



Arizona Homeless Education Program

Supporting Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)
Part II

Housekeeping Items

- If you have questions throughout today's session, please share them in the following ways:
 - Enter simple questions into the Q&A feature or type them into the chat.
 - Save in-depth questions for after session office hours.
 - Email homeless@azed.gov with any LEA-specific questions.
- Today's session will be interactive. Please utilize the chat if you are unable to access polls.
- Today's session is being recorded. The recording and presentation slides will be made available to attendees after the training.
- All resources referenced in this training as well as the recording and presentation slides will be shared following the session on the Arizona Homeless Education Program website.
- AI note-taking and other tools are not permitted in ADE sessions.

Arizona Department of Education

The Arizona Department of Education is a service organization committed to raising academic outcomes and empowering parents.

Arizona Homeless Education Program

The mission of the Arizona Homeless Education Program is to ensure positive comparable academic outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness through implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Mission Statements





Meet the Team



Dr. Brittani (Didi) Roy
*Director of
Educational Policy
& Program Integrity*

**Homeless Education
Program**

**Homeless, Foster Care,
and Refugee Student
Support**



Rita Rodriguez
*Homeless Education
Program
Coordinator*



Marisa Peña
*Refugee Student
Support – Lead
Program Specialist*



Jan Brite
*Homeless Education
Program Grants
Specialist*



Gary Waiyaki
*Homeless Education
Program Data &
Monitoring Specialist*

Arizona Homeless Education Program





Today's Session

Common Acronyms and Terms

DOE

Department of
Education

ADE

Arizona
Department of
Education

HCY

Homeless
Children and
Youth

SIS

Student
information
system

BID

Best interest
determination

SEA

State Education
Agency

HEP

Homeless Education
Program

UHY

Unaccompanied
Homeless Youth

CBO

Community-
based
organization

NCHE

National Center
for Homeless
Education

LEA

Local educational
agency

**McKinney-Vento Homeless
Liaison of Record**

**Site-Based McKinney-Vento
Homeless Liaison**

SHC

SchoolHouse
Connection

TA

Technical
Assistance

Supporting UHY – Part I

Today's session is designed to be an extension of the information shared in a session we provided last year, **“Supporting UHY – Part I”**

If you missed it, check out the recording on the [Arizona HEP website](#).



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Training

Supporting Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)
March 2024

Arizona Department of Education
(602)542-4963
homeless@azed.gov

- Save in-depth questions for after session office hours.
- Email homeless@azed.gov with any LEA-specific questions.
- All resources referenced in this training can be located on the ADE HEP website and in the newsletter.

Attendees

Objective

McKinney- Vento Homeless Liaisons will...

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons will develop comprehensive skills regarding the legal requirements to **identify, remove barriers** to enrollment, and **support** the unique needs of unaccompanied students experiencing homelessness.
- Learn practical methodologies to **enhance** their local education agency's established **procedures**.

Pre-Assessment

Let's test your knowledge.

Pre-Assessment

1. Does a student have to experience a loss of housing to be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth?
2. Aside from the required Student Residency Questionnaire, what additional document or form is critical to the identification process for some unaccompanied homeless youth?
3. For youth seeking enrollment without a guardian or caregiver, must they provide proof of residency to enroll?

Review of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



- Legal Definition & Qualifying Ages
- Responsibilities of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison for UHY
- Arizona ESSA State Plan Requirement

Legal Definition of UHY

Homeless



Fixed: Stationary, permanent, not subject to change.



Regular: Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis.



Adequate: Lawfully and reasonably sufficient.

Does it sufficiently meet the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment?



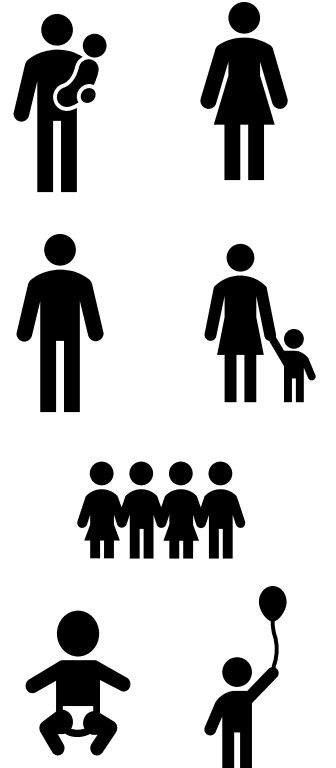
Unaccompanied

“Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian”

