

McKinney-Vento Act

Who are Homeless Children and Youth?

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines

“homeless children and youth” (school-age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.

- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

The term *unaccompanied youth* includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include runaways living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing; children and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to “throwaway children and youth”); and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available.

*** Determinations and qualification of homelessness are made on a case-by-case basis and can only be made by the Homeless Liaison. ***

For further information regarding the

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