

2025-2026 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination

The FAFSA Simplification Act includes new requirements for Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) to accept or make determinations of a youth's status as unaccompanied and homeless, or as unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness. The Higher Education Act (HEA) uses the [McKinney-Vento Act's definition 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 HEA uses at-risk of homelessness to refer to students whose housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

DETERMINATIONS BY AUTHORIZED ENTITIES

Financial aid administrators must accept documentation from any of the entities who are authorized to verify a youth's status as an unaccompanied homeless youth, or as unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness, unless there is "documented conflicting information."

Does the student have documentation from any of the following authorized entities that attests that the youth has experienced homelessness as an unaccompanied youth, or was unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness, any time since July 1, 2025?

- School district homeless liaisons or their designee;
- The director or a designee of a director 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 a designee of a director of a program funded under a TRIO or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for an Undergraduate program ("GEAR UP") grant;
- A financial aid administrator at another institution who previously made a determination.

Student Name:	
Student ID:	

DETERMINATIONS BASED ON DOCUMENTED INTERVIEWS OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS

1. In which of the following situations does the student currently reside (you may choose more than one):
 - Motel
 - Car
 - Campsite
 - Shelter or other temporary housing program
 - Substandard housing (housing that is insufficient to meet the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment)
 - Temporarily staying with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
 - If the student is staying with another household, check the circumstances 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):

2. Ask: Where would you live if you could not stay at your current location?

FAA DETERMINATION: 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

ACTION TAKEN

- ☐ Independent student status as an unaccompanied homeless youth or unaccompanied and self-supporting and risk of homelessness CONFIRMED
- ☐ Independent student status NOT CONFIRMED. Please explain and include next steps for assisting student with the FAFSA:

Print Name: _____

Signature (REQUIRED): _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Notes/Comments:
