

Page Title: Homeless Circumstances

You indicated that you were homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Since you are over the age of 21, only you must follow up with your financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend so that they can make the determination that you meet the homeless conditions. These conditions, ~~which~~ include both of the following:

Commented [A1]: The FAA is should be clearly identified and defined in previous screens for the student, or added to the HELP text on the side that explains who they are in a supportive way, since students are referred to them in the screens that follow.

You are homeless, which means you are lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, or cars, abandoned buildings, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, you may be considered homeless even if your parent would otherwise provide support and a place to live; and

Students who are homeless routinely struggle with imbalanced power dynamics and abuse. We prefer to align language of "follow up" here instead of "only the FAA can make" so that it does not imply so strongly that one individual controls the entire process.

Commented [A2]: Consistent with DCL.

You are unaccompanied, which means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.

If you believe that you meet these conditions and would like to follow up with ~~the~~ your financial aid administrator, ~~at your college~~, select "I am homeless or at risk of being homeless" and click Next to get additional information.

Commented [A3]: Many students not yet enrolled.

If you do not meet the above conditions and will instead be providing parental information, select "I will provide parental information" and click Next to continue.

I am homeless or at risk of being homeless

Commented [A4]: Should come in order listed.

I will provide parental information

~~I am homeless or at risk of being homeless~~

Page Title: ~~Unable to Provide Parental Information~~ Homeless or at Risk of Being Homeless

Commented [A5]: The title of this slide should not imply a defect.

You told us that you are or are at risk of being homeless.

Please ~~r~~Review the following to continue:-

~~We will allow you to~~ You may submit your FAFSA without parental information, however, your FAFSA will not be considered "complete." ~~At this time, we will not calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is the index used by colleges to determine how much student aid you are eligible to receive. In order to fully complete your FAFSA and determine how much student aid you are eligible to receive, you must follow up with your "financial aid administrator" at the college you plan to attend.~~

Commented [A6]: See previous slide question about definition of FAA.

Only your financial aid administrator can make the determination that you meet the homeless conditions and are therefore not required to provide parental information. They are required to respond to your request for a determination.

If you are able to provide written evidence of your situation from people like school counselors, social workers, service providers, or clergy, you should gather this information to provide your financial aid administrator, but it is not required.

If you do not have written evidence of your situation, your financial aid administrator may make a determination about your status based on a documented interview with you. After reviewing your circumstances carefully, your financial aid administrator will decide if you meet the homeless conditions.

Commented [A7]: The AVG and DCL GEN-15-16 clearly state that if a student does NOT have written documentation, the FAA can make the determination based on a documented interview. If the language only mentions written evidence, it is both intimidating and defeats the purpose of a streamlined FAA determination.

Remember, we will not calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) until you have received a determination of homeless status from your financial aid administrator. Because your FAFSA is not considered complete, we will not calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is the index used by colleges to determine how much student aid you are eligible to receive.

If you are approaching any deadlines for your state, college, or scholarship aid, you may want to contact your financial aid administrator before submitting your FAFSA without parental data.

Commented [A8]: This adds another layer of complexity and doubt for the applicant. We prefer to strike. Does the Department have data to support the premise there are many students who false submit a FAFSA as homeless but who do not meet the eligibility criteria, and then ultimately miss out on state or institutional aid? If not, we do not understand the point of this warning.

Once you submit your FAFSA, you must follow up with the financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend, in order to complete your FAFSA and receive an EFC. Also, note the following:

- ~~Under Federal law, only your financial aid administrator has the authority to decide whether or not you meet the homeless conditions and are not required to provide parental information on your FAFSA.~~
- ~~You will have to provide documentation to verify your situation. Gather as much written evidence of your situation as you can. Written evidence may include court or law enforcement documents, letters from a clergy member, school counselor or social worker, and/or any other relevant data that explains your special circumstance.~~

~~After reviewing your circumstances carefully, your financial aid administrator will decide if you meet the homeless conditions. Your financial aid administrator's decision is final and cannot be appealed to Federal Student Aid.~~

Select one of the following options and click Next to continue.

I acknowledge the above information, including that I must follow up with my financial aid administrator to receive a determination of homeless status and that my FAFSA will be submitted without calculating an EFC at this time.

I will provide parental information

~~I am unable to provide parental information and acknowledge that my FAFSA will be submitted without calculating an EFC~~

Commented [A9]: We disagree strongly with this language and are striking. Why would FAAs adhere to the guidance in the DCL if they know that there is no federal oversight and youth have no recourse after they make their decisions? It also implies that the Ombudsman cannot be used to help resolve situations, even when we know that FAAs are often making questionable decisions in this area that later get corrected. This statement is both intimidating and unnecessary.

Commented [A10]: The primary purpose of this screen is to present information, not to confirm that you are unable to provide parental information—that is the previous screen. We have reworded it.