

# Highland Rim Head Start



## **SELF-DECLARATION OF HOMELESSNESS**

Head Start, Early Head Start, and CCDF-funded programs are required to use the definition of "homeless" children and youth. It is included in Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 11435a(2)], and is hereinafter referred to the "McKinney-Vento Act's definition."

- An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State or local government programs for low- income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
- An individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;
- An individual or family who will imminently lose their housing [as evidenced by a court order resulting from an eviction action that notifies the individual or family that they must leave within 14 days, having a primary nighttime residence that is a room in a hotel or motel and where they lack the resources necessary to reside there for more than 14 days, or credible evidence indicating that the owner or renter of the housing will not allow the individual or family to stay for more than 14 days, and any oral statement from an individual or family seeking homeless assistance that is found to be credible shall be considered credible evidence for purposes of this clause]; has no subsequent residence identified; and lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing; and
- Unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes who have experienced a long-term period without living independently in permanent housing, have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period, and can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF on this date of \_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
 herein referred to as (“Applicant”), certify that my family, of which I am Head of Household, is presently homeless  
 under the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of homeless:

1. Children and youth who:
  - a. Share the housing of other person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
  - b. Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
  - c. Are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
  - d. Are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
4. Children of migrant or seasonal workers who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in the first categories.

The McKinney-Vento Act and other federal laws do not give official definitions of a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” as it pertains to children and youth experiencing homelessness. However, the following working definitions may be useful:

- A “fixed nighttime residence” is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- A “regular nighttime residence” is used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis.
- An “adequate nighttime residence” sufficiently meets the physical and psychological need typically met in home environments.

**Documentation Supporting Homelessness**

- None
- Three Day Eviction Notice
- Letter from landlord/homeowner
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Applicant’s Name

I certify that the above information is true and accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Head Start Staff Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date