

UPDATING YOUR FAFSA/CADAA AFTER A UCR HOMELESS YOUTH DETERMINATION

This guide is written specifically for college students who originally filed a FAFSA with parental information but are now experiencing housing instability or homelessness and are living without parental support.

Navigating a FAFSA update under difficult personal circumstances can feel overwhelming for a student. The good news is that federal student aid rules allow students who become unaccompanied and homeless (or at risk of homelessness) to update their FAFSA and be designated as independent, which removes the requirement for parental financial information.

It provides clear, actionable steps for updating a FAFSA to request an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination from the campus Financial Aid Office. This process updates the student's status to provisionally independent, removing the requirement to provide parental data or signatures.

1. Log In to StudentAid.gov: Access your current FAFSA application.

1. Go to [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) and log in using your FSA ID (username and password).
2. On your Dashboard, locate your processed FAFSA for the current academic year.
3. Select "Update or Correct FAFSA Form" to open an edit session.

Key Definitions & Guidance for Students

- **Unaccompanied:** You are not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- **Homeless/At Risk:** You lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing. This includes "couch-surfing" between temporary locations, staying in a vehicle, hotel or shelter, or facing imminent loss of housing without a stable alternative.
- **Privacy & Confidentiality:** Financial aid staff handle homeless determinations with strict confidentiality and respect for student privacy.

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2. Update Student Circumstances Questions: Indicate your change in housing status.

1. Navigate to the **Student Circumstances / Dependency** Status section.
2. Look for the question addressing homelessness:
 - *"At any time on or after July 1, was the student unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?"*
3. Change your answer to YES.
4. The FAFSA will ask if you have documentation from a designated third party (such as a high school liaison, homeless shelter director, or TRIO program)
5. If you do not have documentation from an external agency: Select the option indicating you need a determination directly from your college's Financial Aid Administrator (FAA).
6. Your FAFSA will now classify you as Provisionally Independent.
7. Review & Remove Parent Details For example, with provisionally independent status active, you can bypass the parental tax, income, and signature sections.
8. Review all remaining student sections to confirm your personal income and details are accurate.
9. Finalize the FAFSA update and sign the form electronically using your FSA ID.
10. Submit the updated FAFSA.
11. Download or print a copy of your FAFSA Submission Summary for your records.
12. Make a HOSS appointment for a day one week later to connect with the Financial Aid Office and complete the determination process.
13. At the HOSS appointment, immediately let them know you submitted a FAFSA update requesting a homeless determination.
14. Request an interview or review with a Financial Aid Administrator.
15. The administrator will conduct a confidential interview or review a brief written statement confirming that you are unaccompanied and lack fixed, regular, or adequate housing. They will not ask for sensitive details about family conflicts or past trauma—only what is necessary to confirm your current living situation.
16. Once verified, the administrator will finalize your independent status, allowing your financial aid to be recalculated.