

Contact Information for Homeless Education in California

To access the most recent CDE list of district homeless liaisons follow link below. The Excel spreadsheet is updated annually, most often in February. Note that while the information is usually accurate, those listed may not be familiar with McKinney-Vento procedures or, occasionally, may not even know they have been assigned to the role. Be prepared to explain why you are contacting them and the general process.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/homelessliaison.xls>

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

The NAEHCY is an excellent source of resources and additional information regarding unaccompanied and/or homeless youth. The link below should have answers to all your questions. You'll even find an electronic version of the sample McKinney-Vento verification letter (just make sure to change the dates!).

<http://www.naehcy.org/toolkit-high-school-counselors>



Search Site



Supporting Opportunity and Success for Foster Youth Scholars

Foster Youth Scholars

Supportive Adults

Campus Professionals

Get Involved

Home » Explore Campus Support Programs

Explore Campus Support Programs

Campus support programs that are specifically designed for foster youth can be a great resource while attending college. The range of services provided by these programs varies considerably and can include personal and academic counseling, financial assistance, housing, mentoring and much more. The most accurate information about each program can be gained by directly contacting the program to learn more about what their program offers. You can download a [list of questions](#) to ask of campus representatives to get the best idea of whether the specific program will meet your needs.

To search by college, [click here](#).

To compare colleges, [click here](#).

To search by geography, type of institution, and available services, [click here](#).

If a campus isn't listed here they may still have some resources for foster youth. Every community college has a designated point of contact for foster youth known as a **Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)** liaison. You can download a list of FYSI contacts [here](#).

[Click here](#) for a complete list of foster youth contacts at **California State Universities**.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of foster youth contact at **University of California** campuses.

In addition, programs to support the educational needs of students challenged by social and economic barriers, known as **Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP)** or **Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)**, exist at all publicly funded colleges and universities in California.

[Click here](#) for a list of community college EOPS contacts

[Click here](#) for a list of Cal State University EOP contacts

[Click here](#) for a list of University of California EOP contacts

Other support is also available for parenting students at Community College through [Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education \(CARE\)](#) programs and [California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids \(CalWORKS\)](#). Students with disabilities can receive additional support through [Disabled Students Program and Services \(DSPS\)](#).



Stay Informed

Sign up for email advisories and stay up-to-date on the latest policies and practices related to higher education and foster youth.

Your Name *

Your Name

Your E-mail Address *

Your E-mail Address

Organization

Organization

Affiliation

- None -

Submit

Content Feedback

If you are aware of other foster youth campus support programs not listed or have corrections to the information included here, please let us know.

Your E-mail Address

Comments

Submit

PLACE ON AGENCY LETTERHEAD

**Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification
For the Purposes of Federal Financial Aid**

Re: Name of Student

DOB: x/x/xxxx

SSN: xxx-xx-xxxx

Current Mailing Address of Student (if none, please list name, phone number, and mailing address of current contact): _____

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: _____
- A director or designee of a RHYA-funded shelter: _____
- A financial aid administrator: _____

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 above.

This letter is to confirm that NAME OF STUDENT was: (check one)

- an unaccompanied homeless youth after July 1, 2014

This means that, after July 1, 2014, NAME OF STUDENT 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, 2014.

This means that, after July 1, 2014, NAME OF STUDENT 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.

Authorized Signature	Date
Print Name	Telephone Number
Title	
Agency	

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

Who are Unaccompanied Homeless 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.

Between 1.6 and 1.7 million youth run away from their homes each year.ⁱ Generally, youth leave home due to severe dysfunction in their families, including circumstances that put their safety and well-being at risk. Unfortunately, physical and sexual abuse in the home is common; studies of unaccompanied youth have found that 20 to 50% were sexually abused in their homes, while 40 to 60% were physically abused.ⁱⁱ Unaccompanied youth do not receive financial support from their parents and do not have access to parental information.

Who are 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. The education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act is overseen by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, see:
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html>

What are 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: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/index.cfm>

What are 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:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/index.htm#sub1>

ⁱ Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). "Runaway / Thrownaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics." *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children*. Washington DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. See also Greene, J. (1995). "Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors." *Research Triangle Institute*. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; National Runaway Switchboard, <http://www.1800runaway.org/>.

ⁱⁱ Robertson, M. & Toro, P. (1999). "Homeless Youth: Research, Intervention, and Policy." *Practical Lessons: The 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research*. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved July 18, 2007 from <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>. See also MacLean, M.G., Embry, L.E. & Cauce, A.M. (1999). "Homeless Adolescents' Paths to Separation from Family: Comparison of Family Characteristics, Psychological Adjustment, and Victimization." *Journal of Community Psychology*, 27(2), 179-187.