

FAFSA Independent Youth Verification (Free Application Federal Student Aid)

Centennial Board of Cooperative Services

Name:

Date of Birth:

Current mailing address of student (if none, please list names, phone numbers, mailing address of current contact, school address, social media (Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat....)):

Please indicate how you are providing this letter of verification below after the colon.

- A McKinney-Vento School District Liaison:
- Liaison o A director or designee of a HUD-funded shelter:
- A director / Designee of a Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)-funded shelter:

District Liaison: As per the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84), I am authorized to verify this student's living situation. No further verification by the Financial Aid Administrator is necessary. Should you have additional questions or need more information about this student, please contact me at the number listed.

This letter is to confirm the student falls under the criteria identified below. Please answer "yes" or "no" after the colon to what applies to the student.

- A youth who was / is unaccompanied & without stable housing after July 1, 202_. This means that, after July 1, 202_, was living in a homeless situation, as defined by Section 725 of the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and was not in the physical custody of a parent / legal guardian.:
- An unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness after July 1, 202_. This means that, after July 1, 202_, was not in the physical custody of a parent / legal guardian, provides for their own living expenses on their own, and is at risk of losing their housing.:

Authorized Signature:

Print Name:

Date:

Telephone Number:

Title:

Agency:

“Youth” is defined in the 2016-2017 FAFSA notes as age 21 and under. However, per the July 29, 2015, Dear Colleague Letter issued by the U.S. Department of Education, applicants between the ages of 21 to 24 and who are unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of homelessness qualify for a homeless youth determination and will be considered independent.

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.ⁱ 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.ⁱⁱ 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.

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, see: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/index.cfm>

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.