Office of Financial Aid
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Lincoln University, PA 19352
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2027-2028 Homeless Unaccompanied Youth Determination Form

You indicated in your 2027-2028 FAFSA that you are considered a Homeless Unaccompanied Youth. Using the McKinney-Vento definitions below, complete the following form, attaching any necessary documentation.

McKinney – Vento definitions:

• Unaccompanied: not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
• Homeless: lacking fixed, regular and adequate primary nighttime residence
• Youth: applicants who are under the age of 24 and are unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, can qualify for a homeless youth determination
  - Self-supporting: pays all living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing
  - At risk of being homeless: student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate

A. Student's Information

Students Last Name First Name M.I.	**Student ID #**
Students Phone Number	**Student's Email Address**

B. Student's Circumstances

Check one of the following circumstances and provide the information requested.

Option 1: Attach documentation verifying homelessness or risk of homelessness from one of the following:
- A Mckinney-Vento School District Liaison, or
- A director/designee of a HUD-funded shelter, or
- A director/designee of a RHYA-funded shelter.

Please note: Documentation from sources listed above must be dated on or after July 1, 2026.

Option 2: If you cannot obtain documentation from one of the above listed individuals, submit the following:
- Attach a separate statement summarizing your unusual circumstances that result in your being self-supporting, how you support yourself and your housing situation.

Please note: An additional conversation may be requested by the Financial Aid Office before a determination is made. Someone will contact you directly if this is necessary.

Option 3: If you do not qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth, or youth at risk of homelessness, you must do the following:
- Correct the information submitted on your 2027-2028 FAFSA, and
- Provide your parent(s) financial information, and
- Resubmit your 2027-2028 FAFSA with you and your parent signature for re-processing.

C. Certification and Signatures – Student MUST sign.

Each person signing below certifies that all the verification documents submitted with this certification are complete and correct.

Student's Signature (Required)	**Date**

Student Name: Student ID #:

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

Who Are 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.

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away from their homes each year. (1)Generally, youth leave home due to severe dysfunction in their families, including circumstances that put their safety and well-being at risk. Unfortunately, physical and sexual abuse in the home is common; studies of unaccompanied youth have found that 20 to 50% were sexually abused in their homes, while 40 to 60% were physically abused. (2)Parental drug use or alcoholism and conflicts with stepparents or partners also provoke youth to run away from home. (3) In a survey of unaccompanied youth in California, over half felt that being homeless was as safe as or safer than being at home. (4)

What About College? Can Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Apply for Federal Financial Aid? Yes, with assistance from advocates. Due to their severe poverty, homeless unaccompanied youth are extremely unlikely to be able to access postsecondary education without federal student aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the federal application form that students must complete in order to apply for virtually all types of financial aid: Pell Grants, State Grants, Institutional Grants, Tuition Waivers, Work Study, and Loans. The FAFSA requires most students to provide financial information from their parents or guardians to determine student eligibility for aid; the application also requires a parental/guardian signature. While these requirements are logical for most applicants, they can create insurmountable barriers for unaccompanied homeless youth. These youth do not receive financial support from their parents and do not have access to parental information. Thus, despite their great need for financial assistance, unaccompanied homeless youth cannot supply the information required by the FAFSA and are prevented from accessing financial aid.

Who are McKinney-Vento District Liaisons? Under subtitle VII-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, see: http://www.ed.gov/programs.homeless/legislatiomn.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 Mc Kinney-Vento Act. These funds are distributed to communities through a competitive grant process. For more information, see: 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, see: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/index.htm#sub1

iHammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). "Runaway / Thrownaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics." National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children. Washington DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. See also Greene, J. (1995). "Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At Risk Behaviors." Research Triangle Institute. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; National Runaway Switchboard, http://www.1800runaway.org/. ii Robertson, M. & Toro, P. (1999). "Homeless Youth: Research, Intervention, and Policy." Practical Lessons: The 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved July 18, 2007 from http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm. See also MacLean, M.G., Embry, L.E. & Cauce, A.M. (1999). "Homeless Adolescents' Paths to Separation from Family: Comparison of Family Characteristics, Psychological Adjustment, and Victimization." Journal of Community Psychology, 27(2), 179-187. iii Robertson & Toro, supra, note 10. iv Bernstein, N., supra note 1.

Student Name: Student ID #:

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FAA Determination: Considerations for students who are self-supporting and at risk of homelessness – Answer BOTH Questions.

1. Is the student self-supporting? (Self-supporting means the student is responsible for their own living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing.)

   ☐ Yes

   ☐ No

2. Is the student's housing likely to cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate? Is the student at risk of homelessness due to eviction or other loss of housing?

   ☐ Yes

   ☐ No

If the answer is "yes" to both questions, and the student is not under the care of a parent or guardian, they meet the definition of an unaccompanied youth who is self-supporting and at risk of homelessness and qualify as an independent student.

Action Taken – Select One.

☐ Independent student status as an unaccompanied homeless youth or unaccompanied and self-supporting and risk of homelessness CONFIRMED.

☐ Independent student status is NOT CONFIRMED. Please explain and include the next step for assisting the student with the FAFSA.

Print Name	Title
Signature (Required)	Date

Additional Notes: