

Q&A

Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness and Post-Secondary Education

Question: I have a student who I understand recently lost his parent and he is looking to live independently. Does this student qualify as McKinney-Vento and can the student receive the services being discussed for post-secondary education?

Answer: There are more details required to determine eligibility for McKinney-Vento resources. To start, review the [eligibility flowchart](#) from our [eligibility resources page](#). If the student is deemed [to be an unaccompanied homeless youth and](#) McKinney-Vento eligible, then they should receive all the services they are eligible for in building a [post-secondary education](#).

Question: Is there a time limit to when a FAFSA can be amended? For example, a student's housing situation changes after they have completed the FAFSA- is there a deadline for revisions to the FAFSA form?

Answer: There is no timeline for revisions to the FAFSA. Students are required to report any information regarding changes to their dependency and residential status. 90% of FAFSA forms are filled online, so filling out changes is a simple process and can also be done with a financial aid administrator if they need help doing so.

Source: [Application and Verification Guide to the FAFSA 2021-2022](#).

Additional Post-Secondary Sources: [Higher Education and Post-Secondary Opportunities](#)

Question: Would it be helpful for teachers to know who the students are that have McKinney-Vento eligible status (that is, identified as homeless)? Does this also apply to guidance counselors? What about large school districts that might "miss" a student's hardship for a lack of reporting or sharing a status with teachers?

Answer: The short answer to these questions is no. [See the law on Privacy](#): Information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information, under section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g). HOWEVER- if this information helps an educator or counselor better serve the student, just as in the provisions of sharing a student's accommodations on their IEP, then that information should be shared privately with the direct instructor or counselor.

Question: If a student has changes after the FAFSA has gone into effect, does the student need to complete another FAFSA or complete a new one for the following year?

Answer: If a student has changes after the 2022-2023 period, then they would fill out a renewal form with the changes for the 2023-2024 school year.

Source: [Federal Student Aid – Making Changes to Your FAFSA](#)

Question: What happens to a student's FAFSA and college acceptance if the student was all set to go to college but has to take a gap year when their family loses housing?

Answer: The student should work directly with a financial aid counselor to determine eligibility. In many cases it is easier for the student to already be McKinney-Vento eligible, but if a situation changes in the timeline between acceptance and enrollment, the student must work with the financial aid administrator.

Resources: [Higher Education and Post-Secondary Resources](#)

Question: Is the minimum GPA for financial 2.0 for all students, or is there leeway for McKinney-Vento eligible students?

Answer: There are no federal adjustments to GPA minimums- HOWEVER- [different schools are making adjustments to support MV students in earning their degrees.](#)

Additional source: [College and Career Counseling for Students Experiencing Homelessness: Promising Practices for Secondary School Counselors](#)

Question: What are McKinney-Vento subgrant funds?

Answer: Subgrant funding is available to LEA's which includes school districts and charter schools through a competitive application process administered by the New York State Education Department. Applications for the McKinney Vento competitive grant are available every three years. LEAs who successfully secure a three-year grant may use funds to provide programs and activities that support the school success of students experiencing homelessness.

Source: [2022-2025 McKinney-Vento Grant Program Informational Webinar and resources/RFP](#)