

Removing Barriers to Financial Aid for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

April 10, 2019



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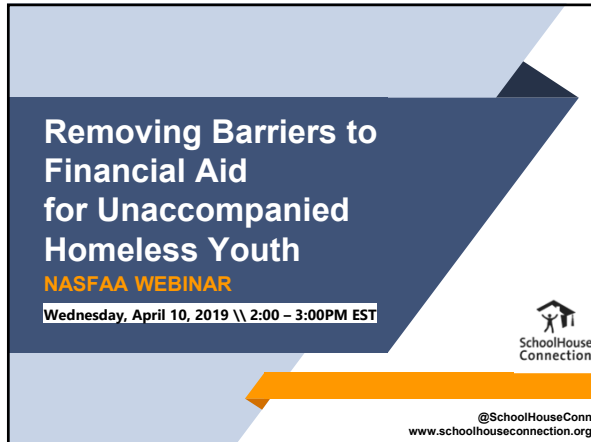
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April 2019


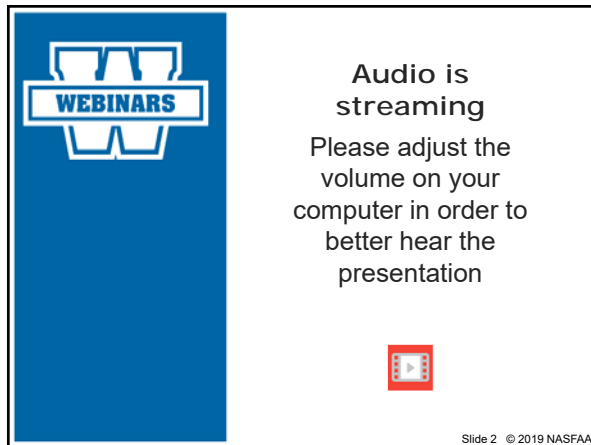


Removing Barriers to
Financial Aid
for Unaccompanied
Homeless Youth
NASFAA WEBINAR
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 \ 2:00 – 3:00PM EST




@SchoolHouseConn
www.schoolhouseconnection.org

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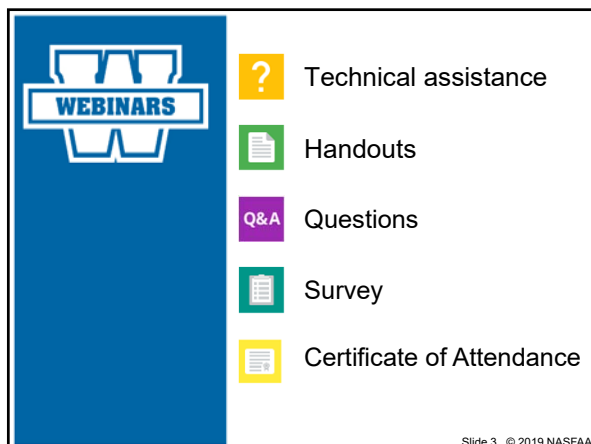







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presentation



Slide 2 © 2019 NASFAA

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-  Technical assistance
-  Handouts
-  Questions
-  Survey
-  Certificate of Attendance


Slide 3 © 2019 NASFAA

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ABOUT SCHOOLHOUSE CONNECTION

SchoolHouse Connection works to **overcome homelessness through education**. We provide strategic advocacy and technical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website: www.schoolhouseconnection.org
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Searchable Q&A
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
- Guest perspectives
- E-newsletter
- Social media/FB/Twitter



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YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Pathways into Youth Homelessness

- Abuse and neglect**
 - 20-40% sexually abused
 - 40-60% physical abused
- Family homelessness**
 - Nearly one-quarter
- Death of a parent or caregiver**
 - Over one-third
- Parental substance abuse and mental illness**
- Prior experiences of foster care**
 - Nearly one-third
- Told to leave at 18th birthday**
- Family economics**

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3.5 million young adults

About 3.5 million young adults (18-25 yo), about 1 in 10 experienced homelessness on their own over the course of a year (Chapin Hall)

700,000

1 out of 30 youth between the ages of 13-17.