- Friend
- Family member
- Unsheltered on their own
- “Couch-Surfing”
- Homeless youth shelter



UHY



UHY Qualifying Ages

UHY may be any youth eligible for PreK-12 public education; up to 21 years old

Young UHY

Preschool to middle school

- Almost always with a caregiver
- Typically in the care of a family member or friend
- Placement with caregiver may change frequently
- May reside for short amounts of time with the parent or guardian, but not consistently due to lack of housing

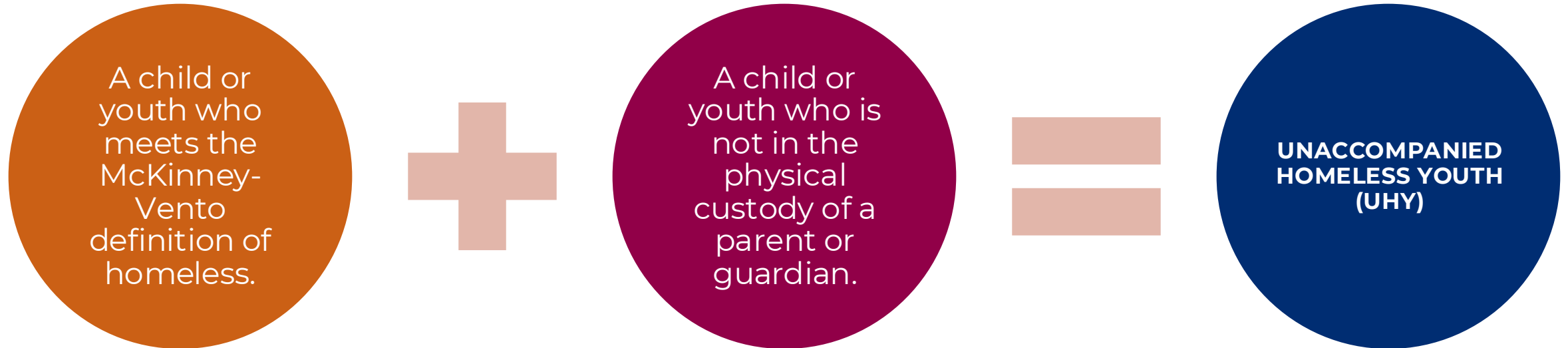
Adolescent UHY

Middle school to high school

- May be living on their own
 - May be with a caregiver
- May be with a caregiver who is a family member or friend
 - May be “couch-surfing”
- May be housed through a transitional housing program, without their parent/guardian

Identifying Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

The term **unaccompanied youth** includes a **homeless** child or youth **not** in the **physical custody of a parent or guardian**. Children of all ages (PS-12th grade) may be an unaccompanied homeless youth.



Responsibilities of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison

1. Homeless youth are **identified** through outreach with other agencies;

2. Homeless youth are **enrolled** in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school;

3. Access to federally required resources: HeadStart and other **preschool** programs, interventions under IDEA, etc.;

4. **Referral to well-being services:** health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing, etc.;

5. **Inform** families and youth of **educational opportunities** with meaningful opportunities to participate;

6. Provide understandable **public notice of educational rights** in locations frequented by homeless youth, guardians, and unaccompanied youth: schools, shelters, public libraries, soup kitchens;

7. Mediate enrollment **disputes** according to federal guidance;

8. Inform family and youth of all **transportation** services;

9. Provide **professional development** and support for all stakeholders who serve homeless students; and

10. Assist **unaccompanied youth** with: enrollment, academic access and success, and notification of “Independent” status and assistance for FAFSA.

10. Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

STAKEHOLDERS

- LEA enrollment office staff
- School counselors
- Homeless higher education liaisons
- Service providers
- School truancy officers
- Attendance clerks
- Financial aid administrators at local colleges and universities

REQUIREMENTS

- Develop a written internal plan to ensure the timely identification of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.
- Implement the use of the Caregivers Authorization Affidavit for situations when the child or youth is residing with someone other than their parent or legal guardian.
- Develop a written internal plan to address barriers that may present as youth that are living on their own without a parent or guardian to ensure the remove of barriers to enrollment.
- Establish procedures with school counselors to support youth in college and career readiness, as well as FAFSA completion.

