

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Definition of Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, adequate night-time residence. The term includes children and youth who:

- share the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- are abandoned in hospitals;
- are awaiting foster care placement;
- have a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.