Flowchart for McKinney-Vento Eligibility Determinations

This flowchart is meant to aid you in making decisions about a student’s eligibility as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), but it may not capture every housing situation. For the complete definition of homeless, visit https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/. For more information on making determinations, see the related issue brief from the National Center for Homeless Education at https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/det_elig.pdf.

- **Nighttime Residence**
  - Missing one or more of the following traits: fixed, regular, and adequate
  - Fixed, regular, and adequate; Living in the same place each night in a safe and sufficient space

- **Doubled Up**
  - Due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
  - Mutual decision made to live together for mutual benefit

- **Hotels, Motels, Trailer Parks, Campgrounds**
  - Due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
  - Due to family choice; e.g., when a permanently housed parent accepts a new job and the family stays temporarily in a hotel, RV, etc. until they obtain new, permanent housing
A place not meant for people to live; e.g., porch, barn, storage unit, streets, car, etc.

Substandard housing; e.g., unsafe, not up to code, etc. (Contact district liaison for guidance)

Family lost housing; unable to stay together in same place; placed child temporarily with someone else

Child or youth lives apart from parent/guardian due to domestic violence or family conflict; housing is not fixed, regular, adequate

Parent abandoned child; did not make long-term child care arrangements

Parent has a work conflict & made arrangements for child to stay with others

Incarcerated or hospitalized parent did not make arrangements for child’s care

Incarcerated or hospitalized parent arranged for child to stay with caregiver

Housing Type

Situations below pertain to unaccompanied youth, i.e., youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

HOMELESS

NOT HOMELESS

National Center for Homeless Education  https://nche.ed.gov/  800-308-2145