



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification Form

Based on the answers listed on the 2023-2024 FAFSA application, we are requesting additional information to verify your independent status for financial aid.

In order to continue processing your request for financial aid, we must have this form completed and returned with all required documentation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be considered an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: This means that, after July 1, 2021 you are living in a homeless situation and are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be considered an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness: This means that, after July 1, 2021 you are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, you provide for your own living expenses entirely on your own, and are at risk of losing your housing.

Name _____ Banner ID# _____

Phone # _____ Cell Phone _____ Date _____

Attach Documentation Verifying Homelessness or Risk of Homelessness:

☐ I am Verifying Homelessness or Risk of Homelessness. You must attach documentation from one of the following:

- School District Liaison, (McKinney-Vento)
- Director or designee of a HUD Funded shelter
- Director or designee of a RHYA funded shelter
(Runaways Homeless Youth Act)

Unable to Provide Documentation

☐ I am unable to obtain documentation from one of the above officials. I self-certify that i meet the qualifications of being an unaccompanied homeless youth as described within this document. I understand that if I provide false or misleading information that I may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both:

Homeless means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, motels or cars or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. **Please review back side to see additional explanation**

Youth means you are 21 years of age or younger **Or** you are still enrolled in high school as of the day you signed your FAFSA.

☐ I am not homeless and will provide parental information on the FAFSA: Your FAFSA needs to be updated with your parent's personal and financial data. You may either make the changes yourself or contact the Office of Financial Aid for assistance.

To Confirm Please Sign: _____

***** If you do not submit documentation as requested, you will not qualify as an independent student for financial aid purposes and may be required to submit your parents' income data.**

The National Center for Homeless Education is available for questions, **1-800-308-2145**.

Return Form To:

Lawrence Technological University . Office of Financial Aid . 21000 West Ten Mile Road . Southfield, MI 48075-1058 .

Phone: (248) 204-2280 . Fax: (248) 204-2228 . Email: enrollmentservices@ltu.edu . Web: www.ltu.edu

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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.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. For more information, see: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html>

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. For more information, see: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/index.htm#sub1>

To Clarify, the definition of homeless is broader than just living “on the street.” It can include students living:

- Temporarily with other people because they had nowhere else to go;
- In substandard housing (if it doesn't meet local building codes or the utilities are turned off, it is generally not adequate);
- Emergency or transitional shelters, for example, trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after disasters;
- Motels, camping grounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations; or any public or private place not designed for humans to live in;
- In the school dormitory if the student would otherwise be homeless

A Student living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide support and a place to live.

As noted, students who are self-supporting and at risk of being homeless also qualify.

- Self-supporting is considered to be a student who pays for his own living expenses, including fixed, regular and adequate housing.
- At risk of being homeless is when a student's housing may cease to be fixed regular and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular and adequate housing.

Where can I get more information?

National Center for Homeless Education: http://www.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc_youth.php

National Association for the Education of Homeless children and Youth: http://www.naehcy.org/higher_ed.html

Michigan Department of Education, Homeless Education Program: <http://www.michigan.gov/homeless>

ⁱ Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). "Runaway / Thrownaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics." *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children*. Washington DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. See also Greene, J. (1995). "Youth with Runaway, Thrownaway, 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/>.

ⁱⁱ 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.