2026-2027
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Unusual Circumstance Verification

Financial Aid Office
3200 West C Street
Torrington, WY 82240
p: 307.532.8224
f: 307.532.8222
financialaid@ewc.wy.edu

Either through personal conversation with a Financial Aid staff member, or through the FAFSA, you have indicated that you received a determination **on or after July 1, 2025**, that you were either an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, at risk of being homeless, or have an unusual circumstance due to abuse or neglect, parental abandonment, or other situations where contact between you and your parent(s) is non-existent. You may be eligible for additional educational services through Title X, Part C, Federal McKinney-Vento Assistance Act. Additional information and resources are included on this form.

RESOURCES AND DEFINITIONS

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.

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: https://www2.ed.gov/programs/ahy/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. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, you may be considered homeless even if your parent would otherwise provide a place to live.
- **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: https://nche.ed.gov/data/
- **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.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/
- **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/programs/runaway-homeless-youth
    - 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: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/grants/fysb-grantees
- **Unusual Family Circumstance:** Young people who are not residing with a parent due to family circumstances such as abuse or neglect, parental abandonment, or other situations where contact between the student and parent(s) is non-existent. This student may meet the living circumstances described in the unaccompanied youth definition, *or* may be in a more stable living situation such as living with a friend or relative on a more permanent basis. Students in this situation may need to complete our Request for Independent Status Form.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the above definitions as well as the information provided on Page 3 of this form. **If a McKinney-Vento, HUD, or RHYA designated official can confirm your status, you ONLY need to submit a Liaison Letter OR page 2 of this form.** You do NOT need to complete or submit page 3 or page 4. **If a designated official cannot confirm your status, you *must* complete page 3 and page 4** (do not complete page 2) of this form and submit to the EWC Financial Aid Office.

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This form is to be completed by a designated official

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 *(shelter name)*:_____
- ☐ A director or designee of a RHYA-funded shelter *(shelter name)*:_____

This letter is to confirm that_____was:
Print student name

- ☐ **an unaccompanied homeless youth after July 1, 2025.**
  After July 1, 2025, the student listed above 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, 2025.**
  After July 1, 2025, the student listed above 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.

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 below.

Authorized Signature	Date
Print Name	Phone Number
Title	
Agency	

Return completed form to:

Eastern Wyoming College
Financial Aid Office
3200 West C Street
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-8224 or 1-866-327-8996 Ext 8224
Fax: (307) 532-8222

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REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Please review the "Resources and Definitions" section. Once you have determined which definition/circumstance most closely relates to your situation, please submit the required documentation for one of the following:

1. **A McKinney-Vento, HUD, or RHYA designated official can confirm your status.** If a designated official can verify your status as an unaccompanied homeless youth OR an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of **homelessness on or after July 1, 2025,** please submit one of the following:

   - ❑ An Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification Form (provided on page 2) completed by a designated official, **OR**
     - *You do NOT have to complete page 3 or page 4 if you utilize this option. Just submit page 2.*
   - ❑ A McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Letter provided by a designated official. The letter *must* be on official letterhead.
     - *You do NOT have to submit this form if you utilize this option. Just submit the letter.*

2. **A designated official cannot confirm your status.** If a designated official **cannot** verify your status as an unaccompanied homeless youth, an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness, *or* as a youth who has an unusual family circumstance, please submit this completed form along with the following:

   - ❑ A typed (or neatly hand-written), signed statement that explains in detail to the extreme, the unique, and/or unusual family circumstances that prevent you from obtaining/providing parent information for your financial aid application.
   - ❑ A signed statement from a third party who is knowledgeable of your family situation and can verify the reason you are unable to provide your parents' information. Appropriate third-party statements are from clergy, school counselors, teachers or similar professionals. This third party should be someone unrelated to you. The statement should be on **letterhead and should list the person's relationship to you and a contact number.**
   - ❑ If you are living with a friend or relative (rather than living on your own), provide a signed statement from that friend or relative confirming your living situation and any knowledge they have about your circumstances. The statement should include the person's relationship to you and a contact number.
   - ❑ DO NOT COMPLETE THE UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH VERIFICATION FORM ON PAGE 2.

* **Please note:** students whose circumstances most closely relate to Option 2 are not guaranteed approval as an Independent Student. Documentation will be reviewed, and the Financial Aid Office may request additional information or an appeal to determine eligibility.

PLEASE NOTE: PAGE 3 AND PAGE 4 ONLY NEED TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENTS WHOSE STATUS CANNOT BE CONFIRMED BY A DESIGNATED OFFICIAL.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____ Student ID Number _____ Social Security Number *(last four digits)* _____

Current Mailing Address *(include apartment number)* if you have one _____ E-mail Address _____

City, ST, Zip _____ Phone Number *(include area code)* _____

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

- ❑ **I rent/own my own home.**
- ❑ **I do NOT rent/own my own home.**

List information for the people in your current household. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Full name of household member	Age	Relationship to student	College attending/employer
		Self	*EWC*

Please note: ALL fields are required. If a section is left blank, or if all areas are marked "N/A" without a sufficient explanation, the form will be returned to you and marked as incomplete.

Status

UNACCOMPANIED

When was the last time you lived with your parent(s)?

- ☐ 2024 or earlier
- ☐ 2025 – Month: _____
- ☐ 2026 – Month: _____
- ☐ 2027 – Month: _____

What is your parent(s)' living situation?

- ☐ On their own/with you
- ☐ With a relative or friend
- ☐ In a shelter
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ Both parents are deceased

Where do your parent(s) currently reside? If not known, please write/type "not known" on the line for City. If both parents are deceased, please write/type "N/A" on the line for City.

City: _____

State: _____

Country (if not United States):

_____

SELF-SUPPORTING

Do you currently have a job, or have you had a job since July 1, 2025?

- ☐ Yes, currently working
- ☐ Yes, but no longer working
- ☐ No

How are your food or grocery needs being met (who pays for them)? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Self
- ☐ Parent
- ☐ Relative/Friend
- ☐ Benefits

If you have a vehicle that you drive to/from school or work, please indicate the status of ownership:

- ☐ Vehicle paid for by self
- ☐ Vehicle paid for by parent
- ☐ Vehicle paid for by other
- ☐ N/A (other mode of transportation)

If you have a vehicle that you drive to/from school or work, please indicate who usually pays for gas and/or vehicle maintenance (oil changes, etc.):

- ☐ Paid for by self
- ☐ Paid for by parent
- ☐ Paid for by other
- ☐ N/A (other mode of transportation)

Please also indicate who paid for auto insurance:

- ☐ Paid for by self
- ☐ Paid for by parent
- ☐ Paid for by other
- ☐ N/A (other mode of transportation)

If you have a cell phone, who pays the monthly bill?

- ☐ Paid for by self
- ☐ Paid for by parent
- ☐ Paid for by other

Nighttime Residence

FIXED

Is your current residence a permanent or temporary arrangement?

- ☐ Permanent
- ☐ Temporary

If temporary, will you be losing your current housing within the next six months to one year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A (permanent)

If you are living with someone else – are you sharing the home/residence equally, or are you more like a guest?

- ☐ N/A – living alone
- ☐ Shared residence
- ☐ Treated as a guest

If you are living with someone else- could the household members ask you to leave?

- ☐ N/A – living alone
- ☐ Yes, they could ask me to leave
- ☐ No, they could not ask me to leave

REGULAR

Do you stay in the same place every night?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you have a key to the place you are living?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How long have you lived at your current address?

- ☐ 2 years or more
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- ☐ Less than 6 months

How long do you plan to stay at your current address?

- ☐ 2 years or more
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- ☐ Less than 6 months

How long did you live at your last address?

- ☐ 2 years or more
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- ☐ Less than 6 months

ADEQUATE

How many bedrooms does your current residence have?

- ☐ No bedroom (car, etc.)
- ☐ 1 bedroom
- ☐ 2-3 bedrooms
- ☐ 4 bedrooms or more

How many bathrooms does your current residence have?

- ☐ No bathroom
- ☐ 1 bathroom or more

Are you sleeping in a public area like a dining/living room?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes, sleeping in another type of public area
- ☐ Sleeping in vehicle
- ☐ No

Does your current residence have heat, electricity and running water?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Can you enter and leave the residence as you please?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

The undersigned certifies that the information provided on this form is accurate.

_____

Print Student Name *Signature* *Date*

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both.