“Functions of the Office of the **Coordinator** for the Education of Homeless Children and Youths established **in each State** shall **develop** and **carry out** the **State plan**.”

[\(42 U.S.C. § 11432\(f\)\(2\)\)](#)

McKinney-Vento Act



“To properly **identify** homeless students in the State of Arizona, LEAs are **required** to use either an electronic or hard copy of the **Student Residency Housing Questionnaire.**”

[Arizona ESEA Consolidated State Plan](#)

Arizona ESSA State Plan



Required Documents

Homeless Education Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire and Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths Requirements

As outlined in the [Arizona ESEA Consolidated State Plan](#), all local education agencies (LEAs), including charters, are required to utilize the **Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire and Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths** in the State of Arizona.

It is important to highlight that the Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire content, including its sequencing, was intentionally developed in conference with the US Department of Education, the National Center for Homeless Children and Youth (NCHE), and SchoolHouse Connection (SHC) to support LEAs in removing barriers and streamlining the process to identify and immediately enroll children and youth experiencing homelessness ([42 U.S.C. § 11432\(a\)\(1\)](#), [\(a\)\(2\)](#), [\(a\)\(3\)](#)).

To this end, **neither the substance nor sequence of the content within the Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire should be revised**. Please reference the following to ensure compliance with federal statutory and state requirements when utilizing these required documents.

Requirements to Ensure Statutory Compliance when Developing Required Documents

- LEA modifications to the Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire must follow the following guidelines:
 - Replace the Arizona Department of Education Homeless Education logo with the LEA's logo.
 - Do **NOT** modify or remove any existing questions, information, or elements, including the totality and sequence of questions.
 - Add any specific examples, information, context, or questions that may enhance the LEA's ability to identify students experiencing homelessness (i.e., primary nighttime residence examples, etc.).
 - The "For School Use Only" section of the Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire is to support the LEA in tracking the process of identification from the point of notification of the information provided to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison for the LEA's recordkeeping purposes.
- LEA modifications to The Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths must follow the following guidelines:
 - LEAs may **NOT** omit or withhold access to information about any of the rights as outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths resource was developed to include information about all the rights within the law. To this end, LEAs may **NOT** omit any information included.
 - Fill in all the information requested for the LEA Homeless Liaison in the designated space. Do **NOT** remove the State Homeless Education Program Coordinator information.

Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire and The Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths Requirements, 8/2024

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Homeless Education Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire

Information contained on this form is confidential and used to determine whether a child or youth meets the definition of homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program as authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.). Please note, false claims about living situations may affect enrollment.

Section A

Today's date: _____

Name of individual completing this form: _____

Your telephone number: _____ Your email address: _____

Student name: _____

Last school attended: _____ Current grade: _____ Birth date: _____

Do you have additional children attending school in our district? Yes No

Do you have children of the preschool age? Yes No

Please provide information about additional children attending school in our district or of preschool age

| Last Name | First Name | Grade | School | District |
|-----------|------------|-------|--------|----------|
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Address of where the student slept last night: _____

Is this address based on a temporary living arrangement due to the loss of housing? Yes No
(Examples: sharing the housing with others due to economic hardship or similar reason, hotel/motel, shelter, transitional housing, car, park, campsite, and inadequate housing, including no running water, electricity, or adequate space)

NOTE: If you checked "No" to the temporary living arrangement, you may STOP here. If you checked "Yes", please continue to the next section.

Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire, 8/2024

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Homeless
Liaison

Unaccompanied youth: Yes No Transportation to school of origin needed: Yes No

Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire, 8/2024

Homeless Education The Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths

The LEA/Charter District shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every homeless student shall have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and unaccompanied youth, applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless:
The term "homeless children and youth"— means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)].

A student may be considered eligible for services as a "Homeless Child or Youth" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if he or she is presently living in one of the following situations:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason,
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations,
- living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals,
- have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings,
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, or
- is a migratory child who qualifies as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.

The Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths, 8/2024

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The Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths, 8/2024

Homeless Education ADE Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit (Sample Form)

The information on this form is required to meet The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), also known as the McKinney-Vento Act. There are situations when a child or youth who is homeless may not be able to reside with their parent or guardian; however, this fact does not nullify the child's/youth's right to receive a free, appropriate public education. This form is not a legal document and solely for school contact only.

The adult "caregiver" requesting enrollment for a minor student presenting him/herself for enrollment and educational services while not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian shall complete this form.

By signing below, I acknowledge the following:

- I am 18 years of age or older and have agreed to fulfill the role of caregiver for the minor student named below, who is unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- I agree to make a good faith effort to encourage the minor student named below to attend school.
- I will attempt to contact the school office if I become aware that the minor student named below will not be attending school on that day(s) and share whether the absence is with or without my approval.
- I have provided the school district with proof of my residence and personal identification.
- I understand that signing this document does not make me the legal guardian of the minor student listed below or make me financially responsible for the minor student, even if I am providing financial support to the student.
- I understand that I may choose to make educational decisions on behalf of the minor and in all other ways stand in for the authorizing party with respect to federal, state and district educational policy, including, but not limited to, accessing the minor's educational records, representing the minor in enrollment, disciplinary, curricular, special education or other matters, signing permission slips for school activities, and any other decision that facilitates the minor's educational experience.

Student Information
Name of the minor student: _____ Date of birth: _____
Last school or district the student attended: _____

Caregiver Information
Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
Home address: _____
Telephone number(s): _____ Email address: _____

General Information
Please check one and provide additional information if it is available:
 The student is staying at my home address, as listed above.
 The student is staying at the following location:
Please check any that apply:
 While I am currently helping with the care of the minor student, I do not wish to assist school officials with making education-related decisions.
 I have notified the parent(s) or other person(s) having legal guardianship of the minor of my intent to assist school officials with making education-related decisions in the best interest of the student and have received no objection. Please provide the name and phone number for the parent: _____
 I am unable to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Caregiver Signature: _____ Date: _____

For School Use Only
This form should accompany the Student Residency Questionnaire. Send the original forms to the LEA Homeless Liaison. The student's cumulative file should not include a copy of this form and you should make copies under any circumstances.
Name of school site personnel who enrolled the student: _____

Revised 8/2023

Arizona SRQ and Educational Rights of HCY Requirements

Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire

The Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths

Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit

Arizona HEP Website

You can find these resources on the Arizona HEP website on the [Guidance & Sample Documents for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons](#) webpage by clicking the dropdown **“Required Documents for all Arizona Local Education Agencies.”**



The screenshot shows the Arizona Department of Education website. The header includes the state seal, the text 'ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION', a language selection dropdown, and social media icons. A navigation menu lists 'Parents', 'Educators & Administrators', 'Programs', 'About ADE', 'Data & Systems', 'ADEConnect', and 'Local School Board Members'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home / Homeless Education / Guidance & Sample Documents for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons'. The main heading is 'Guidance & Sample Documents for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons'. The text explains that LEAs are required to ensure rights and services for homeless students and lists various resources. A 'New Resource!' section highlights a new guidance document. On the right, a sidebar contains links to the homepage, liaison resources, grant funding, monitoring, data, and contact information for Rita Rodriguez, State Homeless Education Program Coordinator. At the bottom, two blue buttons are visible: 'Required Documents for all Arizona Local Education Agencies' and 'Liaison Role & Responsibilities'.

Exploring The Experiences of UHY



- UHY Terms to Understand
- Caregivers of UHY
 - Scenario #1: Charlie's Story
 - Identification at time of enrollment
- UHY on Their Own
 - Scenario #2: From Street to Lot
 - Identification throughout the school year

