

Federal Student Aid for Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Can I receive federal student aid if I am homeless or at risk of becoming homeless?

Yes. When you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form, you will be asked whether you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and “unaccompanied” (meaning not with your parents). Answer the question and continue with the application.

Do I need to provide my parents’ income information on the FAFSA® form?

No. If you answer “yes” to the homelessness question on the FAFSA form, you can submit it without providing information about your parents because you are stating that you are not with your parents.

Do I need to provide a home address on the FAFSA® form?

No, but you must provide a mailing address where you can reliably receive mail. Your mailing address can be the address of a relative or friend who has given you permission to use it, or it can be your college’s address. If you want to use your college’s address, you must contact the school for permission and instructions to ensure that your mail reaches you. If you find more permanent housing, you should update your address on the FAFSA form.

Will I be required to submit documentation to prove that I am “unaccompanied” and homeless or at risk of becoming homeless?

Most likely. Once you answer “yes” to the general homelessness question on the FAFSA® form, you will be asked whether you have received a homeless youth determination. If you indicate that you have, the financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend may request the determination to prove that you are “unaccompanied” and homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

If you meet the McKinney-Vento definition of unaccompanied homeless youth as determined by your local liaison, you qualify as an independent student and do not need to provide parent information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Your local school division’s homeless liaison can provide you with a homeless youth determination.

Your school division’s homeless liaison is:

Phone:

Email:

A copy of this notice was provided to _____ (student)
on _____ (date) by _____ (school staff).

Staff signature:

Student signature: