

FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS:

ACCESSING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

May 4, 2015 FASFEPA/ECTAC Spring Forum Rosen Center Hotel, Orlando, Florida

Session Outline

- Overview
 - Quiz
- FAFSA
- Florida Fee Exemptions
- Collaborations
- Charlotte County
- Lake County
- Miami-Dade County

Objectives

- Inform participants of FAFSA and Florida Fee Exemptions application and process
- Provide participants with strategies to collaborate with higher education staff to facilitate homeless students' access to postsecondary education
- Provide participants with useful resources they can use in their work with higher education staff and homeless students

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College Admissions Checklist Take Advanced Placement (AP) tests, if applicable Take college entrance exam(s) (SAT and/or ACT) Complete and submit college applications Complete and submit the FAFSA Complete and submit applications for private scholarships More information from the College Board: "Applying 101": https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying "Financial Aid 101": https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid	
QUIZ	
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Quiz - 1	
The format along the could find the least of the	
The form students use to apply for federal aid for postsecondary education is:	
possessinally education is	
Free Application for Federal Student Aid	
Federal Application for Free Student Aid	
Federal Aid for Free Student Application	
 None of the above. 	
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FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

FAFSA Basics

- FAFSA = Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- The official FAFSA web address is <u>http://www.fafsa.gov</u>
- Students applying for federal aid must complete a FAFSA for each school year for which they are seeking federal aid

FAFSA

FAFSA Basics

- A new FAFSA is released each January for the upcoming school year
- Example: 2015-2016 FAFSA
 - Released in January 2015
 - Valid for students attending school for Fall 2015 and Spring 2016
 - Treatment of the Summer term depends on the school



Calculation of Federal Aid

- EFC = Expected Family Contribution
- Based on the information submitted on the FAFSA, the U.S. Department of Education calculates the EFC
- Dependent Student
 - Must report parent information on FAFSA
 - EFC is based on parents' and student's income and assets
- Independent Student
 - Does NOT report parent information on FAFSA
 - EFC is based on student's income and assets



Quiz - 2

Accompanied homeless youth can fill out the FAFSA as an independent student?

- True
- False

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"Accompanied" Homeless Youth

- Students experiencing homelessness with their family fill out the FAFSA as dependent students
 - Accompanied: In the physical custody of a parent or guardian
 - Homeless; Living arrangement meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless

FAFŠA 4

"Accompanied" Homeless Youth

- The EFC is based on family income and assets
- Homeless students from low-income families likely will qualify for the maximum amount of federal aid
 - Example: The EFC Formula, 2014-2015
 explains that dependent students who received free school meals in 2012 or 2013, and whose parents' 2013 income is less than \$24,000, qualify for a \$0 EFC
- Additional information is available at http://ifap.ed.gov/efcformulaguide/attachm ents/091913EFCFormulaGuide1415.pdf

Quiz - 3

FAFSA

Which of the following would not qualify a student as an independent student?

- Married
- 24 years old
- Veteran or on active duty
- Graduate student
- 23 years old
- Has a legal dependent (child/other)
- Orphan/Ward of the court/In a legal guardianship
- Legally emancipated minor
- In foster care at age 13 or older
- Unaccompanied homeless youth
- Independent by dependency override as determined by a financial aid administrator

Who is Independent? Independent if ANY of these are true:

– Married – 24 years old – Veteran or o

FAFSA

- Veteran or on active duty
- Graduate student
- Has a legal dependent (child/other)
- Orphan/Ward of the court/In a legal guardianship
- Legally emancipated minor
- In foster care at age 13 or older
- Unaccompanied homeless youth
- Independent by dependency override as determined by a financial aid administrator



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and At-Risk Unaccompanied homeless youth and

- unaccompanied nomeless youth and unaccompanied youth at risk of homelessness fill out the FAFSA as independent students
 - Unaccompanied: Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
 - Homeless: Living arrangement meets the M-V definition of homeless
- 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
 FAFSA housing.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Do not need to provide information on parental income and assets
- Do not need a parental signature
- Do provide information on their own income and assets
- Independent status is not equivalent to free tuition; however, the EFC is calculated proportional to what the student can provide based on his/her resources

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Age Criteria

- Youth: 21 or younger or still enrolled in high school on the date he/she signs the FAFSA
- Ages 22-23: Requires a dependency override
- 24 or older: Automatic independent status



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Quiz - 4

Which of the following can determine Independent Status for a homeless student (choose all that apply)?

- Local homeless education liaison
- USDE Shelter director or designee
- RHYA shelter director or designee
- Financial Aid Administrator
- A. and D. only.

