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## **NEBRASKA FACT SHEET: 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) Part 1 (“Point-in-Time Count Report”)**

On Thursday, March 18, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) Part 1 to Congress, also known as the “Point-in-Time Count report.” The report provides a nationwide single-night estimate of homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of people experiencing homelessness and the capacity to house homeless persons. While not meant to provide a full picture of the year-round prevalence of homelessness in America, the Point-in-Time Count provides the most consistent way to measure year-to-year changes in sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

### **The 2020 PIT Count includes a number of key findings in Nebraska:**

- **Homelessness is up.** There was a 1.6% (39 people) increase in overall homelessness since 2019. The total number of people experiencing homelessness counted in the 2020 PIT: 2,404.
- **Unsheltered homelessness is up.** Unsheltered homelessness increased 30% (33 people) since 2019. The total number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness counted in the 2020 PIT: 143.
- **Family homelessness is up.** Homelessness among families with children is up 4.9% (32 people in families) since 2019. The total number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness counted in the 2020 PIT: 682. This is the first time in a decade that across the country family homelessness did not decrease in the PIT count.
- **Veteran homelessness is down.** Veteran homelessness decreased, down 12.6% (22 veterans) since 2019. The total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness counted in 2020 PIT: 153.
- **Chronic homelessness is down.** Chronic homelessness among individuals decreased 3.8% (16 individuals) since 2019. The total number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness counted in the 2020 PIT: 406.
- **Youth homelessness is down.** The number of youth experiencing homelessness is 1.3 percent lower compared with 2019. The total number homeless youth counted in the 2020 PIT: 149.
- **Homelessness and racial equity.** People identifying as African Americans and indigenous people, including Native Americans and Pacific Islanders, accounted for 26.2% of all people experiencing homelessness in Nebraska.

**The 2020 PIT Count shows that homelessness was increasing even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Between 2019 and 2020, homelessness increased among unsheltered populations and families with children in Nebraska.

**Under the leadership of Secretary Marcia Fudge, HUD will support an evidence-based Housing First approach to ending homelessness.**

- Tackling our nation’s homelessness crisis is a top priority for the Department under Secretary Fudge.
- HUD will support programs that take a Housing First approach to homelessness, such as permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing. These programs have been shown to help people remain housed and not return to homelessness.
- Equity in housing is a key principle of HUD. The agency is committed to redressing discriminatory housing policies and practices, and to taking meaningful action to expand equitable access to housing for millions of Americans.

**HUD is committed to delivering bold, immediate relief in the American Rescue Plan to individuals and families experiencing homelessness during COVID-19.**

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, signed into law by President Biden on March 11, provides:
  - \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
  - \$5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to help create housing and services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- The robust relief in the American Rescue Plan will reduce homelessness and save lives in communities across the country.

HUD is also working, both directly and with other federal agencies, to rapidly deploy the homeless assistance and rental assistance resources provided by Congress in the CARES Act to help communities protect people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19 and help them exit homelessness in stable housing.