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Name _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

The Higher Education Act (HEA) uses the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of homeless, which includes youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and unaccompanied, which includes youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This definition is broader than shelters or the streets; it includes:

- Staying with others temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons
- Staying in motels due to lack of adequate alternative accommodation

The HEA uses at-risk of homelessness to refer to students whose housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

Deadlines

Fall 2026- September 4, 2026

Spring 2027- February 5, 2027

Summer 2027- May 14, 2027

This form is to be used to assist in determining your status as an independent student. If you have documentation from one of the authorized entities listed below to attest that you have experienced homelessness as an unaccompanied youth, or was unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness you may skip the questions and move on to page 3 to sign and date the form. **Note: If the documentation you provide is not from an authorized entity or we need further explanation, we may ask you to submit the questions below.**

- School district homeless liaisons or their designee
- Director or designee of the director of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving individuals who are experiencing homelessness
- Director or designee of a director of a program funded under a TRIO or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for an Undergraduate program ("Gear Up") grant
- Financial aid administrator at another institution who previously decided

If documentation from one of the authorized entities listed above is not available, please answer the questions below.

The answer to the questions below will be used to determine your request for independent status.

1) Are you under the care of a parent or guardian?

Yes

No

2) In which of the following situations do you currently reside (you may choose more than one):

Motel

Car

Campsite

Shelter or other temporary housing program

Substandard housing (housing that is insufficient to meet the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment)

Temporarily staying with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason

ID # **A**

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 Name _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

If you are temporarily staying with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, please answer the following 2 additional questions.

- 1) If you are staying with another household, check the circumstances that apply:
- Loss of housing
 - Economic hardship resulting in inability to secure and maintain fixed, regular, and adequate housing
 - Other (including, for example, when it is not safe for you to live with a parent or guardian, when a parent or guardian has forced you to leave home, and other situations of abuse or conflict):
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- 2) Where would not stay at your current location:

- Motel
- Car
- Campsite
- Shelter or other temporary housing program
- Substandard housing (housing that is insufficient to meet the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment)

Considerations for Students who are self-supporting and at risk of homelessness.

- 3) Are you self-supporting? (self-supporting means the student is responsible for their own living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing.)
- Yes
 - No
- 4) Is your housing likely to cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate? Are you at-risk or homelessness due to eviction or other loss of housing?
- Yes
 - No

