



Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships • 1500 University Dr • Billings, MT 59101-0298
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Homeless Unaccompanied Youth Information

You indicated on the “Dependency Status” section of your 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) that at any time on or after **July 1, 2024**, you were determined to be:

1. An unaccompanied youth who is homeless
or
2. An unaccompanied youth who is self-supporting (providing your own living expenses) and is at risk of being homeless.

Please review the definitions below before proceeding:

Unaccompanied – means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.

Homeless – means lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

Youth – means you are 23 years of age or younger as of the day you signed your 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

At risk of being homeless – means your housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate. For example, being evicted and unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

Self-supporting – means you pay for your own living expenses, includes fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

Use these instructions to confirm your status and submit supporting documentation.

Select the Appropriate Status	Required Documentation/Actions
High School – I am an Unaccompanied Youth who was determined homeless or at risk of being homeless by a high school or school district homeless liaison.	Submit a copy of the letter from your <i>McKinney-Vento</i> School District Liaison determining your homeless status on high school/school district letterhead with a school official signature.
HUD Director – I am an Unaccompanied Youth who was determined homeless or at risk of being homeless by the director (or designee) of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by HUD (U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development).	Submit a copy of the letter determining your homeless status with the certifying official’s signature on official letterhead.
Youth Center/TRIO/GEAR UP – I am an Unaccompanied Youth who was determined homeless, or at risk of being homeless, by the director (or designee) of street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center program, or program funded under a TRIO/GEAR UP grant.	Submit a copy of the letter determining your homeless status on the official letterhead with the certifying official’s signature.
Undetermined Homeless and Unaccompanied Status – I meet the criteria for homeless and unaccompanied status. My status has not been verified by a certifying official or agency. But I am homeless or at-risk of homelessness and I am attaching other supporting documentation from a recognized 3rd party such as: health professional, social worker, employer, mentor, doctor, or clergy member.	Attach a statement letter and a letter from a third party, which verifies your explanation statement. If you have trouble obtaining this documentation, please indicate this in your letter
I was not determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless by either organization above. However, I am unable to provide parental information on my FASFA or other financial aid forms due to unusual circumstances and I would like to contact a school official to discuss my situation.	Contact Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships call (406) 657-2188, email finaid@msubillings.edu or visit https://www.msubillings.edu/finaid/Unusual_and_Special_Circumstances.htm
I made an error on my FAFSA. None of the above situations/criteria apply to me.	Go to https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa to correct the information on your FAFSA. You will need to provide parental financial information. You and one parent must sign the FAFSA before submitting.