29% of the 18-25 year olds

who had been homeless in the previous 12 months were enrolled in college or an education program.

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POLL - True or False:
 Most youth who experience homelessness stay in homeless shelters

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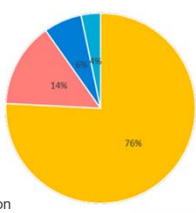
QUICK REVIEW:
 Federal Education Law
 Definition of Homelessness

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including:

- Emergency or transitional shelters
- Staying with others temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardship, similar reason
- Unsheltered
- Hotels or motels due to lack of adequate alternatives

Unaccompanied youth: a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
 Same definition: K-12 Public Schools, Higher Education Act, Head Start, Child Care
 Fluid: Youth move between situations

SY 2016-2017



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QUICK REVIEW:
 K-12 Federal Requirements –
 The McKinney-Vento Act

Every local educational agency (LEA) must designate a liaison for homeless students

LEA liaisons have many legal duties, including:

- Ensuring that unaccompanied youth are informed they qualify as independent students for the FAFSA and CADAA
- Assist the youth in obtaining verification of that status.

11432(g)(6)(A)(x)(III); Guidance Q2

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QUICK REVIEW: Higher Education Act & Homelessness

Unaccompanied homeless youth under age 24 are considered independent students.

Youth who are **unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting** are considered independent students.

At risk of homelessness: "When a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing." AVG-117

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HIGHER EDUCATION ACT: Who Can Make a Determination of UHY Status

School district liaisons

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Shelter Director or Designee

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHYA) Shelter Director or Designee

Financial Aid Administrator

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DETERMINATIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL AVG 117-118

Liaisons **may write subsequent year determinations** for as long as the liaison has access to the information necessary to make such a determination for a particular youth, through age 23.

If a liaison doesn't have the information that is necessary to make the determination, either because the youth became homeless after high school, or because the liaison is no longer familiar with the youth's circumstances, **the financial aid administrator must make the determination.**

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DETERMINATIONS BY FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS AVG 117-118

#1 Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) are not required to verify the answers to the FAFSA homeless youth questions unless they have conflicting information.

#2 It is not conflicting information if an FAA disagrees with an authority's determination that a student is homeless, FAAs must accept the determination.

#3 If an institution has no conflicting information, the institution should not request additional documentation in addition to the documentation from the authority.

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DETERMINATIONS BY FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS AVG 117-118

#4 If the student claims to be an UHY and cannot answer yes to the UHY questions on the FAFSA, the FAA is required to make a homeless youth determination.

#5 FAAs should determine if the student is unaccompanied and homeless (lacks fixed, regular and adequate housing) or at risk of being so without regard for why the student is homeless.

#6 A documented phone call with, or a written statement from, one of the four legal authorities, is sufficient verification, when needed.

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DETERMINATIONS BY FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS AVG 117-118

#7 There is no official federal form required.

#8 SchoolHouse Connection's [sample letter](#), and NCHE's FAA determination tool, also may be used by financial aid administrators.

#9 FAAs can get assistance with making case-by-case homelessness determinations by contacting, among others:

- College access programs (TRIO, GEAR UP, etc.)
- Doctors
- Social Workers
- Mental Health Professionals
- NCHE or State Coordinators for Homeless Education – nche.ed.gov

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**GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE
 REPORT: Access to Federal Financial
 Assistance for Homeless and Foster Youth**

Key findings of May 2016 report:

- Burdensome program rules can hinder the ability of homeless and foster youth to access federal supports.
- Annual re-verification of homelessness poses barriers for unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Extensive documentation requests can impede access to aid for homeless youth.
- Limited academic preparation, family support, and awareness of resources make it harder for homeless and foster youth to pursue college.

