



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination

Student's Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Student ID _____

This form is to be completed by the Financial Aid Administrator who receives the paperwork. The completed form must be kept in the student's file.

FAA/Liaison Acceptance or Determination

Statements related to unaccompanied homeless youth and financial aid are from the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) and the Application and Verification Guide (AVG).

According to the CCRAA, the definition of independent student includes youth who are 1) unaccompanied and homeless, or 2) unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at-risk of homelessness. The CCRAA uses the McKinney-Vento Act's definitions of homeless, which includes youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and unaccompanied, which includes youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. The CCRAA also uses at-risk of homelessness to refer to students whose housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

FAA/Liaison Acceptance of Determinations Based on Third Party Documentation

*A school district homeless liaison or the director or designee of an emergency shelter or transitional living program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act can determine that a student is eligible for independent student status as an unaccompanied homeless youth. **In that instance, no further action is required to confirm a student's status as independent.***

1. Does the student have documentation that attests that he/she has experienced homelessness at any time since July 1, 2023 from a recognized third party, such as a homeless shelter or service provider, FAA from another college, college access program such as TRIO or GEAR UP, college or high school counselor, mental health professional, social worker, employer, mentor, doctor, or clergy? Yes No

If yes, list the contact and relationship to the student: _____

Summary of information provided by the third party (attach additional pages if needed): _____

If the FAA/Liaison feels that additional supporting documentation is needed, he/she may request contact information for the third party listed above to follow-up by phone or email, or to request a letter.

FAA/Liaison Determination Based on a Documented Interview

As mandated by the CCRAA, if a determination by any of the parties listed in the previous section cannot be made, the FAA/LIAISON **must** make the determination of unaccompanied and homeless status, or unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness status.

If third party documentation is not available, a documented interview conducted by the FAA/LIAISON is sufficient to confirm that an unaccompanied homeless youth qualifies as independent. If the FAA disagrees with an authority's determination, the FAA must accept the determination, but may contact the oversight agency for the authority to evaluate the authority's determination. For more information, see the AVG. According to the AVG, the determination may be based on a documented interview with the student if there is no written documentation available. According to the AVG, the definition of homeless includes students living in the school dormitory if they would otherwise be homeless.

The FAA/Liaison may make the determination based on the following information:

- 1. In which of the following situations does the student currently reside or in which would the student reside if not staying in on-campus housing (you may choose more than one):

Motel

Shelter or other temporary housing program

Car

Inadequate housing (housing that is insufficient to meet the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment)

Campsite

Temporarily living with others because the student has nowhere else to go

- 2. If the student is living with another household, check all of the following reasons that apply:

Loss of housing

Economic hardship resulting in inability to secure and maintain fixed, regular, and adequate housing

Other (including, for example, when it is not safe for a youth to live with a parent or guardian, when a parent or guardian has forced a youth to leave home, and other situations of abuse or conflict): _____

It may be helpful to ask students who are living with others where they would live if they could not stay at their current location. If the student replies that he/she would be living in one of the situations listed above (motel, car, etc.), or is not sure where he or she would stay, the student does not have fixed, regular, and adequate housing, and therefore meets the definition of homeless.

*If the student is living in any of these situations, **and** is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, he or she meets the definitions of homeless and unaccompanied, and qualifies as an independent student. According to the AVG, youth fleeing abuse and living in one of these situations may be considered homeless, even if the parent would provide support and a place to live.*

Considerations for Students Who Are Self-Supporting and At Risk of Homelessness:

- 1. Is the student self-supporting? (Self-supporting means the student is responsible for his or her own living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing.) Yes No

- 2. Is the student's housing likely to cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate? Is the student at-risk of homelessness due to eviction or other loss of housing? Yes No

If the student answers yes to both of these questions, and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, he or she meets the definition of an unaccompanied youth who is self-supporting and at risk of homelessness, and qualifies as an independent student

Decision of Financial Aid Administrator/ Liaison

Independent Status Confirmed

Independent Status Not Confirmed

Comments (include a brief explanation of why you are in support of decision):

Financial Aid Administrator

Title

Date

Signature - Director

Independent Status Confirmed

Independent Status Not Confirmed

Financial Aid Director

Director of Financial Aid

Title

Date

For more information on inadequate housing, please see the National Center for Homeless Education's *Determining Eligibility for Rights and Services under the McKinney-Vento Act* brief, available at http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf.

This tool was developed collaboratively by the *National Center for Homeless Education* and the *National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth*.

Below are **sample** questions for determined if the youth is unaccompanied (not all may apply):

- Do you live with your parent/guardian? How often do you interact with your parents/guardians?
- Do your parents/guardians financially support you in any way? Do they help pay rent or other bills?
- How long have you been on your own? February of my Senior year, five days after I turned 18
- How are you supporting yourself?
- Tell me about where you are living.
- Is this a permanent arrangement or just temporary?
- Are you looking for another place to live? Do you plan to move out soon?
- Why are you staying in your current place?
- How long have you been staying there?
- Where were you living right before this place?
- Why did you leave?
- Where would you go if you couldn't stay where you are?
- Are you staying with friends/relatives just for a little while?
- Could your friends/relatives ask you to leave if they wanted to?
- Are you all sharing the home equally, or are you more like a guest in the home?
- Do you stay in the same place every night?
- How many people are living in the home? How many bedrooms/bathrooms does it have?
- Are you sleeping in a bedroom or a public area, like a dining room? How many people stay in one room?
- Does the home have heat/electricity/running water? Does it keep out rain and wind? Is it safe?