHER

The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will tonight conduct its tenth annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE). The survey estimates the number of individuals living on City streets, parks and in other public spaces throughout the five boroughs. With approximately 3,000 volunteers fanning out to complete the count, DHS will gather valuable data to better serve the City's street homeless population.

Introducing the survey in 2003, New York became one of the first cities in the nation to carry out a street count to project service needs and allocate resources accordingly. Similar assessments have since become a federal requirement for all municipalities wishing to receive funding for homeless services under the McKinney-Vento Act. New York City has used this funding to promote the development of supportive housing— a key service model in its efforts to reduce street homelessness. With the City's efforts being identified by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) as a best practice method, the HOPE survey is among the most comprehensive undertakings nationwide.

According to the 2013 HOPE survey, New York City has seen a 28 percent decline in street homelessness since 2005. The ratio of street homelessness individuals to the general population in the City – 1 to 2,662 – remains one of the lowest in the country. Furthermore, the City's around-the-clock street outreach program has moved more than 4,100 chronically homeless individuals from the streets into transitional and permanent housing since redesign of the operation in the fall of 2007. With outreach teams mobilized Citywide 24 hours per day, seven days a week— and with targeted funding and specialized "low-threshold" alternatives to traditional shelter— New York City is proud of its outstanding investment to those living on the streets.

Year-round, the strongest partners for DHS' outreach teams are ordinary New Yorkers. By calling 311, or contacting the center via the 311 mobile phone app, any New Yorker can dispatch assistance to an individual in need. One call has the potential to change, or even save, a life.

DHS thanks this year's incredible volunteers, who have once again contributed to making HOPE a success. For more information, please visit www.nyc.gov/dhs.

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*For immediate inquiries on the night of HOPE (starting at 9 p.m.), please call Kristy Buller at (212) 607-6005.