



2025-26 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification Form (EUHY26)

Student Name: _____

Student E-Number: _____

You reported on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) either that you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied youth providing for your own living expenses who is at risk of being homeless. To determine your eligibility for financial aid, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships needs additional information. Please complete and submit this form with the required documentation **within 14 business days** to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. Include your student ID number on all documentation submitted.

Unaccompanied – means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.

Homeless – means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, parks, hotels, motels, public spaces, camping grounds, abandoned buildings, or cars, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go.

Attach Documentation Verifying Homelessness or Risk of Homelessness:

By checking this box, you declare that you are able to provide verification of your status as an unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. **Print page 3, 2025-26 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Agency Verification Form and have it completed and signed by a Liaison, Director or Designee as indicated on the form. Submit with this Verification Form.**

Unable to Obtain Documentation Verifying Homeless:

Attach a letter explaining your situation, if you have other circumstances that qualify you as an unaccompanied homeless youth or you are at risk of homelessness and are not able to get documentation from one of the above officials. Attach any information you may have in support of your statements. **Please complete and submit page 2, Homeless Youth Certification Request, along with any supporting documentation, with this Verification Form.** A student who chooses to leave their parents' home will need to demonstrate that they were at risk of harm if they continued to live with their parents. The National Center for Homeless Education can be reached at 1-800-308-2145. More information is available at <https://nche.ed.gov>.

Not Homeless and Will Provide Parental Information on FAFSA:

I am not homeless and do not qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness. ***You must correct the information on your financial aid application by providing your parent(s)' financial information. You and one parent must sign the FAFSA and submit it to the federal processor.***

Student's Signature and Date

Homeless Youth Certification Request - (EUHY26)

1. Date of homelessness: _____ Duration of homelessness: _____ to _____
2. In which of the following situations did you reside during homelessness:
 Motel
 Car
 Campsite
 Shelter or other temporary housing program
 Inadequate housing (insufficient to meet physical and psychological needs)
 Temporarily living with others because of nowhere else to go.
3. In which of the following situations do you **currently** reside or would reside if not residing in campus housing:
 I currently have adequate housing
 Motel
 Car
 Campsite
 Shelter or other temporary housing program
 Inadequate housing (insufficient to meet physical and psychological needs)
 Temporarily living with others because of nowhere else to go.
4. Please check all scenarios that describes your **current** financial situation:
 I am self-supporting and receive zero help from others.
 I am at risk of being homeless due to inadequate fixed income and support.
 I am not self-supporting and receive adequate assistance/support from family/others.
 Other: _____

By signing this worksheet, I certify that all information reported on this worksheet is complete and correct. If I purposely give false or misleading information, I may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both.

Student's Signature

Date

Financial Aid Office Use Only

- Status Verified by outside agency—qualifies as unaccompanied homeless youth
 No verification—age 23 and under—determined to be an unaccompanied homeless youth by financial aid office
 Not eligible—must provide parental data

Comments Supporting Decision: _____

Date of Review: _____ Reviewed by: _____

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HEA section 479D(a)(1), as amended, requires FAAs to consider a student to be independent if the applicant's status as an (1) unaccompanied and homeless youth or (2) unaccompanied and self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness is verified by one of the following authorities through a documented phone call, written statement, or a verifiable electronic data match:

This form must be completed by a Liaison, Director or Designee as listed below.

I am a: (check one)

A local educational agency homeless liaison, as designated null by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)), or a designee of the liaison.

The director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

The director or designee of a program funded under subtitle B of title IV of McKinney-Vento (relating to emergency shelter grants) (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.).

The director or designee of a Federal TRIO program or a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate program (GEAR UP) grant.

A financial aid administrator (FAA) at another institution who documented the student's circumstance in the same or a prior award year.

I, the Liaison, Director or Designee as indicated above, verify that _____ was:

Check one:

An unaccompanied homeless youth after July 1, 2024

This means that after July 1, 2024, the above-named student was living in a homeless situation, as defined by Section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Act, and was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

An unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness after July 1, 2024

This means that, after July 1, 2024, the above-named student was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, provides for his/her own living expenses entirely on his/her own, and is at risk of losing his/her housing.

Printed Name of Liaison, Director or Designee checked above _____

Title _____

Place of Employment _____

Work Phone Number _____

Address of Place of Employment _____

Signature of Liaison, Director or Designee _____

Date _____

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

Who are Unaccompanied Homeless Youth?

Unaccompanied homeless youth are young people who lack safe, stable housing and who are not in the care of a parent or guardian. They may have run away from home or been forced to leave by their parents. Unaccompanied youth live in a variety of temporary situations, including shelters, the homes of friends or relatives, cars, campgrounds, public parks, abandoned buildings, motels, and bus or train stations.

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away from their homes each year.¹ Generally, youth leave home due to severe dysfunction in their families, including circumstances that put their safety and well-being at risk. Unfortunately, physical and sexual abuse in the home is common; studies of unaccompanied youth have found that 20 to 50% were sexually abused in their homes, while 40 to 60% were physically abused.² Unaccompanied youth do not receive financial support from their parents and do not have access to parental information.

Who are McKinney-Vento School District Liaisons?

Under subtitle VII-B of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, every school district is required to designate a liaison for students experiencing homelessness. Homeless liaisons have a number of legal responsibilities under the Act, including identifying youth who meet the definition of homeless and are unaccompanied. The education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act is overseen by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, visit: <https://nche.ed.gov/legislation/mckinney-vento/>

What are HUD-funded Shelters?

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers funding for homeless shelters and services under Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Act. These funds are distributed to communities through a competitive grant process. For more information, visit: <https://www.hud.gov/findshelter>

What are RHYA-funded Shelters?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administers the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs. These programs provide funding for Basic Centers, Transitional Living Programs, and Street Outreach Programs that serve runaway and other unaccompanied homeless youth. For more information, visit: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth>

¹ Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). "Runaway / Throwaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics." *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway Children*. Washington DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. See also Greene, J. (1995). "Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors." *Research Triangle Institute*. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; National Runaway Switchboard, <http://www.1800runaway.org/>.

² Robertson, M. & Toro, P. (1999). "Homeless Youth: Research, Intervention, and Policy." *Practical Lessons: The 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research*. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved July 18, 2007 from <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>. See also MacLean, M.G., Embry, L.E. & Cauce, A.M. (1999). "Homeless Adolescents' Paths to Separation from Family: Comparison of Family Characteristics, Psychological Adjustment, and Victimization." *Journal of Community Psychology*, 27(2), 179-187.