



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION
OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

BEYOND FINANCIAL: BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT HOMELESS STUDENTS THAT ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION

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MEET NAEHCY

- NAEHCY is a national membership association that connects educators, parents, advocates, researchers, and service providers to ensure school enrollment, attendance and overall success for children and youth whose lives have been disrupted by the lack of safe, permanent, and adequate housing. www.naehcy.org

HOW MANY CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

National Statistics

SY 2013-2014

SY 2013-2014

- 1,301,239 homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools, preK-12
- 7% increase over the previous year
- 100% increase since 2006-2007 recession
- 13% of all poor school aged children and youth
- 30% of all extremely poor school aged children and youth
- Over 90,000 unaccompanied homeless youth

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

- Lack of affordable housing
 - Foreclosures
- Poverty
 - Economic recession
 - Unemployment
- Health problems
 - Lack of health insurance
 - Addiction disorders, Mental health
- Domestic violence
- Natural and other disasters
- Abuse/neglect/family dysfunction (unaccompanied youth)



MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT ELIGIBILITY

- Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including:
 - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - Awaiting foster care placement **(until December 10, 2016)**

ELIGIBILITY CONTINUED

- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or a similar setting
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances

For more info, see NCHE's *Determining Eligibility* brief at www.serve.org/nche/briefs.php

- http://center.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php#map

PATHS TO BEING ON THEIR OWN

- Family conflict: blended family issues, pregnancy, sexual activity or orientation, school problems, substance abuse
- Abuse and/or neglect within the home
- Parental incarceration, illness, hospitalization, or death
- Lack of space in temporary situations or shelter policies that prohibit adolescent boys
- Child welfare issues
 - Running away from a placement
 - Aging out of the system
 - Significant correlation between involvement with the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness as an adult



BARRIERS TO EDUCATION ACCESS

- lack of access to parental financial information and support
- Lack of financial means to live independently and safely
- Inability to be financially self-sufficient once enrolled in college
- Limited housing options, especially in small towns or rural areas
- Failure to meet state residency requirements
- Struggling to balance school and other responsibilities
- Lack of adult guidance and support
- Lack of information about available support systems

HOMELESS YOUTH AND HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS

BARRIERS
FEDERAL GUIDANCE
FAFSA COMPLETION
STATEWIDE NETWORKS
NATIONAL RESOURCES



HOMELESS STUDENTS AND HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS

- 2-step process to determine eligibility
 - 1) Does the student's living arrangement meet the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of homeless?
 - 2) Once homelessness is determined, is the student unaccompanied?
- Unaccompanied
 - “not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian”

FINANCIAL AID FAFSA BASICS

- Expected family contribution (EFC): Families are expected to contribute to higher education costs to the extent they are able
- FAFSA
 - **New FAFSA release date October 1, (beginning 2016)**
 - *For dependent students*, income and asset information required for both the student and a parent; parental signature required
 - *For independent students*, no parental signature nor income and asset information is needed

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PRIOR-PRIOR TAX INFORMATION USED TO COMPLETE FAFSA

- Students and parents will now need to include add “Prior-Prior” tax information (Tax information from 2 years prior, beginning October 1, 2016)
- Resources on new FAFSA release date available for students, parents, and counselors
 - <http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/announcement-detail.jsp?id=2017-18-fafsa-changes>.

EXAMPLE OF PRIOR-PRIOR TAX CHART

• Students will be able to submit a FAFSA[®] earlier. Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA[®] PROCESS FOR 2017–18

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	2018–19	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

StudentAid.gov/fafsa



HOW MANY HOMELESS YOUTH SELF IDENTIFY ON THE FASA?

2014-2015 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth FAFSA Data

Determinations made by:

- School District Liaison 21,443
- HUD funded Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Program 3,953
- RHYA Basic Center/Transitional Living Program 3,731
- Financial Aid Administrators 1,548

STATES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FAFSA FILERS

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*
California	California	California
Texas	Texas	Texas
Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
Michigan	Michigan	Florida
Washington	Florida	Michigan
Florida	Washington	Washington
New York	New York	Oregon
Oregon	Oregon	New York
Missouri	Missouri	Missouri
Ohio	North Carolina	Georgia

UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH AND FAFSA COMPLETION

46. Were you born before January 1, 1993?	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
47. As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.)	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
48. At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)?.....	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
49. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training? See Notes page 9.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
50. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? See Notes page 9.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
51. Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017?.....	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
52. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2017?	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
53. At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? See Notes page 10.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
54. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor? See Notes page 10. ..	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
55. Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? See Notes page 10.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
56. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
57. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2
58. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> 1	No	<input type="radio"/> 2

