



## Identifying Homeless Students in Doubled Up Situations

Adapted from National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)  
"Determining Eligibility for Rights and Services Under McKinney Vento Act"

1. Get the facts. What is the family's or youth situation?
  - ▶ Use a standard enrollment form that asks about the family's living situation to gather initial information
2. Analyze the facts. Is the student eligible for McKinney Vento Services?
  - ▶ To be eligible, the student must meet the Act's definition of homeless.
  - ▶ Defines "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

Does the child's living situation fit one of the specific examples of homelessness listed in the law?

Shelter Motel Transitional Housing Awaiting Foster Care Doubled Up Car Park/Public Space

**Doubled Up is defined as "Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, or economic hardship."**

**A. Sharing the housing of another person**

- ▶ Did the student move into the home as an urgent measure to avoid being on the street?
- ▶ Is the situation temporary

**McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions**

**B. Due to loss of housing**

- ▶ An eviction
- ▶ Had to leave due to domestic violence, infestations, inadequate physical environment (no utilities)
- ▶ Destruction of home (house fire, flood)
- ▶ Absence of parent/guardian due to abandonment (incarceration)

**McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions**

**C. Economic Hardship: *The way that shared housing came about and intention is very significant***

- ▶ Limited resources forced families to leave their personal housing to share housing due to inability to pay
- ▶ Such as an accident, illness, loss of employment or benefits forces families to share housing temporarily

**McKinney Eligible if Yes to these questions**

**A long-term, cooperative living arrangement among family or friends should not be considered a homeless situation, even if the parties live together to save money**

**Sample Questions to ask**

Why are you staying at your current place? – If they mention anything from A, B, C category, They are eligible

Are you on the lease? If answer is no - They are eligible

Are you sharing the home equally or are you guests? – If guests, They are eligible

Is this a temporary situation? – If Yes, they are Eligible

Could your friends/relatives ask you to leave if they wanted to? – If Yes, they are eligible

**Indicators a family may be homeless**

Move around a lot

Excessive absences and tardies

Outdated, incorrect contact information

Reluctant to share personal information

If you are uncertain if the family is eligible for McKinney Vento, please contact your LEA Homeless Liaison. If you are not sure who your Homeless Liaison is, please check here: <http://www.azed.gov/homeless/liasons/>

*Any further questions can be sent to: Silvia Chavez, AZ State Coordinator for Homeless Education  
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