Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Written Statement:

A Template for Financial Aid Administrators for the 2024-2025 FAFSA

The FAFSA Simplification Act includes new requirements for Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) to make determinations of a youth’s status as unaccompanied and homeless, or as unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness if students cannot provide a determination from an authorized entity.

The Higher Education Act (HEA) uses the [McKinney-Vento Act’s definition of “homeless](https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/),” which includes youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and the McKinney-Vento Act’s definition of “unaccompanied,” which includes youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This definition is broader than shelters or the streets; it includes staying with others temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, and staying in motels due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) defines the term “at-risk of homelessness” to refer to students whose housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

Under the law, and summarized in ED’s April 2023 [guidance](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-04-14/unaccompanied-homeless-youth-determinations-update) on unaccompanied homeless youth and federal financial aid, FAAs must make a case-by-case decision that is:

* Based upon a written statement from, or a documented interview with the student that confirms that they are an unaccompanied homeless youth, or unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting; and
* Made *without* regard to the reasons that the student is unaccompanied and/or homeless

Financial aid administrators can provide students this template to assist them in providing a written statement to confirm that they are an unaccompanied homeless youth, or unaccompanied, at risk homelessness and self-supporting.

Dear Financial Aid Administrator,

This written statement conveys that after July 1, 2023, I **[INSERT NAME OF STUDENT]** was:

* an unaccompanied homeless youth, as defined by the FAFSA Simplification Act (Public Law No: 116-260).
* an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness.

Student’s SSN:

Student’s DOB:

I am currently residing in:

* + On-campus housing (but would otherwise have no place to stay)
  + 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

Under the FAFSA Simplification Act, which is summarized in ED’s April 2023 [guidance](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-04-14/unaccompanied-homeless-youth-determinations-update) on unaccompanied homeless youth, FAAs must make a case-by-case decision that is:

* Based upon a written statement from, or a documented interview with the student that confirms that they are an unaccompanied homeless youth, or unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting; and
* Made *without* regard to the reasons that the student is unaccompanied and/or homeless

**ACTION TAKEN - FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATOR FILL OUT**

* Independent student status as an unaccompanied homeless youth or a youth who is 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: