



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Training

Supporting Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)
March 2024

Arizona Department of Education
(602)542-4963
homeless@azed.gov

Housekeeping Items

- A link to this recorded presentation and slides will be provided to attendees following the training.
- If you have questions, please share them in the following ways:
 - Enter simple questions into the Q&A feature or type them into the chat.
 - Save in-depth questions for after session office hours.
 - Email homeless@azed.gov with any LEA-specific questions.
- All resources referenced in this training can be located on the ADE HEP website and in the newsletter.



Meet the Team

The Office of Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Education Programs



Dr. Brittani (Didi) Roy
*Director of
Educational Policy &
Program Integrity*

Homeless Education Program



Rita Rodriguez
*Homeless Education
Program
Coordinator*



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*Homeless Education
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*Foster Care
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Program Specialist

Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Student Support



Arizona Department of Education & SchoolHouse Connection

Karen Rice

Senior Program Manager of Education Initiatives, K-12 SchoolHouse Connection



- Provides **professional development** and **practical assistance** on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and best practices for implementation.
- Focuses on supporting states and districts in **utilizing** and **implementing ARP-HCY funds**, as well as the intersection of **homelessness** and **immigration**.
- Experience as a:
 - McKinney-Vento and Migrant Education State Coordinator in WI
 - Held several school district level positions over 10 years working with the Spanish-speaking community and with students and families experiencing homelessness.
- **Passionate** about **connecting with** and **supporting** those in the **field** who provide direct service to children, youth, and families.



Anasofia Trelles

Senior Program Manager, K-12
SchoolHouse Connection



- Provides **practical assistance** and **professional development** to rural, urban, and suburban LEAs of various sizes. Engages with students, parents, and advocates, to **effect change** in **education policies** at local, state, and federal levels.
- Experience...
 - In New York City public schools supporting students including those experiencing homelessness and English-Language Learners (ELLs) and at New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students.
- As a first-generation Latina, she is **committed** to ensuring all students have **equitable access** to high-quality **education** across all levels.



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Arizona Department of Education & SchoolHouse Connection



Today's Session

Common Acronyms

SEA - State educational agency

LEA - Local educational agency

HEP - Homeless Education
Program

BID - Best interest determination

HCY - Homeless Children and
Youth

UHY - Unaccompanied Homeless
Youth

SIS - Student information system

CBO - Community-based
organization

Objective

Attendees will **develop skills** to identify, immediately enroll and support **UHY**, and

Examine the unique **challenges** that impact UHY to **prioritize** recommended practices to **remove barriers** for such children and youth.

Pre-Assessment

Let's test your knowledge.

Pre-Assessment

1. The definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth is: ...
2. Which statement(s) are true? Select all that apply. ...
3. True or False: LEAs may impose a standard practice to contact law enforcement or child welfare agencies upon the identification of all UHY.
4. The qualifying ages for UHY are: ...

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)



- Definition of UHY
- Housing Circumstances of UHY
 - Caregivers
 - Youth On Their Own
- UHY Qualifying Ages
- Common Experiences of UHY
- Unique Challenges UHY Face

“Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (I)(J)(ii), shall ensure that— **unaccompanied youths**—

(I) **are enrolled in school**;

(II) **have opportunities** to meet the same challenging State **academic standards** as the State establishes for other children and youth, including through implementation of the procedures under paragraph (I)(F)(ii); and

(III) are **informed** of their **status** as **independent** students under section 1087w of title 20 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the local educational agency liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 1090 of title 20.”

[42 USC (g)(6)(A)x]

McKinney-Vento Act

Unique Needs of UHY



"The McKinney-Vento Act defines the term **“homeless children and youths”** individuals who **lack** a **fixed, regular**, and **adequate** nighttime residence.

[42 USC § 11434a(6)]

"The McKinney-Vento Act defines **unaccompanied youth** as “a homeless child or youth **not** in the **physical custody** of a **parent** or **guardian**”

[42 USC § 11434a(6)]

McKinney-Vento Act

UHY Definition





Legal Definition of UHY

Homeless



Unaccompanied



UHY



Fixed: Stationary, permanent, not subject to change.



Regular: Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis.

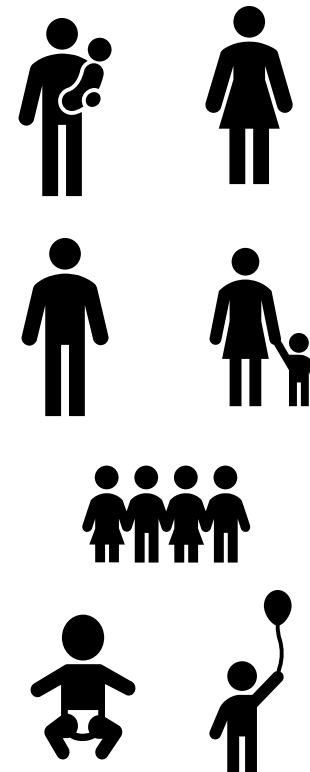


Adequate: Lawfully and reasonably sufficient.

Does it sufficiently meet the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment?

“Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian”

- Friend
- Family member
- Unsheltered on their own
- “Couch-Surfing”
- Homeless youth shelter





UHY: Terms to Understand

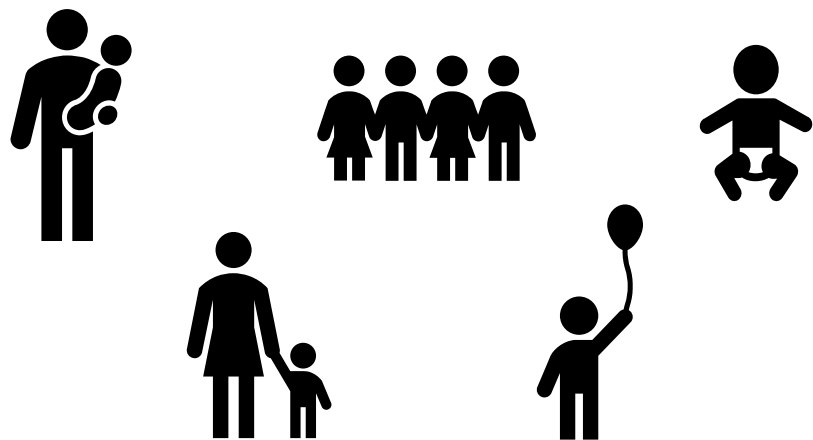
Homeless



Unaccompanied



UHY



Caregiver



Youth on Their Own



Caregivers of UHY

A “**caregiver**” is:

a **responsible adult**, 18 years of age or older who has agreed to **fulfill the role of caring** for the minor child or youth and they **do not have legal court appointed guardianship**.

Not all children and youth who are in the **physical custody of a caregiver** are **experiencing homelessness**, so they **may not** all qualify as UHY.

Thus, it is important to **refer** these situations to the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison** to determine all the details regarding the placement of the child or youth with the caregiver.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison will conduct the eligibility determination.



UHY On Their Own

A **youth on their own** is:

A child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent, guardian, or caregiver, and without a stable home.

Often, UHY on their own are fully **supporting themselves**.

UHY on their own may be “couch-surfing”, unsheltered, or working to obtain housing.

Because many of these youth have little or no support from a responsible, caring adult, the local **McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison’s interest and involvement** in an unaccompanied youth’s education is **especially valuable** and can be **life-changing**. ([NCHE, 2017](#))



UHY Qualifying Ages

UHY may be any youth eligible for PreK-12 public education; up to 21 years old

Young UHY

Preschool to middle school

- Almost always with a caregiver
- Typically in the care of a family member or friend
- Placement with caregiver may change frequently
- May reside for short amounts of time with the parent or guardian, but not consistently due to lack of housing

Adolescent UHY

Middle school to high school

- May be living on their own
 - May be with a caregiver
- May be with a caregiver who is a family member or friend
 - May be “couch-surfing”
- May be housed through a transitional housing program, without their parent/guardian



Common Experiences Leading to UHY Eligibility

Unaccompanied youth arrive in their situation for a variety of causes:

Family Dysfunction

- “Blended family” conflict - parent has a new partner, who may have children of their own
 - Substance abuse
 - Pregnancy
 - Sexual activity
 - Sexual and/or gender orientation
-
- Family homelessness, yet the child or youth is not able to stay in shelter or placement

Parental Absence

- Neglect and abandonment
 - Abuse
 - Incarceration
 - Mental and/or Physical Illness
 - Deportation
 - Death
-
- Aging out of foster care, yet still obtaining high school diploma





Unique Challenges UHY Face

Educational Impacts

- Lack safe, stable housing
- Lack support from a caring adult
- Lack basic needs resulting in hunger, fatigue, and poor health
- Lack consistent access to bathing and laundry facilities
- Lack access to school records or paperwork
- Difficulty accumulating credits due to school mobility
- Lack clothing, school supplies
- Employment that interferes with attendance
- Lack reliable transportation

Lifelong Impacts

- Mental health and substance abuse
- Physical health needs – pregnancy, STDs, untreated illness
- Victimization - physical and sexual assault, human trafficking
- Pushed to criminal activity to survive
- Suicide risk heightened





Share Your Knowledge

Given the **unique situations** of unaccompanied homeless youth,
what are some **challenges** they or their caregiver may
experience **enrolling** in school?

Type your
answer in
chat!



Mindfulness Moment

**IT'S EASY TO THINK
NO ONE CARES.
THAT'S JUST
NOT TRUE.**

Lexi Geampa
SHC Scholar 2021
Oregon State University



Identification and Enrollment of UHY



- Barriers to the Identification of UHY
- Identification and Enrollment Procedures
 - Identification Tools
 - Identification at Time of Enrollment
 - Identification Throughout the School Year
- School Engagement Strategies
- Recommendations



Barriers to Identification of UHY

Often, identifying unaccompanied homeless youth can be challenging, as they may not share their circumstance due to:

- A lack of awareness or understanding of the McKinney-Vento Act
 - Consider how a youth may understand the word “homeless”
- Avoiding the stigma of being labelled “homeless”
- Avoiding discomfort when explaining their circumstance that led to experience homelessness
- Fear of being treated differently by school staff and/or their classmates
- Fear of reporting to child welfare, immigration, and other law enforcement agencies.

"The McKinney-Vento Act defines **“enroll”** and **“enrollment”** as, **attending** classes and **participating fully** in school activities.

[42 USC § 11434a(1)]

McKinney-Vento Act

Enrollment



“LEAs are required to ensure that UHY are enrolled in school, have opportunities to **immediately enroll** and promptly provide necessary services.”

[42 USC § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(x)]

McKinney-Vento Act

Enrollment



“**Lack** of a legal guardian or guardianship documents **cannot delay** or **prevent** the **enrollment** of an unaccompanied youth.”

[42 USC § 11432 (g)(3)(C), (g)(1)(H)(iv)]

McKinney-Vento Act

Documents



“LEAs must **develop, review, and revise policies** to remove **barriers** to the **identification, enrollment, and retention** of children and youth (including preschool-aged children and unaccompanied youth) experiencing homelessness in school, **including barriers to enrollment** (re-enrollment) and retention due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences.”

[42 USC §1432(g)(1)(I)]


McKinney-Vento Act

Removal of Barriers





Identification Procedure

 **Homeless Education** **ADE Sample McKinney-Vento Identification Procedures for Homeless Children and Youth**

First step for any enrollment is to determine if the student might be homeless.

School sites will include the Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ) and Rights of Homeless Students in *all* enrollment methods. When requested by the parent, guardian, caregiver, or student, please provide the paper version of McKinney-Vento identification forms.

If a paper version of the SRQ is completed upon enrollment, the school office staff will evaluate the screen questions on the completed SRQ.

If the SRQ is completed through the online enrollment process, the Homeless Liaison will establish a process with their Student Information System team to receive that information.

If question #1 answered "yes," and the address listed on the SRQ is within the school boundaries enroll the student immediately and send SRQ form to McKinney-Vento office.

- Email: (email address)
- The McKinney-Vento staff will follow up with the parent, guardian, caregiver, or student to conduct an interview. The school site will receive a notification to confirm the eligibility decision.

Pay special attention the section on the SRQ that asks about youth that may not reside with a parent or legal guardian due to any of the following reasons:

- Loss of housing or economic hardship.
- Incarceration or deportation of parent/guardian
- Abandonment
- Other reason

If the form indicates this is the currently living situation for the child, utilize the Student Caregiver Affidavit, and enroll the child immediately. Then, provide this form to the Homeless Liaison along with the SRQ.

Email: (email address)

- The McKinney-Vento staff will follow up with the caregiver to conduct an interview. The school site will receive a notification to confirm the eligibility decision.

Reminder: A student who is eligible for McKinney-Vento does not need to provide:

- Affidavit of Shared Residency
- Birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Open enrollment application
- Power of Attorney (POA) or guardianship documents (for situations involving an unaccompanied youth)
- Proof of residence in Arizona or attendance area (Affidavit of Arizona Residency)
- School records from previous district, including documents related to special education services

McKinney-Vento identification overrides all other requirements.

For guidance documents related to the procedures outlined in this document, please click on the following link, [Federal Education for Homeless Children and Youths \(EHCY\) Program Profile](#).


ADE Sample McKinney-Vento Identification Procedures for Homeless Children and Youth Revised 9/2023

- Establish internal and external procedures to **expedite identifications** and ensure the **immediate enrollment** of UHY
- Develop, review, and revise policies and procedures to **remove** existing and potential **barriers** to the identification and enrollment of UHY
- Provide UHY context in **training** for internal partners
- Collaborate with **community partners** to share your LEA's process for UHY identifications

Find this sample document and download for use at www.azed.gov/homeless



Identification Tools



ADE Student Residency Questionnaire
(Sample Form)

Information contained on this form is confidential and used to determine whether a child or youth meets the definition of homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program as authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq. False claims about living situations may affect enrollment.

Section A

Today's date: _____ Student Name: _____

Last School attended: _____ Current Grade: _____ Birth Date: _____

Do you have additional children attending school in our district? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you have preschool aged children? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐

Address of where the student slept last night: _____

Is this address based on a temporary living arrangement? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐

NOTE: If you Checked "NO," you may STOP here. If "YES," please continue to the next section.

Section B

Name of individual completing this form: _____

Your telephone number: _____ Your email Address: _____

Name of the parent/guardian/adult caring for the student: _____

Relationship to the student: _____

If the address you provided in section A is based on a temporary living arrangement, is it due to loss of housing or economic hardship? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐

Please place an "X" in each box that best describes where the student sleeps at night.