UHY: Terms to Understand

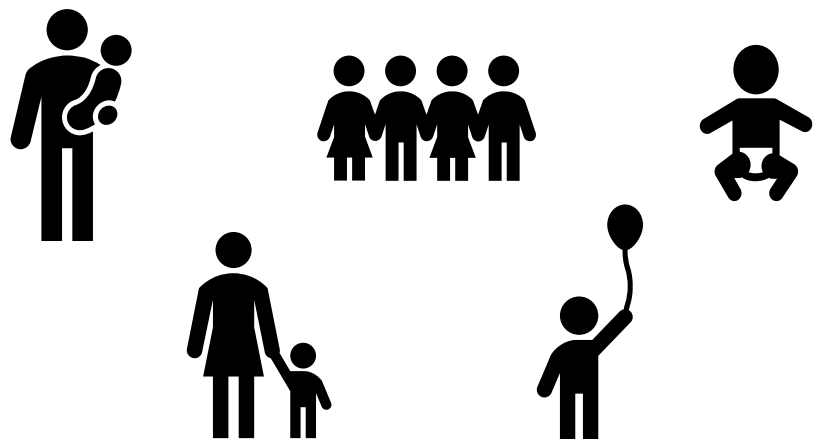
Homeless



Unaccompanied



UHY



Caregiver



Youth on Their Own

Caregivers of UHY

A “**caregiver**” is:

a **responsible adult**, 18 years of age or older who has agreed to **fulfill the role of caring** for the minor child or youth and they **do not have legal court appointed guardianship**.

Not all children and youth who are in the **physical custody of a caregiver** are **experiencing homelessness**, so they **may not** all qualify as UHY.

Thus, it is important to **refer** these situations to the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison** to determine all the details regarding the placement of the child or youth with the caregiver.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison will conduct the eligibility determination.

Scenario #1 – Charlie's Story

The following scenario is a **common occurrence**.

Often, UHY fall through the cracks, and it isn't until there is a **need** for support that their loss of housing is **discovered**.

It's imperative to ensure students are **identified** to provide **timely support and access** to all services.

Scenario #1 – Charlie’s Story

Charlie has been living with his aunt and uncle Brown since his parents were incarcerated unexpectedly in October. They live in another part of the state that’s about two hours away.

As soon as Charlie moved in with the Browns, they took him to the local school in their attendance area to enroll him.

The Browns live in a small community, and everyone knows one another. The office staff is especially familiar with the Browns because their children attended the school, and they have been known to care for children to help family members out.

What process should the local education agency have established to ensure a student with a similar request for enrollment is identified as experiencing homelessness?

Scenario #1 – Charlie's Story

The Browns explain to the enrollment office that Charlie's parents are currently incarcerated, and they have not had any contact with them since the incarceration. However, they assure the office staff that Charlie's parents are aware that Charlie is living with them.

The Browns complete the enrollment process and Charlie starts school immediately with no delay.

What should the school enrollment team have done upon learning about Charlie temporarily living situation with the grandparents?

Scenario #1 – Charlie's Story

About a month later, the school nurse conducts an audit of immunization records and discovers that Charlie's immunization records are missing. The school nurse reaches out and that's when she discovers that Charlie is living with his grandparents and that his parents were suddenly incarcerated, he didn't have anywhere to live so the Browns who are his grandparents took him in.

**The school nurse
knows about
McKinney-Vento. What
should they do next?**



Information contained on this form is confidential and used to determine whether a child or youth meets the definition of homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program as authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.). Please note, false claims about living situations may affect enrollment.

Section A

Today's date: 10/15/24

Name of individual completing this form: Mrs. Brown

Your telephone number: 480-000-0000 Your email address: mrsbrown@gmail.com

Student name: Charlie Brown

Last school attended: Great Pumpkin Elementary Current grade: 4 Birth date: 1/1/2014

Do you have additional children attending school in our district? Yes [checked] No []

Do you have children of the preschool age? Yes [] No []

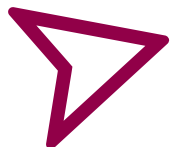
Please provide information about additional children attending school in our district or of preschool age.

Table with 5 columns: Last Name, First Name, Grade, School, District. It contains 6 empty rows for data entry.

Address of where the student slept last night: 123 N Anystreet, Anytown, USA

Is this address based on a temporary living arrangement due to the loss of housing? Yes [checked] No [] (Examples: sharing the housing with others due to economic hardship or similar reason; hotel/motel; shelter; transitional housing; car; park; campsite; and inadequate housing, including no running water, electricity, or adequate space)

NOTE: If you checked "No" to the temporary living arrangement, you may STOP here. If you checked "Yes", please continue to the next section.



Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire

Page 1

Section B

Name of the parent/guardian/adult caring for the student: Mrs. Brown

Relationship to the student: Grandmother

If the address you provided in section A is based on a temporary living arrangement, is it due to loss of housing or economic hardship? Yes No

Please place an "X" in each box that best describes where the student sleeps at night.