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“Verification of independent student status every semester means reliving my trauma and hardship to a complete stranger in the financial aid office and the fear of not receiving FAFSA to continue my education.”

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Poll - On a scale of 0-5, rate your level of collaboration with area school district liaisons?

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Easing the Transition
into Higher
Education:
Becca Seul

Next Step
successful transitions to college

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BRIEF HISTORY OF NEXT STEP

Began in 2008 as a resource for foster youth

Transitioned in 2010 to include homeless youth
Served 1500+ youth

Rely on community partners for identification and support of these youth

Liaison position integrated into existing role

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“ Our Mission:
To **ENCOURAGE** and **EMPOWER**
former foster, homeless and
independent youth as they strive to
attain higher education while
ENABLING them to sustain and
succeed in becoming productive
members of society.

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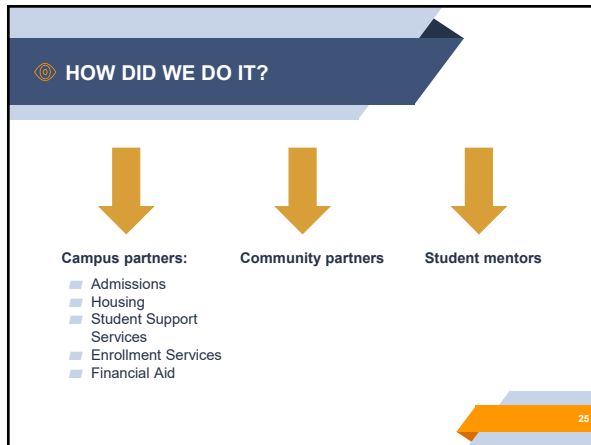
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- ✓ Lack of familial support or adequate mentor
- ✓ Need for Financial Aid
- ✓ Need for year-round housing
- ✓ Counseling support
- ✓ Employment concerns
- ✓ Need for individual attention
- ✓ Need for healthcare

WHAT DID WE NEED TO ADDRESS? 24

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HOW DID WE DO IT?

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Campus partners:

- Admissions
- Housing
- Student Support Services
- Enrollment Services
- Financial Aid

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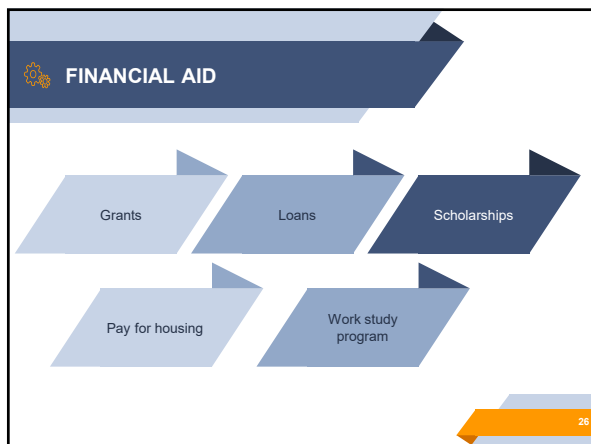
Community partners

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Student mentors

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FINANCIAL AID

Grants

Loans

Scholarships

Pay for housing

Work study program

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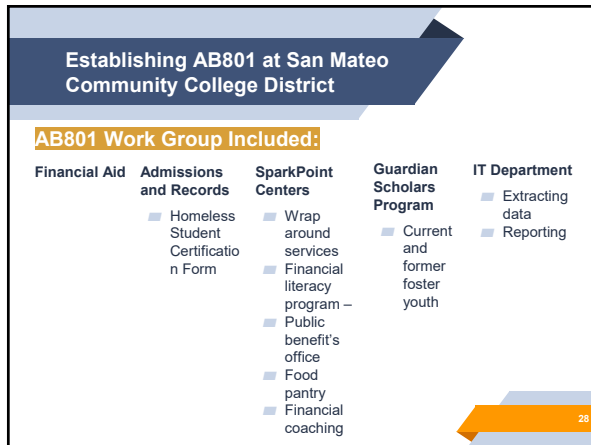


