

★ FAFSA- Unaccompanied Youth, Poverty, Underserved Populations

How do liaisons, teacher, principals, and counselors help make dreams a reality?

◆ Homeless?

Defining Homeless

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Children and youth awaiting foster care placement
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

★ Question 56

“At any time on or after July 1, 2014, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?”

★ Question 57

“At any time on or after July 1, 2014, 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 or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?”

★ The Letter

McKinney Vento Liaisons can fill out this letter and Fax or Send this to the students financial aid office. www.naehcy.org

SSI #.

DOB

Current Mailing Address

★ Hold FAFSA Day

- As close to January 1st as possible
- Invite Tax preparation persons
- Invite McKinney-Vento Families with Seniors and Unaccompanied Youth that are getting ready to graduate, underserved populations.
- Have high school counselors or high school teachers that are knowledgeable to lead the event
- Invite local community college financial aid officers
- Include food, door prizes, etc.

★ Help Financial Aid is denying my student

- ❑ Listen to what your youth are telling you
- ❑ Call the financial aid office and help them work through the issues
- ❑ Call 1-855-446-2673

★ Past unaccompanied youth is denied

- ❑ Listen and respond to youth needs
- ❑ Learn what local programs can qualify youth- ask financial aid office
- ❑ Write a letter that explains situation- encourage youth to get others to write; whom also know situation
- ❑ Financial AID Director is responsible for deeming student unaccompanied
- ❑ Call 1-855-446-2673

★ What can high schools do?

- Make sure Councilors are fully aware of McKinney-Vento, fostercare- guidances during FAFSA
- Encourage, Liaisons, Teachers, and Counselors to help unaccompanied youth prepare for college
- Encourage at risk youth to take tours and attend college days
- Watch out for predatory for profit colleges
- Encourage at risk youth SAT or ACT

★ Scholarship Workshop Days

- Invite all at risk kids
- Hold more than one after school program etc.
- Encourage attendance
- In computer labs
- Invite School guidance counselors
- Compile a list of Scholarships local, State Level, National level, Collegiate level
- Encourage students to recycle essays

✦ Empowerment

We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination.

Nelson Mandela