- In a place that does not have windows, doors, running water, heat, electricity, or overcrowded
- Staying with a friend or relative because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
(Example: eviction, foreclosure, fire, flood, lost job, divorce, domestic violence, kicked out by parents, ran away from home)
What date did you begin staying here? _____
- In a shelter/transitional housing program (name of agency): _____
What date did you begin staying here? _____
- In an unsheltered location (e.g. tent, vehicle, abandoned building, streets, campground, park, bus/train station, or similar place)
Provide the main cross streets of this unsheltered location: _____
- In a hotel/motel (name of hotel/motel & address) _____
What date did you begin staying here? _____
- With an adult that is not a parent or court appointed legal guardian
- Alone, not in the care of a parent or court appointed legal guardian
- None of the above (Please explain): The parents are currently incarcerated and we are taking care of him.

The following signature certifies that the information provided above is accurate. False claims about living situations may affect enrollment.

Mrs. Brown 1/15/24

Signature of Person Providing Information _____ Date _____
Parent/Legal guardian/Caregiver/Student

For School Use Only

Please note, the student's cumulative file should not include a copy of this form. **Do not make copies of this form.** If Section B is filled out, please notify the LEA Homeless Education Liaison, and provide the original form to them.

Name of school site personnel who enrolled the student: _____

Please check the housing types that apply:

Sheltered Doubled-up Unsheltered/FEMA/Substandard Hotel/Motel

Unaccompanied youth: Yes No Transportation to school of origin needed: Yes No

Date received
by Homeless
Liaison

Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire

Page 2

Identification

At Time of Enrollment

*A new enrollment request was received. The SRQ indicates the student may meet the definition of homeless. They are not in the physical custody of their parent or legal guardian, **now what?***

Office Staff
Immediately
Enroll the
Student

Office Staff
Request
Completion
of
Caregiver's
Authorization
(CA)

Office Staff
Forward the
SRQ and CA
to the
Liaison

**Liaison's
Responsibility**

Eligibility
Determination

**Liaison's
Responsibility**

Notification to
District Level
Supports

**Liaison's
Responsibility**

Ongoing Case
Management



The information on this form is required to meet The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), also known as the McKinney-Vento Act. There are situations when a child or youth who is homeless may not be able to reside with their parent or guardian; however, this fact does not nullify the child's/youth's right to receive a free, appropriate public education. This form is not a legal document and solely for school contact only.

The adult "caregiver" requesting enrollment for a minor student presenting him/herself for enrollment and educational services while not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian shall complete this form.

By signing below, I acknowledge the following:

- I am 18 years of age or older and have agreed to fulfill the role of caregiver for the minor student named below, who is unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- I agree to make a good faith effort to encourage the minor student named below to attend school.
- I will attempt to contact the school office if I become aware that the minor student named below will not be attending school on that day(s) and share whether the absence is with or without my approval.
- I have provided the school district with proof of my residence and personal identification.
- I understand that signing this document does not make me the legal guardian of the minor student listed below or make me financially responsible for the minor student, even if I am providing financial support to the student.
- I understand that I may choose to make educational decisions on behalf of the minor and in all other ways stand in for the authorizing party with respect to federal, state and district educational policy, including, but not limited to, accessing the minor's educational records, representing the minor in enrollment, disciplinary, curricular, special education or other matters, signing permission slips for school activities, and any other decision that facilitates the minor's educational experience.

Student Information

Name of the minor student: Charlie Brown Date of birth: 1/1/2014

Last school or district the student attended: Charles M. Schulz Elementary

Caregiver Information

Name: Mrs. Grandma Brown Date of birth: n/a

Home address: 123 N Anystreet, Anytown, USA

Telephone number(s): 480-000-0000 Email address: mrsbrown@gmail.com

General Information

Please check one and provide additional information if it is available:

- The student is staying at my home address, as listed above.
- The student is staying at the following location: _____

Please check any that apply:

- While I am currently helping with the care of the minor student, I do not wish to assist school officials with making education-related decisions.
- I have notified the parent(s) or other person(s) having legal guardianship of the minor of my intent to assist school officials with making education-related decisions in the best interest of the student and have received no objection.