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Determiners of Independent Status

- Local Homeless Education Liaison
 - for students graduating from high school who were identified as an UHY while in high school
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Shelter Director or Designee
 - for students who have received services
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)
 Shelter Director or Designee
 - for students who have received services
- Financial Aid Administrator (FAA)
 - for any student, but particularly those who cannot get a determination from one of the other three authorized parties

FAFŠA 20

Determinations of independent student status for unaccompanied homeless youth on the 2013-2014 FAFSA

> 18,188 Local Homeless Liaison 5,652 RHYA Shelter Director 4,423 HUD Shelter Director 1,370 Financial Aid Admin. 29,704 TOTAL



Quiz - 5

If the student meets the definition of UHY, α dependency override is needed.

- True
- False

According to the FAA Application and Verification Guide (AVG)

- If a student does not have, and cannot get, a determination from a
 - local liaison, RHYA provider, or HUD provider,
 - a Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) must make a determination of unaccompanied homeless youth status
- If a student meets the definition of UHY, this is not a dependency override.
- This is determining the independent student status of an unaccompanied homeless youth. FAFSA

According to the AVG

- Verification of "Yes" answers to the unaccompanied homeless youth questions on the FAFSA is not required unless there is conflicting information
- A FAA may determine a student's status with a documented interview

According to the AVG

- Encourages discretion and sensitivity when gathering information
 - Some information may be confidential (e.g., protected by doctor-patient privilege)
 - Child welfare and/or law enforcement reports are not necessary
- Recommends consulting with local liaisons, State Coordinators, NCHE, school counselors, clergy, etc.

Documenting Student Status

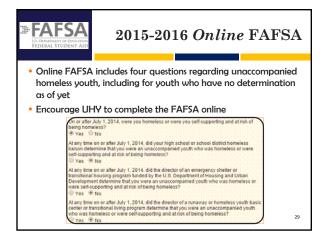
- Local Liaisons (for high school students)
 - FDOE Template:
 - NAEHCY Template: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Documentation of Independent Student Status for the FAFSA) at https://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed
 - Copy on file at school, copy with student, copy sent to the college/university
 - Valid for one academic year
- FAAs
 - NCHE/NAEHCY FAA Tool: Making Student Status Determinations for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: Eligibility Tool for Financial Aid Administrators at http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/faa_tool.php



FAFSA

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Quiz - 6 Which is the best way to fill out the FAFSA? Online PDF/Paper Version Either is fine



EGENERAL ELECTRIC PROFESSION PDF/Paper		_	
PDF FAFSA includes only 3 UHY-related questions			
Step Three (Student): Answer the questions in this step to determine if you will need to provide pa	rental	inform	nation. Or
46. Were you born before January 1, 1992?	ostep	O O	n page 8.
47. As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.)	Yes	ŏ	No C
 At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)? 		0	No C
49. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training? See Notes page 2	Yes	0	No C
50. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? See Notes page 2.	Yes	0	No C
 Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016? 	Yes	0	No C
 Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2016? 	Yes	0	No C
53. At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? See Notes page 9.	Yes	0	No C
54. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor? See Notes page 9	Yes	0	No C
55. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship? See Notes page 9	Yes	0	No C
56. At any time on or after July 1, 2014, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 9.	Yes	0	No C
57. At any time on or after July 1, 2014, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Nees page 9.	Yes	0	No C
 At any time on or after July 1, 2014, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living postar determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Nates page 9. 	Tes	0	No C
For Help — www.studentaid.gov/completefafsa Page 5	_		



2015-2016 PDF/Paper FAFSA

 A student without a determination of independent status must respond "no" to UHY questions and follow up with the FAA

Notes for questions 56–58 (page 5)

Answer "Yes" if you received a determination at any time on or after
July 1, 2014, that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless
or at risk of being homeless.

- at risk of being homeless.

 Moneless: mous bushing fixed, regular and adequate housing. You may be homeless in you are living in shelters, parks, motels or cars, or are temporarily. Items with nother people because you have nowhered as the proposal propos
- "Unaccompanied" means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.
- "Youth" means you are 21 years of age or younger or you are still enrolled in high school as of the day you sign this application.

wer 'Nor' if you are not homeless or at risk of being homeless, or do have a determination. You should contact your financial aid office assistance if you do not have a determination but believe you are an scooppanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied youth widing for your own living expenses who is at risk of being homeless. The financial aid administrator at your college may require you to provide a copy of the determination if you answered "Yes" to any o

BARRIERS

Barriers Reported by **LEA Homeless Liaisons**

- After a student's first year, financial aid office required burdensome documentation
- Financial Aid Office unaware of policies for UHY
- Financial Aid Office required student to obtain additional information
- Didn't know who to contact for help at U.S. ED
- Financial Aid Office would not accept a statement from a local homeless liaison



FLORIDA FEE EXEMPTIONS		
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Quiz - 7		
Florida has a postsecondary education fee exemption for unaccompanied homeless youth only.		
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Section 1009.25 (1)(f), Florida Statutes – Fee Exemptions

1009.25 Fee exemptions.— (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or state university:

TrueFalse

(f) A student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private shelter designed to provide temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Section 1009.25 (1)(f), Florida Statutes – Fee Exemptions

1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

(2) Each Florida College System institution is authorized to grant student fee exemptions from all fees adopted by the State Board of Education and the Florida College System institution board of trustees for up to 54 full-time equivalent students or 1 percent of the institution's total full-time equivalent enrollment, whichever is greater, at each institution.