Supporting Homeless Students at Skyline College
Flor Lopez & Jeremy Evangelista-Ramos

 Skyline College

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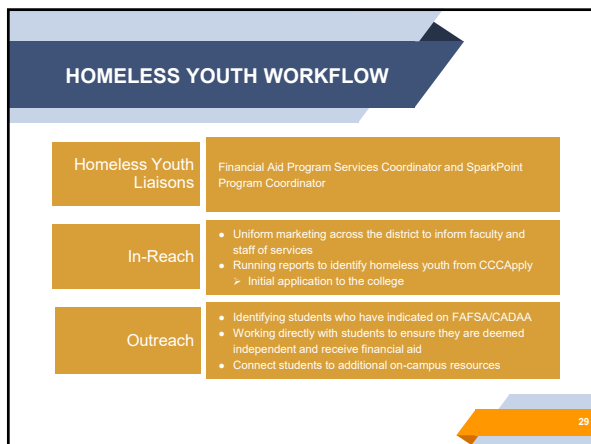
Establishing AB801 at San Mateo Community College District

AB801 Work Group Included:

Financial Aid	Admissions and Records	SparkPoint Centers	Guardian Scholars Program	IT Department
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless Student Certification Form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrap around services Financial literacy program – Public benefit's office Food pantry Financial coaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current and former foster youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extracting data Reporting

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HOMELESS YOUTH WORKFLOW

Homeless Youth Liaisons	Financial Aid Program Services Coordinator and SparkPoint Program Coordinator
In-Reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform marketing across the district to inform faculty and staff of services Running reports to identify homeless youth from CCCApply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial application to the college
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying students who have indicated on FAFSA/CADAA Working directly with students to ensure they are deemed independent and receive financial aid Connect students to additional on-campus resources

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Resources

- MTSU Next Step Program
 - > www.mtsu.edu/nextstep
- Skyline College
 - > <http://skylinecollege.edu/financialaid/>
 - > SparkPoint <http://skylinecollege.edu/financialaid/>
- Actions Needed to Improve Access to Federal Financial Assistance for Homeless and Foster Youth (GAO Report May 19, 2016)
 - > <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-343>
- Resources and Research on Higher Education and Homelessness
 - > <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/higher-education/>
 - > SchoolHouse Connection's sample letter: <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sample-form-letter-to-determine-the-independent-student-status-of-unaccompanied-homeless-youth/>

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Contact Information

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- **Jeremy Evangelista**, Program Services Coordinator, Financial Aid, Skyline College
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- **Flor Lopez**, SparkPoint Coordinator/Financial Coach, Skyline College
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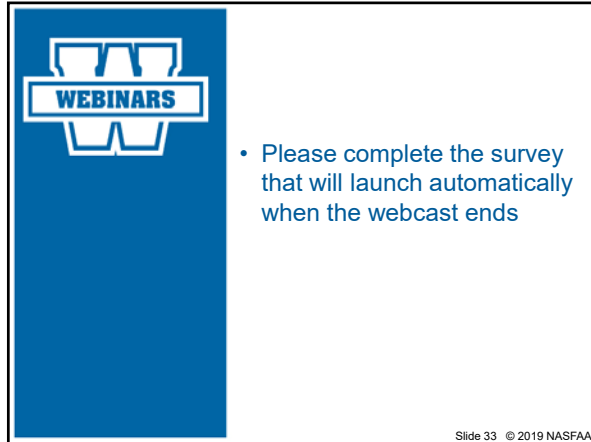


THANKS!

Any questions?