Please provide the name and phone number for the parent: _____

I am unable to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Caregiver Signature: Mrs. Grandma Brown Date: 10/15/24

For School Use Only

This form should accompany the Student Residency Questionnaire. Send the original forms to the LEA Homeless Liaison. The student's cumulative file should not include a copy of this form and you should not make copies under any circumstances.

Name of school site personnel who enrolled the student: _____

Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit

An adult "caregiver" requesting enrollment for a minor student may utilize this form to assist school officials with making education-related decisions in the best interest of the student.

UHY On Their Own

A **youth on their own** is:

A child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent, guardian, or caregiver, and without a stable home.

Often, UHY on their own are fully **supporting themselves**.

UHY on their own may be “couch-surfing”, unsheltered, or working to obtain housing.

Because many of these youth have little or no support from a responsible, caring adult, the local **McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison’s interest and involvement** in an unaccompanied youth’s education is **especially valuable** and can be **life-changing**. ([NCHE, 2017](#))

Scenario #2 – From Street to Lot

In July, the Arizona Homeless Education Program received a **request for support** from a Youth Outreach Case Manager within the organization **Keys to Change**.

This scenario highlights the importance of **quality training** for your local education agency's staff and **strong partnerships** with community-based organizations.

[Click here to view the video "A day inside downtown Phoenix's homeless encampment 'The Zone'"](#)

Scenario #2 – From Street to Lot

The email read, “We work with homeless youths from 18-24 most often in the downtown Phoenix area. I'm attempting to understand the most effective way to utilize the McKinney-Vento act, as **a number of youths** we've encountered through our program **are in school** or **attempting to return to school after dropping out**. I'm confident our clients can be considered Unaccompanied Homeless Youths.

I'm hoping you can provide me with a **point of contact**, or at least a general outline of the **first steps** in assisting a homeless youth to best utilize the benefits of the McKinney-Vento program. I'm having trouble understanding whether a youth who is not currently enrolled in high school can engage with MV, or if they must be enrolled, at which point the school staff assists them with MV? Can MV help get youths enrolled/re-enrolled into school? Any clarity would be greatly appreciated.”

Would it be appropriate for a Liaison to meet with the case manager regarding this youth?

Scenario #2 – From Street to Lot

- Loss of Housing: Occurred at some point during the school year.
- School of Origin: Unknown, but he was attending school. Eventually the student stopped going to school due to the lack of transportation, clean clothes, food.
- Primary Nighttime Residence: SOS Lot “Shelter”
- The youth expressed desire to finish high school at the school where he was attending when he was kicked out of his home.
- He was determined to get out of his situation and break the cycle.

What are the next steps a Liaison should take when learning about a situation like this?

Identification

Throughout the School Year

*Someone has discovered a student that might be homeless and unaccompanied, **now what?***



Identification

Throughout the School Year



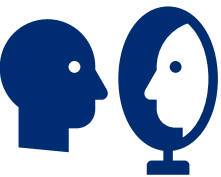
- **Referral from district and school staff**

- Ensure awareness of UHY and how to refer in annual district training



- **Referral from community-based organizations (CBOs)**

- Ensure awareness, communication, and collaboration to streamline the identification of UHY



- **Self-Identification by UHY**

- Support awareness by posting the “Information for School-Age Youth” Public Notice Poster

Scenario #2 – From Street to Lot

I provided the case manager an overview of the **Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youth**, reviewing the school of origin right and explained this is based on the best interest of the youth.

I advised him that I would reach out to the school the student was last attending (school of origin) and make a **warm introduction** to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison. I also promised to email him a copy of the **Student Residency Questionnaire** so he was familiar with the questions that may be asked and the **Educational Rights** of Homeless Children and Youth to help **guide his follow up** conversation with the youth.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison replied to my request, connected with the case manager at Keys to Change. Ultimately, the youth was supported with school **enrollment** and **transportation** was arranged for the youth.

Who at the local education agency has a legitimate educational interest in knowing that this student is experiencing homelessness?

Access to Higher Education & the FAFSA Simplification Act



- UHY and FAFSA Requirement
- FAFSA Provisions for UHY

“Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (I)(J)(ii), shall ensure that— **unaccompanied youths**—

(I) **are enrolled in school**;

(II) **have opportunities** to meet the same challenging State **academic standards** as the State establishes for other children and youth, including through implementation of the procedures under paragraph (I)(F)(ii); and

(III) are **informed** of their **status** as **independent** students under section 1087vv of title 20 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the local educational agency liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 1090 of title 20.”