☐ In a place that does not have windows, doors, running water, heat, electricity, or [overcrowded](#)

☐ Staying with a friend or relative because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
(Example: eviction, foreclosure, fire, flood, lost job, divorce, domestic violence, kicked out by parents, ran away from home)

☐ In a shelter or transitional housing program (name of shelter or program): _____

☐ In an unsheltered location (example: tent, vehicle, abandoned building, streets, campground, park, bus/train station, or similar place)
Provide the main cross streets of this unsheltered location: _____


☐ In a hotel/motel (name of hotel/motel) _____

☐ With an adult that is not a parent or court appointed legal guardian

☐ Alone, not in the care of a parent or court appointed legal [guardian](#)

☐ None of the above (Please explain): _____

ADE Student Residency Questionnaire Sample Form 6/2023



ADE Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit
(Sample Form)

The information on this form is required to meet The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), also known as the McKinney-Vento Act. There are situations when a child or youth who is homeless may not be able to reside with their parent or guardian; however, this fact does not nullify the child's youth's right to receive a free, appropriate public education. This form is not a legal document and solely for school contact only.

The adult "caregiver" requesting enrollment for a minor student presenting him/herself for enrollment and educational services while not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian shall complete this form.

By signing below, I acknowledge the following:

- I am 18 years of age or older and have agreed to fulfill the role of caregiver for the minor student named below, who is unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- I agree to make a good faith effort to encourage the minor student named below to attend school.
- I will attempt to contact the school office if I become aware that the minor student named below will not be attending school on that day(s) and share whether the absence is with or without my approval.
- I have provided the school district with proof of my residence and personal identification.
- I understand that signing this document does not make me the legal guardian of the minor student listed below or make me financially responsible for the minor student, even if I am providing financial support to the student.
- I understand that I may choose to make educational decisions on behalf of the minor and in all other ways stand in for the authorizing party with respect to federal, state and district educational policy, including, but not limited to, accessing the minor's educational records, representing the minor in enrollment, disciplinary, curricular, special education or other matters, signing permission slips for school activities, and any other decision that facilitates the minor's educational experience.

Student Information

Name of the minor student: _____ Date of birth: _____

Last school or district the student attended: _____

Caregiver Information

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Home address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____ Email address: _____

General Information

Please check one and provide additional information if it is available:

☐ The student is staying at my home address, as listed above.

☐ The student is staying at the following location: _____

Please check any that apply:


☐ While I am currently helping with the care of the minor student, I do not wish to assist school officials with making education-related decisions.

☐ I have notified the parent(s) or other person(s) having legal guardianship of the minor of my intent to assist school officials with making education-related decisions in the best interest of the student and have received no objection.

Please provide the name and phone number for the parent: _____

☐ I am unable to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

For School Use Only
This form should accompany the Student Residency Questionnaire. Send the original forms to the LEA Homeless Liaison. The student's cumulative file should not include a copy of this form and you should not make copies under any circumstances.
Name of school site personnel who enrolled the student: _____



Homeless Education

ADE Sample Identification & Eligibility Interview Questions & Checklist

Each local educational agency McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)-(j)(ii), shall ensure that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies [\(42 U.S.C. §11432, \(a\)\(6\)\(A\)\(ii\)\)](#).

The process of identification and eligibility determination involves three basic steps:

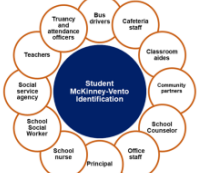
Gather all the relevant information.

Analyze what you know.

Seek consultation as needed.

Each student has a unique housing situation; as a result, determinations regarding eligibility and services under the McKinney-Vento Act must be determined on a case-by-case basis for each student. Remember, McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons are responsible for developing rapport and trust during the interview process to facilitate the acquisition of pertinent information. In other words, it is important to allow families to share their story to ensure you are obtaining necessary details to make a proper determination. Understanding the entire scope of the situation will enable you to make a well-informed decision.

As you conduct your interview process, consider consulting with school staff and community partners to gather information about the student's situation. Staff often build a relationship with the student, or parent, and can be privy to additional details. Remember to be mindful of confidentiality requirements when collaborating, as outlined within [The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#).



McKinney-Vento awareness is established by way of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison offering yearly trainings to school personnel, service providers, community partners, social service agencies, and advocates.

By providing this training, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison can rely on these stakeholders in the future with the referral, identification, and information gathering to support children and youth experiencing homelessness.

For additional support regarding awareness, interview process, and identification best practices, reference the [NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit](#) and [NCHE Brief: Identifying Children and Youth in Homeless Situations](#).

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act provides a definition of homelessness for children and youths to be used by state educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs). It defines homelessness for children and youth to be those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence [\(42 U.S.C. § 11434a\(2\)\)](#).

Use the following checklists to help guide your conversation with the parent, guardian, caregiver, or student to determine if the student's living situation is considered fixed, regular, and adequate.

ADE Sample Identification & Eligibility Interview Questions & Checklist Revised 6/2023

Step 2 – Assessment of Need Planning Guide

Sections:
Basic Supports, Educational/Academic Supports, & Additional Supports

Instructions

Conduct the interview. Take detailed notes. Determine what next steps will be taken, with emphasis on addressing the high needs (H) by setting a timeline and designee responsible for addressing each need. Finalize documentation.

Support and trust during the interview process, consider allow families to share their story to ensure you are obtaining **rights and the procedure of making a homeless**

of Interview: _____

Relationship to Student(s): _____

School(s) of Enrollment: _____

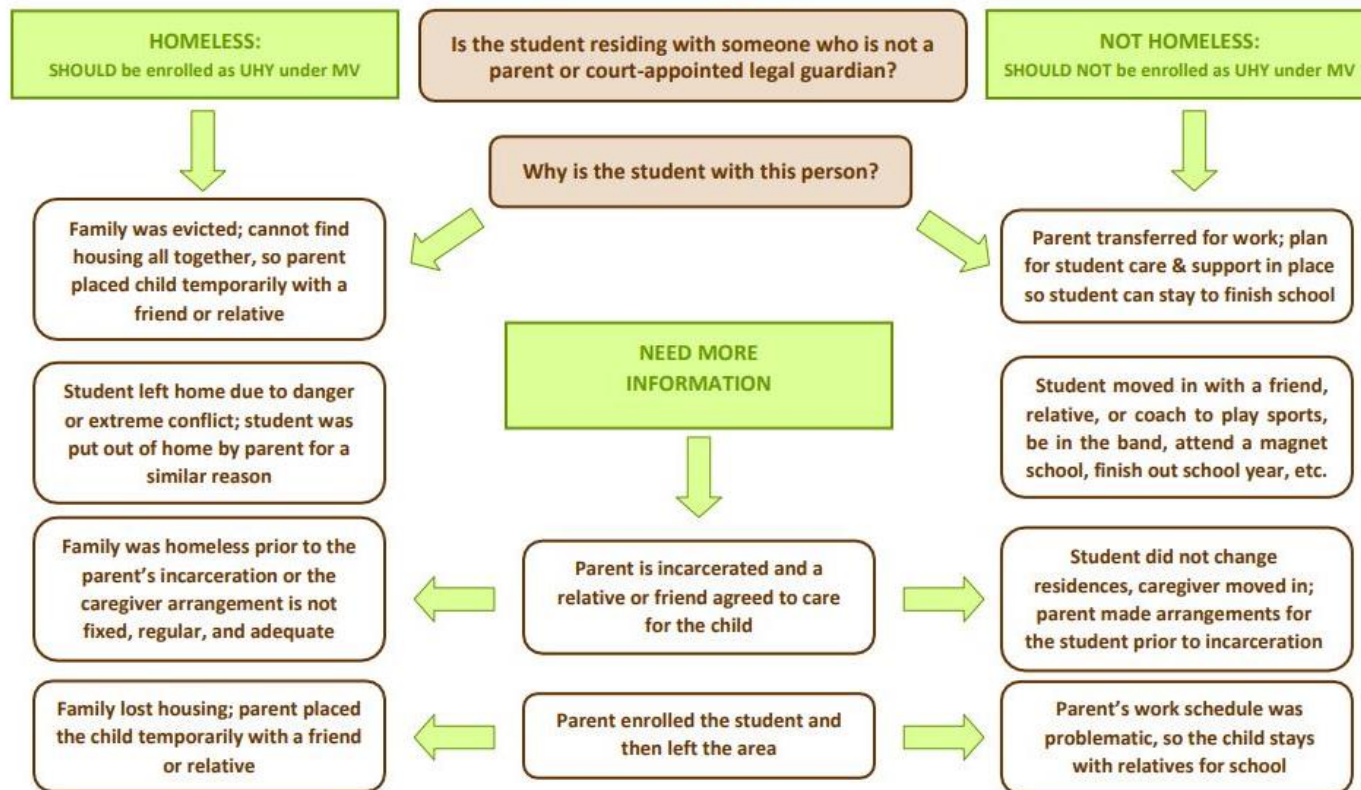
Student Residency
Questionnaire

Caregiver's
Authorization Affidavit

Interview Checklist



Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart



NOTE: The information contained in this flowchart is intended to serve as a general guide. All McKinney-Vento eligibility determinations should be made on a case-by-case basis weighing the individual circumstances of each student. To be eligible for McKinney-Vento services as an unaccompanied homeless student, the student must meet the criteria of both homeless and unaccompanied.

UHY Eligibility Flowchart

[National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\) Resource](#)





Identification

At Time of Enrollment

*A new enrollment request was received. The SRQ indicates the student may meet the definition of homeless. They are not in the physical custody of their parent or legal guardian, **now what?***

Office Staff
Immediately
Enroll the
Student

Office Staff
Request
Completion
of
Caregiver's
Authorization
(CA)

Office Staff
Forward the
SRQ and CA
to the
Liaison

**Liaison's
Responsibility**

Eligibility
Determination

**Liaison's
Responsibility**

Notification to
District Level
Supports

**Liaison's
Responsibility**

Ongoing Case
Management



Identification Throughout the School Year

*Someone has discovered a student that might be homeless and unaccompanied, **now what?***

Awareness

Provide
HCY Rights
&
SRQ

Referral

Establish a
Referral
Form or
Process

Warm Hand-Off

Introduction
to the Liaison

Liaison's Responsibility

Eligibility
Determination

Liaison's Responsibility

Notification
to District
Level
Supports

Liaison's Responsibility

Ongoing Case
Management



Identification

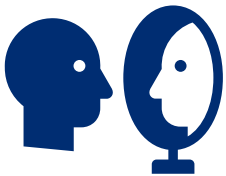
Throughout the School Year



- **Referral from district and school staff**
 - Ensure awareness of UHY and how to refer in annual district training