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Quiz - 8

Homeless students automatically receive a Florida fee exemption for postsecondary education as long as the district homeless liaison provided certification that the student was homeless during his senior year of high school.

- True
- False

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Florida College Fee **Exemptions for Homeless** 155 2006-2007: 2007-2008: 113 2008-2009: 172 2009-2010: 347 2010-2011: 511 2011-2012: 638 2012-2013: 1,013 2013-2014: 973 Note: numbers do not include public universities, only community colleges. Source: Florida Department of Education

Barriers - Fee Exemption

- Barriers for homeless youth accessing postsecondary education from a financial aid perspective
 - Knowledge of who can make homeless determination for financial aid
 - Inconsistent application of homeless definition for s. 1009.25(1)(f), F.S.
 - Determination of homelessness for second semester or second year
 - Proof of Residency

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Quiz - 9

- The homeless students must complete a residency form to declare Florida residency for tuition purposes.
- Yes
- No

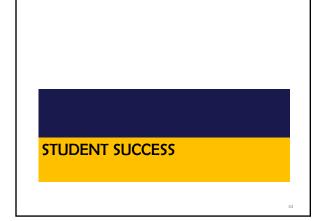
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FL Residency Requirements for Tuition Purposes

- As part of the admission process, a student applying to a state university must complete a residency form or affidavit in order to declare Florida residency for tuition purposes.
- University staff will review this information and related documentation to verify residency and eligibility for instate tuition.
- Residency is determined by the postsecondary institution (i.e., university). There is no appeal of the decision to a higher governmental agency.

Source: Florida Residency Requirements for Tuition Purposes, State University System of Florida, Board of Governors Webpage. 04/21/15.

	Quiz - 10
	d successfully with my local college contacts meless students receive financial aid and btion.
YesNo	
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Best Practices for High Schools

- Focus on FAFSA completion
- Host a "FAFSA Week"; see NAEHCY's Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Toolkits at http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/naehcy-publications
- Inform unaccompanied homeless youth of college options as soon as they are identified as homeless
- Make sure high school counselors know about FAFSA policies for UHY





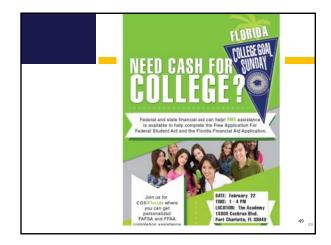
Other Considerations

- Encourage the student to consider a variety of institutions with different "price points"
- A student may not be able to afford a particular institution, but other good college options may be available
- A student may start at a community college and transfer to a four-year college at a later time, but needs to have a solid and informed transition plan
- Consider housing options if looking into a school without dormitories

College Goal Sunday

Renee Rebhan, LCSW
 Homeless Education Liaison
 Charlotte County Public Schools-Families First
 (941) 255-7480 ext. 35

 renee.rebhan@yourcharlotteschools.net



Florida Southwestern State College

Flyer for Homeless Fee Exemption

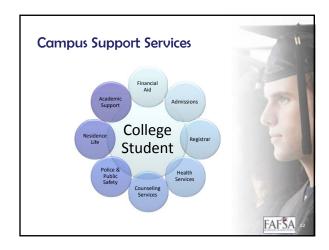
Section 1009.25(1)(f), Florida Statutes

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Men is eligible	n for the exemption?
order to qual uttined in Flor	By Eur a Tee exemplican as a result of homelessmens, a student must recent the criteries dia Stahule 1009-25(1)(b):
A student who	lacks a fixed, regular, and edequate rightlime residence; or
	the residence is a public or private shelfer designed to provide temporary residence intended to be institutionalized, or
	rate place not designed for, or ordinarity used as, a regular seeping accommodation
neetry, school normation, the	derf needs documentation from a homeless shelter, toodicishing bank, transitional distinct homeless liaison, or runaway shelter. The certification must include contact date for which sensors began and the appropriate Florida Statute for fation and he
weetphon.	
What does th	e exemption cover?
epeat course s Financial Aid	covers tablors and fees only. The student is required to pay other code such as the surchargem, exemple overlither below, bulbooks, housing, tixol, etc. Be sure to talk with Counselor or Contere about additional lives.
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Best Practices for High Schools