[42 USC (g)(6)(A)x]

McKinney-Vento Act

Unique Needs of UHY



UHY and FAFSA

“**Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness** who are not living with, or supported by, a parent or guardian. Therefore, under the Higher Education Act, they are **considered independent students** and **do not need to provide a parent’s signature or information** about parents’ income on the **FAFSA.**” ([SchoolHouse Connection, 2024](#))

- **2024-2025 FAFSA**

- FAFSA Simplification Act enacted, yet the application rollout was late, affecting many students

- **2025-2026 FAFSA**

- Available to a small group of students via a phased roll-out on **October 1, 2024**
- Available to all students on **December 1, 2024**

FAFSA Provisions for UHY

Per the **FAFSA Simplification Act** and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, **new FAFSA provisions** for **unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY)** and foster youth are in effect for the **2025-2026 FAFSA**:

1. **Homeless** and foster care status does **not** need to be **redetermined** every year.
2. **Determinations** of unaccompanied homeless and foster youth status must be made as **quickly** as practicable.
3. The **list of officials** and programs authorized to verify that an applicant is an UHY has **expanded**.
4. Financial aid administrators must accept certain documents if an institution requires documentation that a student was in foster care when the student was 13 or older.
5. **Financial aid administrators** must make a determination of **UHY** for youth who cannot get determinations from other authorities.
6. **Financial aid administrators** must make **UHY** and foster youth **determinations** following the processes **outlined in the law** - it is not a matter of professional judgment.

[\(SchoolHouse Connection, 2023\)](#)

Higher Ed Resources Spotlight



with Jillian Sitjar

Director of Higher Education Partnerships
SchoolHouse Connection

[Click here to view the video "Higher Education Resources Spotlight with SchoolHouse Connection"](#)

Post-Assessment

Let's test your knowledge.

Post-Assessment

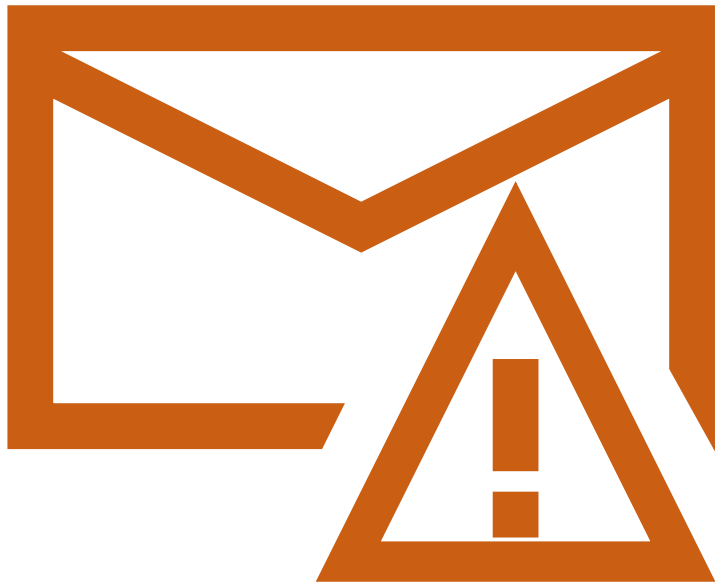
1. Does a student have to experience a loss of housing to be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth?
2. Aside from the required Student Residency Questionnaire, what additional document or form is critical to the identification process for some unaccompanied homeless youth?
3. For youth seeking enrollment without a guardian or caregiver, must they provide proof of residency to enroll?

Post-Assessment Results

1. Does a student have to experience a loss of housing to be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth?
 - ✓ Yes
2. Aside from the required Student Residency Questionnaire, what additional document or form is critical to the identification process for some unaccompanied homeless youth?
 - ✓ Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit
3. For youth seeking enrollment without a guardian or caregiver, must they provide proof of residency to enroll?
 - ✓ No



Closing & Next Steps



Technical Assistance

Arizona Department of Education
Homeless Education Program

(602)542-4963

homeless@azed.gov



Optional Office Hours
