

# **2023 POINT IN TIME COUNT MODIFIED**

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **WHY ARE WE DOING THIS –**

- Every year the federal government tries to quantify the number of homeless in the United States. The counts that are taken and sent from communities like Cherokee County, help set up funding for programs to deal with homeless.
- Cherokee County just commissioned a KSU study to assess the homeless that are within Cherokee County. The results of this study will be submitted back to the authors of this study to provide additional input into local governmental decisions on how to deal with the issue of homeless

### **WHY ARE WE CALLING FOOD BANKS –**

- The many foodbanks within Cherokee County provide food and other services to the many low income and homeless population in the county. We are looking to identify how many of the people served by these organizations are homeless and may need assistance.

### **ARE WE LOOKING TO PUBLISH NAMES OF PEOPLE WE FIND –**

- **NO...** We are not looking to get names and phone numbers of the homeless we encounter. What we are looking to do is help many of these people, especially Veterans and their families, locate resources that they may not be aware of to help them.

### **WHY IS HELP FOR HOMELESS VETERANS DIFFERENT FROM CIVILIANS-**

- For many basic needs, there is no difference in helping a Veteran vs a civilian. These basic services include food, clothing, and spiritual service. What makes Veterans different is that many programs for Veterans are provided by the Federal Government. VA Claims for service related injuries, federal housing programs such as HUD VASH and SSVF and VA medical care are examples of such programs.

### **WHY ELSE IS IT IMPORTANT WE DO THIS-**

- We just launched our Veteran Mental Health/Suicide prevention program and we want to help any Veterans that we encounter who need Mental Health care. According to studies, 40% of all homeless Veterans have some type of Mental Health issue and we want to make sure we can help these Veterans in need. Studies also note that 9% of all homeless are female Veterans, some with children. Female Veterans in this case have all exhibited Homeless and have contemplated suicide.
- We also do this so that we can make sure we are helping our fellow Veterans. Cherokee County is traditionally only one of 31 counties out of the 152 Balance of State (BOS) Continuum that actually report to the Ga Department of Community Affairs. This is a 20.039% response rate. This is a big reason why we are not getting any funding for Homeless projects.