THE COLLEGE COST REEDUCATION AND ACCESS ACT

- Independent student status for unaccompanied homeless youth and self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness
- Can apply for financial aid without parental signature or consideration of parental income
- Must be determined by:
 - Local liaison
 - RHYA-funded shelter director or designee
 - HUD-funded shelter director or designee
 - College financial aid administrator

APPLICATION AND VERIFICATION GUIDE

- Updated Application and Verification Guide released in 2015
 - Borrows language from NCHE's *Determining Eligibility* brief
 - Student can use the following addresses to complete the FAFSA
 - Address of a reliable friend or relative
 - The college's administrative address as his/her mailing address, with permission
- FAA verification
 - Not required unless there is conflicting information
 - Documented interview (even via phone) is acceptable

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER

- USED Dear Colleague Letter
 - UHY may be 24 or younger or still enrolled in high school on the date he/she signs the FAFSA
 - Focuses attention on if student meets homeless status definition, not on the reason they are homeless
 - Clarifies the role of the Financial Aid Administrator when making determination of a students homeless status
 - <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/GEN1516Attach.pdf>

ONLINE FAFSA COMPLETION

Student Demographics	School Selection	Dependency Status	Parent Demographics	Financial Information	Sign & Submit	Confirmation
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STUDENT

Homeless Circumstances

You indicated that you were homeless or at risk of being homeless and you answered "no" to all of the specific homeless questions.

However, your financial aid administrator could make a determination that you are a **homeless youth**, and do not need to provide parental information, if you meet both of the following conditions:

- **You are homeless**, which means you are lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, parks, motels or cars, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent you may be considered homeless even if your parent would provide support and a place to live; and
- **You are unaccompanied**, which means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.

If you believe that you meet these conditions and would like to follow up with the financial aid administrator at your college, select "I am homeless or at risk of being homeless" and click **Next** to get additional information.

If you do not meet the above conditions and will be providing parental information, select "I will provide parental information" and click **Next** to continue.

I will provide parental information
 I am homeless or at risk of being homeless

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

Help and Hints

Homeless Circumstances

Select **I will provide parental information** to continue to Parent Demographics.

Select **I am homeless or at risk of being homeless** to get additional information.

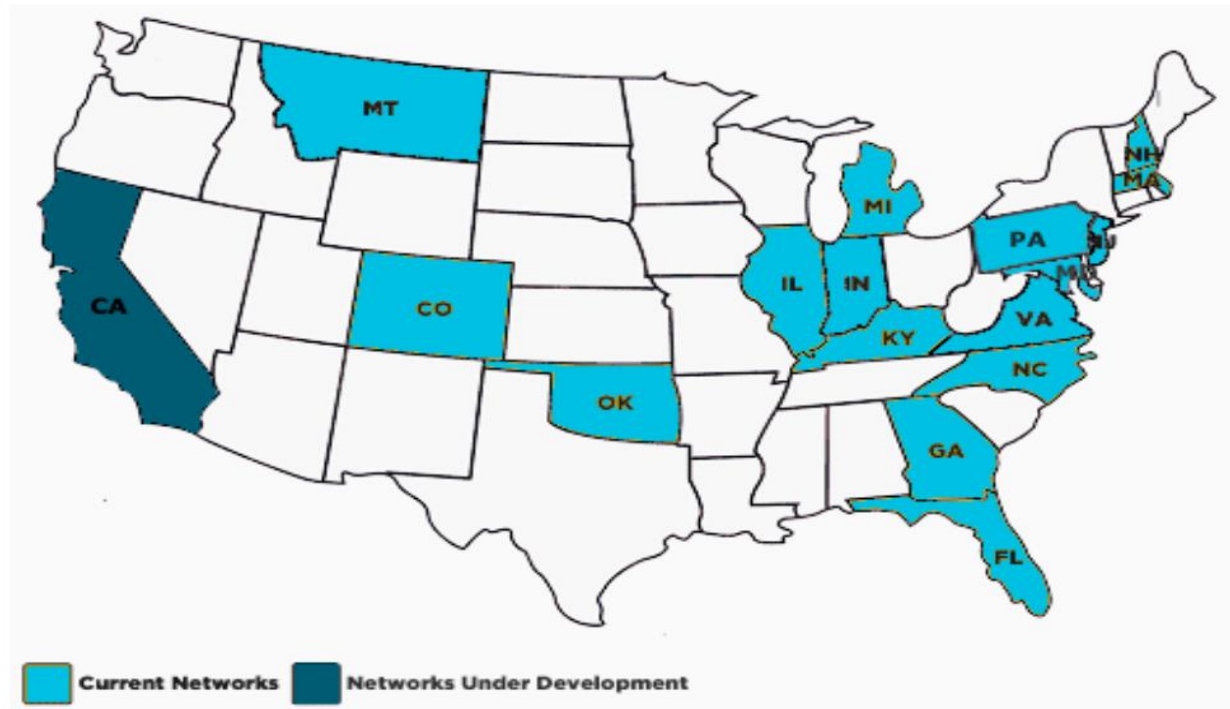
[NEED HELP?](#) [SAVE](#) [CLEAR ALL DATA](#) [VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY](#) [EXIT](#)