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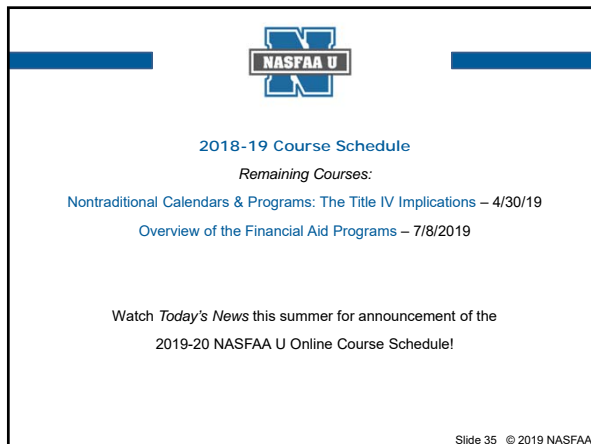
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Slide 34 content: A blue vertical bar on the left contains the 'WEBINARS' logo. The main text reads: 'NASFAA's 2018-19 Webinar Series'. Below this, two items are listed: 'Building Bridges to Mitigate Bias' (April 24, 2019, 2:00 p.m. ET) and 'Exploring NASFAA Benefits' (May 7, 2019, 2:00 p.m. ET). The bottom right corner contains the text 'Slide 34 © 2019 NASFAA'.

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Slide 35 content: The slide features the 'NASFAA U' logo at the top center. Below it, the text reads: '2018-19 Course Schedule', 'Remaining Courses:', 'Nontraditional Calendars & Programs: The Title IV Implications – 4/30/19', and 'Overview of the Financial Aid Programs – 7/8/2019'. At the bottom, it says: 'Watch Today's News this summer for announcement of the 2019-20 NASFAA U Online Course Schedule!'. The bottom right corner contains the text 'Slide 35 © 2019 NASFAA'.

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NASFAA's Webinar Series
**Removing Barriers to Financial Aid
for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**
Presented April 10, 2019



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Removing Barriers to Financial Aid for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Resources

MTSU Next Step Program

- www.mtsu.edu/nextstep

Skyline College

- <http://skylinecollege.edu/financialaid/>
- SparkPoint <http://skylinecollege.edu/financialaid/>

Actions Needed to Improve Access to Federal Financial Assistance for Homeless and Foster Youth (GAO Report May 19, 2016)

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Resources and Research on Higher Education and Homelessness

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Please join us for the 2018-19 NASFAA Webinar Series



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[On Demand Webinars](#) are recordings of previously broadcasted events. The recordings are available for purchase and viewing at your convenience.

Webinar Schedule for 2018-19 - See You Online!

Topic	Air Date
A Deep Dive Into Campus-Based Programs	08/01/2018
2019-20 FAFSA: Brave New World	09/12/2018
Citizenship Status and Title IV Aid Eligibility	10/03/2018
A Panel Discussion on NASFAA Peer Review Services	10/16/2018
Return of Title IV Funds Highlights: AskRegs FAQ	10/24/2018
Verification: 2019-20	11/14/2018
NASFAA Policy Update	12/04/2018
A Day Short and a Dollar...Late? Or is That Retroactive or Post Withdrawal?	12/12/2018
Which Is It? A Correction, Update, or PJ?	01/23/2019
A Panel Discussion on NASFAA Peer Review Services	02/05/2019
Diversity Discussion	02/20/2019
Pell Highlights: AskRegs FAQ	03/13/2019
Graduate/Professional School Town Hall	03/20/2019
Building Bridges to Mitigate Bias	04/24/2019
Exploring NASFAA Benefits	05/07/2019
Consumer Information Disclosures Highlights: What? When? Who?	05/15/2019
NASFAA Policy Update	05/29/2019
Sharing Student FAFSA Data to Assist Students: What is Permitted?	06/05/2019

* Complimentary for all Members. All other webinars are offered at the following rates: Site License: \$120 members/\$240 non-members/no charge for [webinar package](#) purchasers or Value Plus Members.

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