



Student Homelessness



FAFSA PROCESS

STEP 1

Determine your Circumstances



If you are a dependent student on the FAFSA but you're either unaccompanied and homeless OR unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of being homeless, the FAFSA will consider you to be **provisionally independent**, and will allow you to fill out the form as an independent student (parental information not required).

- **Unaccompanied** – not living in the physical custody of a parent or a legal guardian
- **Homeless** – lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing
- **Self-supporting** – student pays for their own living expenses, which includes paying for fixed, regular, and adequate housing
- **At risk of being homeless** – student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate, e.g., a student who is being evicted or has been asked to leave their current residence and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing

STEP 2

Gather Supporting Documentation



The following entities may provide you with documentation in support of your **homelessness circumstances**:

- Your local school district's homeless liaison (as designated by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)
- The director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving individuals who are experiencing homelessness
- The director or designee of a program funded under subtitle B of Title IV of McKinney-Vento (relating to emergency shelter grants)
- The director or designee of a Federal TRIO program or a GEAR UP grant
- A Financial Aid Officer at another institution who documented your circumstance in the same or a prior award year

STEP 3

Meet with the Financial Aid Office



Your **Student Aid Index (SAI)** will remain provisional and not official until the Financial Aid Office(s) at the postsecondary institution(s) you listed on the FAFSA make a final determination. The Financial Aid Office will review the supporting documentation you have gathered, and may ask you additional questions about your circumstances.

The Financial Aid Office will determine if your circumstances make you eligible to apply independently and, if so, will make any necessary updates to your FAFSA to formally make you independent.