CREATING STATEWIDE NETWORKS TO SUPPORT HOMELESS STUDENTS

- Convene a meeting with local stakeholders from the McKinney-Vento K-12, Foster Care, Higher Education, and RHYA/HUD shelter communities as well as other local service providers and advocates
- Allow each to share knowledge about their area of expertise
 - UHY and independent student definitions
 - Financial aid
 - Campus and community resources
- Build an action plan for serving UHY that makes sense for your community

NAEHCY STATEWIDE HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORKS

NETWORK LOCATIONS



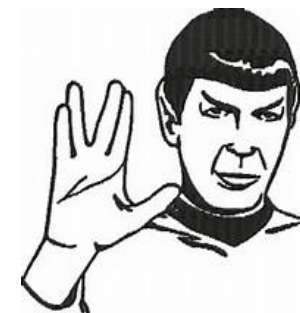
<http://naehcy.org/legislation-and-policy/state-he-networks>

BEST PRACTICES FOR CAMPUSES

- Establish coordination between financial aid offices, student support services, and campus housing
- Open a food and clothing bank on campus
- Consider housing options for homeless students when dorms close:
 - Leaving one residence hall open
 - Allow UHY to stay in housing for international students
 - Provide a list of “host homes” in the community
- Establish Single Points of Contact (SPOCS) in colleges/universities to help eliminate barriers to higher education access

WHAT IS A CAMPUS SPOC?

- **Single Point of Contact (SPOC)**- is a supportive college administrator on each campus who is committed to helping homeless youth (and often foster youth) successfully navigate the college-going process on campuses.
- SPOCs can be found in the Financial Aid, Counseling, Dean of Students, and Student Support Services offices.
- Assist students with the following
 - Housing, Counseling Center, Health Center, TRIO Programs (Talent Search, Upward Bound, EOC, GEAR-UP), Learning Disabilities Services, Life Skills, Financial Literacy, Mentoring Programs
 - <http://naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/spoc-tips.docx>



SPOC MODEL

- SPOC's can come from any office on campus
- Assist students with the following
 - Admissions
 - Financial Aid
 - Academic Advising
 - Remediation, Tutoring
 - Student Life
 - Housing, Counseling Center, Health Center, TRIO Programs (Talent Search, Upward Bound, EOC, GEAR-UP), Learning Disabilities Services, Life Skills, Financial Literacy, Mentoring Programs
- <http://naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/spoc-tips.docx>

BEST PRACTICES CONTINUED

- Connect students with federal and community resources that they may be eligible for
 - State Health Insurance
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CAL Fresh)
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Funded Shelters (RHYA)
 - Administration for Children and Families
 - <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/grants/fysb-grantees>

NAEHCY SCHOLARSHIP FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

- How to apply:
 - <http://naehcy.org/naehcy-scholarship-fund/scholarship-application>
- Applicants must submit:
 - A completed application form
 - An essay about the impact of homelessness on their lives and desire to attend college
 - An official school transcript
 - A minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adult who has knowledge of the applicant's qualifications and experiences

NAEHCY RESOURCES

NAEHCY Higher Education Helpline:

855-446-2673 or

Text “NAEHCY” to 335577

<http://www.naehcy.org>

- NAEHCY Statewide Higher Education Networks <http://naehcy.org/legislation-and-policy/state-he-networks>
- NAEHCY Podcast Series
 - <http://naehcy.org/educational-resources/podcasts>
- NAEHCY Scholarship <http://naehcy.org/letendre-scholarship-fund/about-the-fund>
- College Access and Success Toolkit for Students Experiencing Homelessness
 - <http://naehcy.org/educational-resources/he-toolkit>

QUESTIONS

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