RANDOLPH COMMUNITY COLLEGE | OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2027-2028 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification Form

Student: _____

Date of Birth: _____

RCC Student ID or SSN: _____

Current Mailing Address of Student (if none, please list name, phone number, and mailing address of current contact):

_____

_____

I am providing this letter of verification as a (check one):

☐ A McKinney-Vento School District Liaison

☐ A director or designee of a HUD-funded shelter: _____

☐ A director or designee of a RHYA-funded shelter: _____

As per the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84), I am authorized to verify this student's living situation. No further verification by the Financial Aid Administrator is necessary. Should you have additional questions or need more information about this student, please contact me at the number listed above.

This letter is to confirm that _____ was (check one of the following):

- ☐ An unaccompanied homeless youth after July 1, 2026. This means that, after July 1, 2026, _____ was living in a homeless situation, as defined by Section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Act and was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- ☐ An unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness after July 1, 2026. This means that, after July 1, 2026, _____ was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, provides for his/her own living expenses entirely on his/her own, and is at risk of losing his/her housing.

Authorized Signature	Date
Print Name	Telephone Number
Title	
Agency	

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.[i] 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.[ii] 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 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: https://www.ed.gov/letter-chief-state-school-officers-about-educational-rights-of-homeless-children-and-youths-under.

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, see: https://www.hud.gov/findshelter

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: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth

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[i] Hammer, 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.