- **Referral from community-based organizations (CBOs)**
 - Ensure awareness, communication, and collaboration to streamline the identification of UHY



- **Self-Identification by UHY**
 - Support awareness by posting the “Information for School-Age Youth” Public Notice Poster



School Engagement Strategies

Once a UHY has been identified, LEAs must ensure that **barriers to their academic success are removed**. LEAs may implement creative solutions like:

- Provide access to shower/laundry facilities
- Implement policies to assist with accumulating credits toward graduation
- Become familiar with eligibility criteria for local social service and housing programs
- Provide flexibility with school assignments, including deadlines and needed supplies
- Become familiar with state laws about minor medical consent when identified as HCY or UHY ([NCHE, 2017](#))



Share Your Knowledge

Should McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons and other school staff refer **all unaccompanied youth** to a **child welfare agency**?

Do schools have to **contact the police** when enrolling **unaccompanied youth**?

**Answer in
the poll!**



Recommendations



**SchoolHouse
Connection**

LEAs should not implement a blanket policy to contact DCS or law enforcement agencies upon identifying UHY

- Avoid practices that “chill” or discourage identification of UHY
- Ensure the message youth receive is that they are safe, supported, and have rights under the law
- Ensure leadership are trained and understand what is needed to remove barriers for UHY
- Ensure Liaisons are empowered to support UHY
- Include school resource officers in specialized training
- Remember that McKinney-Vento law may give additional rights to UHY, unlike many other educational laws



Access to Higher Education & the FAFSA Simplification Act



- UHY and FAFSA Requirement
- FAFSA Simplification Provisions
- SHC 2024 Scholarship Opportunity

“Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (I)(J)(ii), shall ensure that— **unaccompanied youths**—

(I) **are enrolled in school**;

(II) **have opportunities** to meet the same challenging State **academic standards** as the State establishes for other children and youth, including through implementation of the procedures under paragraph (I)(F)(ii); and

(III) are **informed** of their **status** as **independent** students under section 1087w of title 20 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the local educational agency liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 1090 of title 20.”

[42 USC (g)(6)(A)x]

McKinney-Vento Act

Unique Needs of UHY





UHY and FAFSA

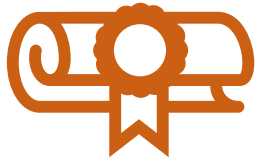
“Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are not living with, or supported by, a parent or guardian. Therefore, under the Higher Education Act, they are **considered independent students** and **do not need to provide a parent’s signature or information** about parents’ income on the **FAFSA**. “

“Despite these policies, [a 2016 Government Accountability Office report](#) found that **burdensome financial aid program rules** make it **more difficult** for both **unaccompanied homeless youth** and youth from foster care to **obtain federal financial assistance** for college.” ([SchoolHouse Connection, 2024](#))

KEY 24-25 FAFSA CHANGES & STRATEGIES FOR HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH

with **Jillian Sitjar**
Director of Higher Education Partnerships
SchoolHouse Connection





New FAFSA Provisions

Per the **FAFSA Simplification Act** and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, **new FAFSA provisions** for **unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY)** and foster youth are in effect for the **2024-2025 FAFSA**:

1. **Homeless** and foster care status does **not** need to be **redetermined** every year.
2. **Determinations** of unaccompanied homeless and foster youth status must be made as **quickly** as practicable.
3. The **list of officials** and programs authorized to verify that an applicant is an UHY has **expanded**.
4. Financial aid administrators must accept certain documents if an institution requires documentation that a student was in foster care when the student was 13 or older.
5. **Financial aid administrators** must make a determination of **UHY** for youth who cannot get determinations from other authorities.
6. **Financial aid administrators** must make **UHY** and foster youth **determinations** following the processes **outlined in the law** - it is not a matter of professional judgment.

([SchoolHouse Connection, 2023](#))



SHC Scholarship Opportunity

 **SchoolHouse Connection**

**ARE YOU A
STUDENT WHO'S
EXPERIENCED
HOMELESSNESS
BEGINNING
POSTSECONDARY
STUDIES IN 2025?**




Apply to the SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship Program! *The scholarship includes a \$2,500 Award, 1-on-1 Support & 3 All-Expenses-Paid Trips.*

 **APPLY NOW AT**
SCHOOLHOUSECONNECTION.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP 

To learn more,
visit SchoolHouse
Connection's
website at:

[www.schoolhouse
connection.org/
scholarship/](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/scholarship/)

or scan the QR
code!





Share Your Knowledge

Has your LEA begun **addressing the changes** outlined within
the **FAFSA Simplification Act**?

**Answer in
the poll!**

Maintaining UHY Data

- Requirement to Report UHY
- Arizona's UHY Data



“Local educational agency liaisons for homeless children and youths **shall, as part of their duties, ... include collecting and providing to the State Coordinator the reliable, valid, and comprehensive data** needed to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (f).”

