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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Volunteers Sought to Help with Homelessness Study**

Wilder Research has asked regions across the state to count the number of people experiencing homeless in their communities, and Anoka County is seeking volunteers for this effort, which will take place Oct. 25 at various locations around the county.

Trainings will be provided on how to conduct face-to-face interviews with the homeless. These trainings are scheduled 1 to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 15 and 2 to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 16 in room No. 552 of the Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Anoka. Visit <http://www.anokacounty.us/2018MnHomelessStudy> to sign up for the trainings or for more information about this initiative. A self-guided training is available for those who have participated in past studies and will be posted on the 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study webpage toward the end of September.

Since 1991, Anoka County has participated in counting the number of homeless people staying in shelters and transitional housing units and has recently expanded that effort to include food shelves, bus stops and even libraries. The data collected during these counts is used to guide program development and to support requests for funding at the federal, state and local levels to combat homelessness.

People who volunteer for this study will be helping shape the future in a positive way for individuals in need of stable housing. After training is complete, participants will have options as

**-more-**

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## **Volunteers Sought to Help with Homelessness Study – Add 1**

to where and for how long they'd like to volunteer. Those who take part in the study will be paired with other volunteers who have experience working with the homeless. For people experiencing homelessness, the study is completely voluntary, and for those who choose to participate, a \$10 stipend is awarded.

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