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## 2026-2027 UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH VERIFICATION FORM

### SECTION A: STUDENT INFORMATION

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT ID: \_\_\_\_\_

When you completed the 2026-2027 FAFSA, you answered YES to question 6 that asks, "At any time on or after July 1, 2025, was the student unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?" We are required by federal law to validate you meet the definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth.

**1. A SIGNED PERSONAL LETTER EXPLAINING YOUR FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.**

- ⇒ AT ANY TIME ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2025, WERE YOU CONSIDERED TO BE HOMELESS?
- ⇒ WHAT WERE YOUR (AND PARENTS) LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR? WITH WHOM HAVE YOU RESIDED? WHO HAS PROVIDED SUPPORT TO YOU DURING THE PAST YEAR?

**2. COMPLETE SECTION B OF THIS FORM, WHICH INCLUDES SUBMITTING THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- ✓ We cannot continue processing your financial aid until all required financial aid documents have been submitted.
- ✓ All required documents must be uploaded to your Financial Aid Student Self-Service Portal.
- ✓ We will update your FAFSA, if needed, based on the information provided on this form.

### SECTION B: UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH VERIFICATION

Please check the appropriate box below that fits your situation and provide the required documentation.

- ☐ The student's high school or school district homeless liaison (or designee), as designated by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)). **Documentation required:** Signed letter on official letterhead from a school district liaison certifying homeless or at-risk status as of 07/01/2025 or after. **Current WC students cannot submit a high school letter.**
- ☐ 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. **Documentation required:** Signed letter on official letterhead from a director of a qualifying shelter or program certifying homeless or at-risk status as of 07/01/2025 or after.
- ☐ The director (or designee) of a Federal TRIO program or a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) grant. **Documentation required:** Signed letter on official letterhead from a homelessness liaison certifying homeless or at-risk status as of 07/01/2025 or after.

If you are unable to provide the above documentation, you must correct the information you submitted on your 2026-2027 FAFSA, provide your parent(s) information, and resubmit your 2026-2027 FAFSA with you and your parent signature for re-processing.

### SECTION C: CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided by me or my family member is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand this request may require further documentation and is subject to the professional judgment of the Wilmington College Student One Stop Center staff. Any decision is final and applies only to Wilmington College. I understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information, I will be fined \$20,000, sent to prison, or both.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT IS HOMELESS?

"Homeless" means lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing. You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or temporarily living with other people because you have 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 otherwise provide a place to live.

## WHAT IS AN 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. 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 Title VII, subtitle 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, visit: <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, visit: <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, visit: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/index.htm#sub1>.