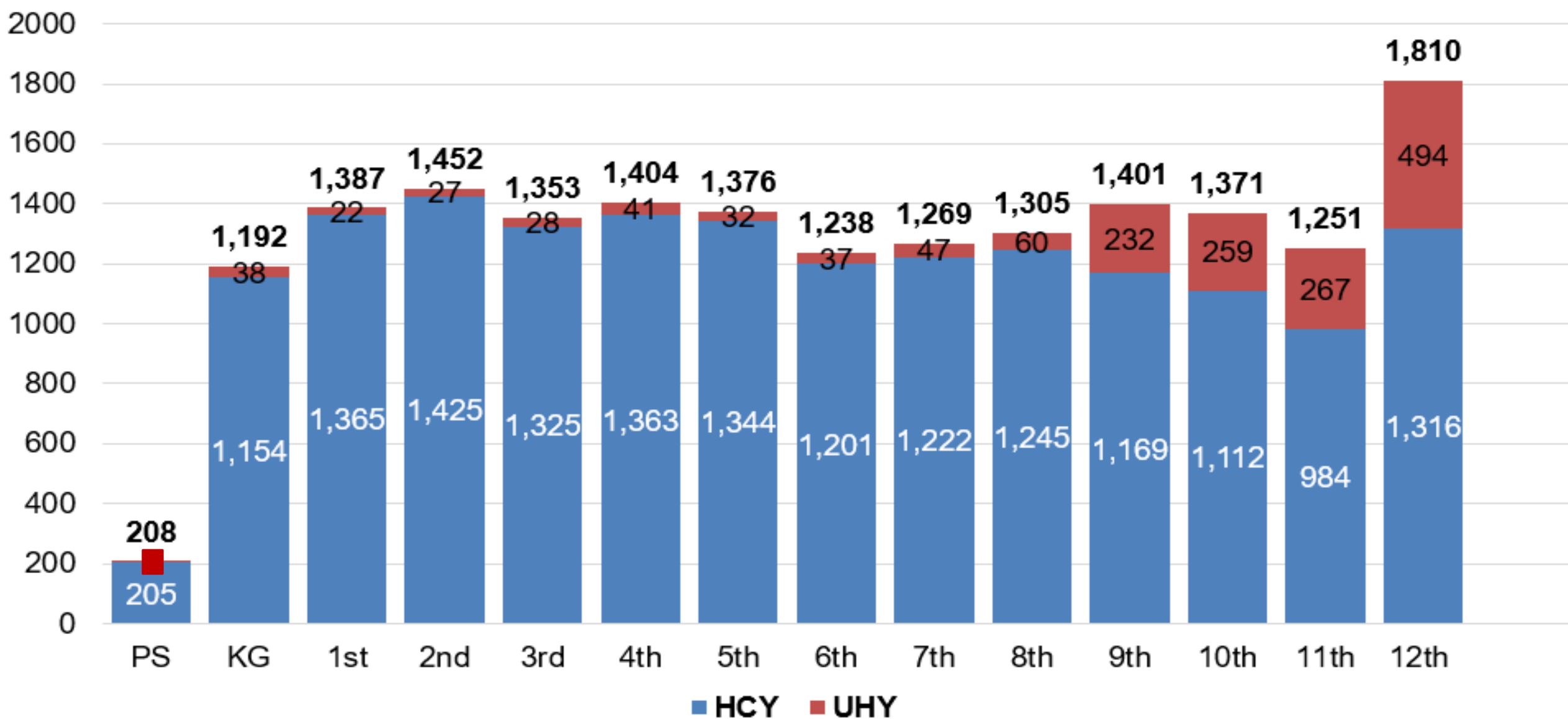
[42 USC § 11432(g)(6)(c)]

