



2021-2022 Homeless
Unaccompanied Youth
Verification Form

2122 HOMEELS

Financial Aid Office
401 Thomas Run Road
Bel Air, MD 21015
finaid@harford.edu

Instructions: You indicated on your FAFSA that at some time on or after July 1, 2020, you were determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless. To show that you meet the criteria to be considered an independent student, you must provide documentation (preferably from the person who made the determination). Please complete this form, attach the appropriate documentation, sign the statement below, and return this form to the Financial Aid Office.

Student's Name (Please Print)

H Student's Harford ID Number

Please respond to the following questions:

- 1. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? (If yes, you must provide documentation.) Yes No
2. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, 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? (If yes, you must provide documentation.) Yes No
3. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, 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? (If yes, you must provide documentation.) Yes No

If you do not have a determination but believe you are a homeless unaccompanied youth or are an unaccompanied youth who is at risk of being homeless and is providing your own living expenses, please attach a notarized letter from the person you temporarily lived with or who knows of your situation.

By signing this form, I certify that all of the information on this form is true, complete, and accurate.
Student's Signature Date

2021-2022 HOMELESS VERIFICATION FORM

SECTION I (Instructions)

Students who answered "Yes" on their FAFSA to being homeless must submit documentation to the Harford Community College Financial Aid Office, if this is the only criterion which makes the student independent. This form has been provided to enable students to demonstrate their independent status for financial aid purposes. Acceptable documentation, in lieu of this form, would be a signed letter (on letterhead) by any of the certifying officials listed in Section III. If you are unable to provide documentation, please schedule an appointment with a Financial Aid Officer.

SECTION II (to be completed by Student)

Student's Name

Harford ID #

Email Address

Phone Number

I hereby authorize the certifying official at _____ to release information regarding my homeless status (as of July 1, 2020 or later) to the Harford Community College Financial Aid Office.

Student's Signature

Date

SECTION III (to be completed by Certifying Official)

The student above may be eligible for financial aid as an independent student. When validation is complete, please return this form to the Harford Community College Financial Aid Office at 401 Thomas Run Road Bel Air, MD 21015. Please check only **one** option and sign below.

- Student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless (on or after July 1, 2020) **by a high school or school district homeless liaison.**
- Student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless (on or after July 1, 2020) **by the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development.**
- Student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless (on or after July 1, 2020) **by the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program.**

Print Name of Certifying Official

Phone Number

Date

Signature of Certifying Official

E-mail Address

Title of Certifying Official

Harford Community College
401 Thomas Run Road · Bel Air, Maryland 21015

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Fact Sheet

Beginning with the 2009-2010 academic year, the definition of an “independent student” was expanded to include any applicant who had been **verified during the school year in which the application is submitted as either:**

- An unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth, as such terms are defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or
- An unaccompanied youth who is at risk of homelessness **and** is also self-supporting.

Verification Requirements

Students who apply for assistance as an unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth, as such terms are defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act should be able to provide documentation of their status from a McKinney-Vento School District Liaison, a director or designee of a HUD-funded shelter, or a director or designee of a RHYA-funded shelter.

Critical Definitions

• **McKinney-Vento and CCRAA Definition of Homelessness:** Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence which includes:

- Living in shelters, motels, cars, OR
- Temporarily living with other people because the applicant had nowhere else to go.

The education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act is overseen by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, see: ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html

• **Unaccompanied 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. “Youth” means that the applicant (student) is 21 years of age or younger OR that the applicant is still enrolled in high school as of the day he/she completes the FAFSA. Applicants between the ages of 21-24 who otherwise meet all other criteria, should contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

• **McKinney-Vento School 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. A local educational agency (LEA) homeless liaison, designated pursuant to 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**; To find local liaisons: contact the Office State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. See: serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php.

• **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, see: hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/index.cfm

• **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: acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/index.htm#sub1

○ The director or a designee of the director of a program funded by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

To find Runaway and Homeless Youth Act service providers go to:

acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/programs/locate.htm