- Arrange for students to visit local colleges and universities
- Use a template to document independent student status
- Connect UHY to Gear-Up, Upward Bound, and other TRIO programs
- Connect students with colleges/universities to see if they qualify for the Florida Tuition Fee Exemption





Best Practices for Colleges/Universities Establish Single Points of Contact (SPOCS) Establish coordination between financial aid offices, student support services, and campus housing Open a food and clothing bank on campus Consider housing options for homeless students when dorms close Leave one residence hall open Allow UHY to stay in housing for international students Provide a list of "host homes" in the community

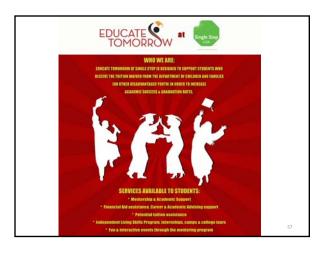
FAF5A

Lake Co	ounty Collaboration
Lake County Schools, F.I.T. Program Kristin McCall, F.I.T. Liaison 352-742-6920 McCallk@lake.kt2.fl.us Kathy Entler, Grant Program Manager 352-742-6920 Entlerk@lake.kt2.fl.us	Lake-Sumter State College Claire L. Brady, Director, Student Development 352-435-6308 bradyc@isc.edu Donna MacDonald, Assistant Director, Financial Aid
Office of Student Financial Assistance, FDOE • Gerri McCormick, Outreach Representative 407-207-4944 Gern Incormick@fideo.org	54

Miami-Dade County

 Debra Albo-Steiger, LCSW, Program Manager Project UP-START, Homeless Education Program Division of Student Services, Miami-Dade County Public Schools 305-995-7318 debalbo@dadeschools.net









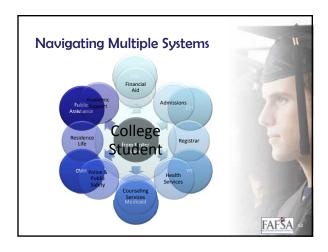


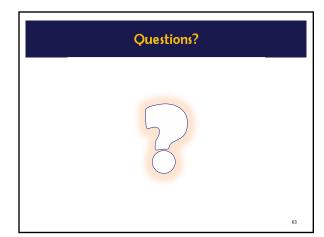
Best Practices for Community Collaboration

- Connect students with federal and community resources for which they may be eligible:
 - Medicaid
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act-Funded Shelters (RHYA):

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/grants/fysb-grantees

FAF5A

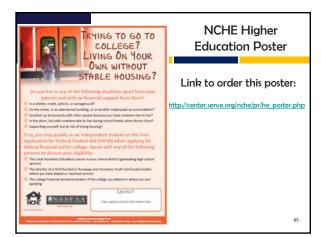




Get to Know NCHE

- National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)
- U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center in the area of homeless education
- Free webinars, trainings, print resources
- Homeless education helpline
 (800) 308-2145 | homeless@serve.org
- Website: http://www.serve.org/nche

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Get to Know NAEHCY

- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
- Membership-based advocacy organization
- Annual homeless education conference http://www.naehcy.org/conference/conference
- Higher education helpline (855) 446-2673 | highered@naehcy.org
- Website: http://www.naehcy.org



Tools

- For Local Liaisons and Shelters
 NAEHCY Template (Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
 Documentation of Independent Student Status for the FAFSA)
 available at http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed
- For Financial Aid Administrators NCHE/NAEHCY FAA Tool (Making Student Status Determinations for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: Eligibility Tool for Financial Aid Administrators) available at http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/faa_tool.php

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Additional Resources

- NAEHCY Toolkit: College Access and Success for Students Experiencing Homelessness available at http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/he-toolkit
- http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/he-too
- NAEHCY Higher Education Helpline (855) 446-2673 (toll-free) highered@naehcy.org

http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/helpline

 FAFSA Tips for Unaccompanied Youth Without Stable Housing and Helping Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Access College Financial Aid at

http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed





National Center for Homeless Education homeless@serve.org

National Association of the Education of Homeless Children and Youth $\frac{http://www.naehcy.org}{}$

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators <u>http://www.nasfaa.org</u>

for the use of slides and other resources in this presentation

Contact Information

Lorraine Husum Allen

Director Homeless Education Program Phone: (850) 245-0668 Fax: (850) 2245-0697

Lorraine.Allen@fldoe.org

Skip Forsyth

Senior Program Specialist Homeless Education Program Phone: (850) 245-0089 Fax: (850) 2245-0697 Skip.Forsyth@fldoe.org

Florida Department of Education

325 West Gaines Street, #301-C Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/titlex.asp