McKinney-Vento Act

UHY Data

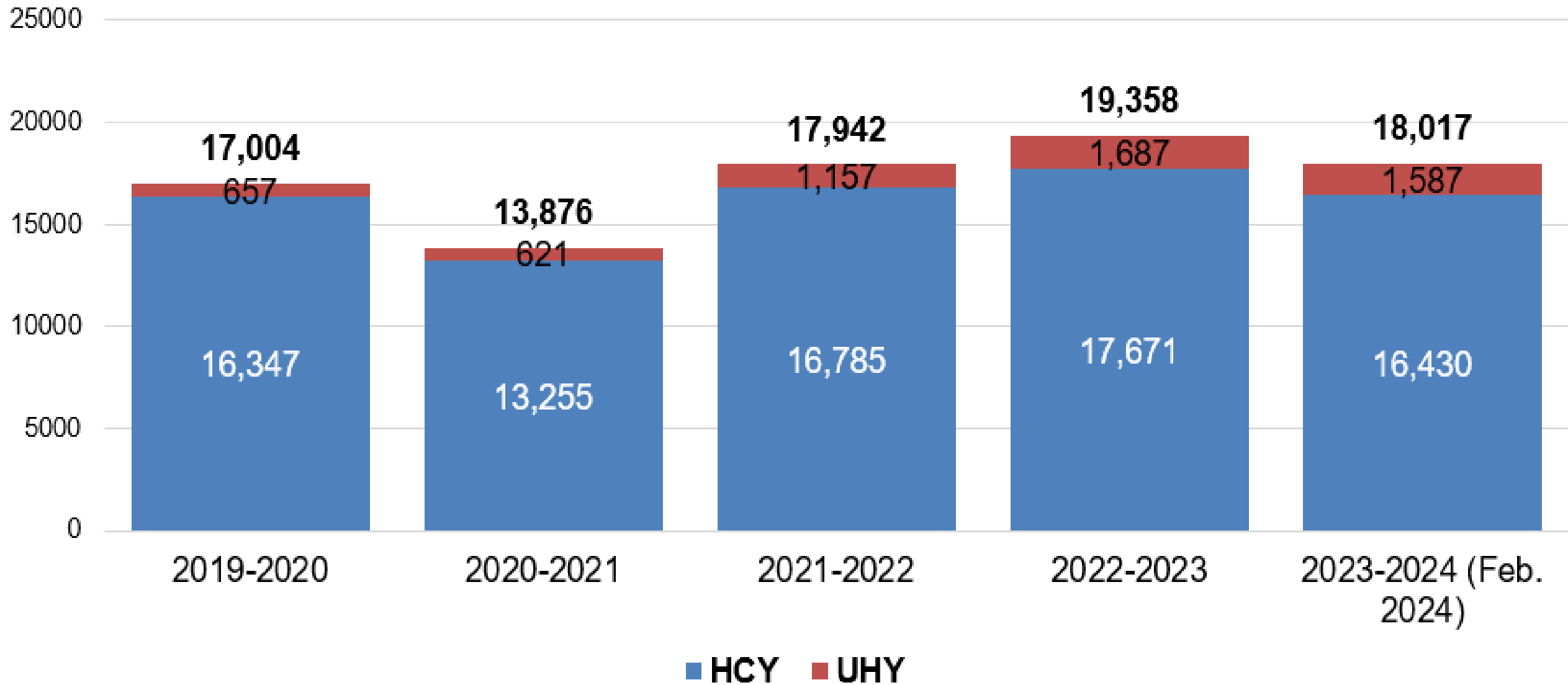


Reported HCY & UHY Data February 2024



Total HCY & UHY Enrollment Counts

SY 2019-2020 - Feb. 2024



Post-Assessment

Let's test your knowledge.

Post-Assessment

1. The definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth is: ...
2. Which statement(s) are true? Select all that apply. ...
3. True or False: LEAs may impose a standard practice to contact law enforcement or child welfare agencies upon the identification of all UHY.
4. The qualifying ages for UHY are: ...

Post-Assessment Results

1. The definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth is:
 - ✓ B) A child or youth that meets the definition of homeless and is not in the physical custody of their parent or legal guardian.
2. Which statement(s) are true? Select all that apply.
 - ✓ C) A Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit can be used in lieu of legal guardianship documents for UHY.
 - ✓ D) A student who identifies as experiencing homelessness should be enrolled immediately.

Post-Assessment Results

3. True or False: LEAs may impose a standard practice to contact law enforcement or child welfare agencies upon the identification of all UHY.

✓ B) False

4. The qualifying ages for UHY are:

✓ D) Any youth PreK-12 up to 21 years old



Closing & Next Steps

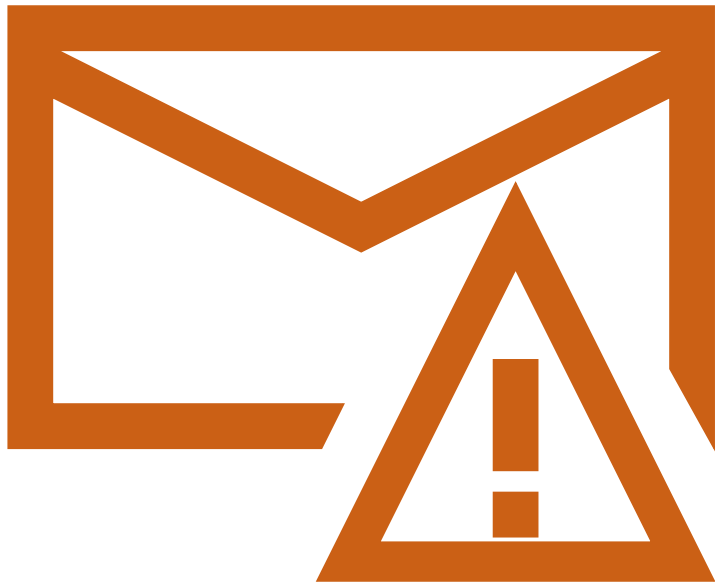
Feedback Survey & Certificates

Feedback survey

- Will only populate once you click **“Leave Meeting”**
- Must complete to receive PL certificate in APLD Blackboard

Recording and slides

- APLD session Blackboard
- HEP website



Technical Assistance

Arizona Department of Education
Homeless Education Program

(602)542-4963

homeless@azed.gov



Optional Office Hours
