



## Engaging and Surveying Vehicles for the WeAllCount (Cars and RVs)

**Purpose:** CoCs must be able to verify that unsheltered homeless persons identified in the count are unsheltered on the night designated for the count as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Rule: ‘An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

### How to:

1. **Visual Assessment** - Is the vehicle or RV currently inhabited/occupied on the night of the count?

#### Look for signs of habitation

- Fogged windows
- Electrical connections /light on
- Generators
- Screens or window coverings
- Items (household items, bags, clothing, shoes) inside and outside of the vehicle
- Sounds of music or talking from inside the vehicle
- Known safe parking locations or known vehicles



#### Strategy: Conduct a walkabout around vehicle

- Were individuals observed in vehicle?

2. **Engagement** -Determining if the person/s inhabiting the vehicle or RV is eligible to be counted as part of the WeAllCount.

**RVs** -Because RVs are “ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation,” HUD does not believe that all persons sleeping in RVs should be included in the PIT count. If a CoC chooses to count RV occupants, they must talk to all RV occupants on the night of the count to verify their housing situation.

**Cars**- For effective engagement of vehicles it is important to verify inhabitants' current housing situation. At times (not often) you may engage someone who is sleeping in their vehicle for purposes other than their current place of residence.

#### Strategy: Knock and Engage

- Politely approach vehicle: Gentle knock, address yourself, and state your purpose

3. **Data Collection** - In the Counting US Application

#### ● RVs and Vehicles (engaged and participated in the survey)

If a household was eligible and completed a survey, please record all responses under the “Unsheltered Person Survey” in the Counting US Application.

#### ● RV’s and Vehicles (non-responsive or preferred not to participate)

- If visible markers were present, but an individual or household was unable to be engaged or preferred not to participate in the count then an “Unsheltered Person Observation Tally” would be completed.

Note: It is important to note that an actual physical observation of a person/s must be made to complete an Unsheltered Person Observation Tally. For the WeAllCount initiative, “We count **people** and not vehicles/RVs”. Data submitted into the Counting US Application will be reviewed for data validity by WeAllCount staff. WeAllCount staff may follow up with volunteers to gather additional data.