

Unaccompanied/Homeless Youth (UHY) Frequently Asked Questions

What is the definition of being an unaccompanied youth?

An unaccompanied youth is a person who is 21 years old or younger who is living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

What is the definition of being homeless youth?

A homeless youth is a person who is 21 years old or younger who lacks fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act? How do I know who my school district liaison is?

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal statute which ensures that homeless students are provided with certain types of support and recognition during K-12. It also requires that schools register homeless children even if they lack normally required documents such as immunization records or proof of residence. The McKinney-Vento act requires each public school district designate a liaison. If you are unsure who your liaison is, we would recommend contacting your district's office.

What does RHYA and HUD stand for, and how would I know if a shelter is funded by RHYA or HUD?

RHYA stands for the "Runaway Homeless Youth Act" it is a statute that is administered by the Family and Youth Services Bureau. HUD stands for "Housing and Urban Development" local governments use funding from HUD's Emergency shelter grant program to renovate, rehabilitate, or convert a building into an emergency shelter. We recommend students check the shelter's website if they have one or contact the shelter's director in order to determine if they have been funded by RHYA or HUD.

If something has changed in my living situation since I filed the FAFSA can I still be reviewed for unaccompanied/homeless youth consideration?

Yes, if you believe you currently meet the definitions provided above of an unaccompanied/homeless youth, you should complete the [Application for Unaccompanied/Homeless Youth Determination](#).

If I believe I qualify to be considered as an unaccompanied/homeless youth, do I also have to complete a Special Circumstances form?

No, if you are only requesting to be reviewed for Special Circumstances due to a belief that you qualify to be considered as an unaccompanied/homeless youth, you only need to complete the [Application for Unaccompanied/Homeless Youth Determination](#).

What if I am over the age of 21, but believe I qualify to be considered as an unaccompanied/homeless youth? Should I still complete the Application?

Yes, but anticipate the need for an interview due to the fact that your case will lack the ability to provide satisfactory documentation since you no longer meet the definition of "youth."