

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination Request

Academic year 2026-2027

Who should use this form

Use this form if, at any time on or after July 1, 2025, you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or you were unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of becoming homeless, and you need Rider University to make or document a determination for the 2026-2027 FAFSA. This is a homeless youth determination, not a dependency override.

Important

You do not have to live in a shelter or on the street to qualify. Temporary housing with other people because you had nowhere else to go, living in a motel, campground, car, park, abandoned building, or other place not meant for regular housing may qualify. Police or Child Protective Services reports are not required.

How to submit

Submit this form and supporting documentation through the One Stop Documents Upload, located on the Student Finances tile in myRider. Questions may be directed to the One Stop Services at onestop@rider.edu or 609-896-5360, Bart Luedeke Center, 1st floor. If you do not have documentation from another authorized person or program, Rider can make a determination based on a written statement or documented interview that adequately confirms your status.

Student information

Student name: _____	Bronc ID: _____
Rider email: _____	Phone: _____

1. Definitions

Term	Meaning for federal student aid
Homeless	You lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
Unaccompanied	You are not living in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.
Self-supporting	You pay for your own living expenses, including housing.
At risk of homelessness	Your housing may stop being fixed, regular, and adequate, for example because you are facing eviction and do not have another fixed, regular, and adequate place to live.
Fixed	Stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
Regular	Used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis.
Adequate	Sufficient to meet the physical and psychological needs normally met in a home.

2. Prior determination, if applicable

Have any of the following previously determined that you were an unaccompanied homeless youth or an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness? Check all that apply.

- ☐ High school or school district homeless liaison or designee
- ☐ Director/designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving people experiencing homelessness
- ☐ Director/designee of a Federal TRIO or GEAR UP program
- ☐ Financial aid administrator at another college in the same or a prior award year
- ☐ Rider University financial aid administrator in a prior award year
- ☐ None of the above, I do not have a prior determination

Name of person/program that made the determination, if known: _____

Phone or email, if known: _____ Approximate date: _____

3. Your housing situation

Check any situation that describes where you stayed or your housing status on or after July 1, 2025.

You may check more than one.

☐ Temporarily staying with other people because I had nowhere else to go	☐ Emergency or transitional shelter
☐ Motel, hotel, campground, or similar temporary setting because I had no adequate alternative	☐ Car, park, abandoned building, bus/train station, or other public/private place not designed for regular housing
☐ Substandard or otherwise inadequate housing	☐ College residence hall only because I would otherwise be homeless
☐ Facing loss of current housing/eviction without another fixed, regular, and adequate place to live	☐ Other housing situation that is not fixed, regular, and adequate

Are you currently living in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you are at risk of homelessness rather than currently homeless, are you self-supporting?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable

4. Student statement

Briefly describe where you have been staying, how long you have been staying there, and why the housing is not fixed, regular, and adequate, or why you are at risk of losing fixed, regular, and adequate housing. You do not need to explain the personal reasons that led to the housing situation unless you want to.

5. Documentation or third-party contact, if available

If you already have a determination or can easily obtain supporting information, submit it. Rider must consider documentation from the authorized sources listed above to be adequate. Other relevant information may also come from shelters/service providers, college or high school counselors, TRIO/GEAR UP, social workers, mentors, doctors, clergy, or other persons with direct knowledge. If you cannot obtain documentation, that does not automatically make you ineligible. Rider may document an interview with you and make the determination itself.

Optional contact person: _____ Organization/Role: _____

Phone/Email: _____ Relationship to student: _____

6. Student certification

I certify that the information in this request is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand Rider University may contact an authorized third party I identify or may conduct a documented interview with me to determine whether I meet the federal definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth or an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Rider University financial aid use only

Date request received	_____
Prior authorized determination	☐ LEA liaison ☐ Shelter/service program ☐ TRIO/GEAR UP ☐ Other-school FAA ☐ Prior Rider FAA ☐ None
Basis for Rider determination	☐ Prior adequate determination ☐ Student written statement ☐ Documented interview ☐ Other third-party information
Status established	☐ Unaccompanied + homeless ☐ Unaccompanied + self-supporting + at risk of homelessness ☐ Does not meet criteria
Applicable date	Status existed on/after July 1, 2025: ☐ Yes ☐ No
FAFSA action	Student Homelessness = Yes: ☐ Entered/confirmed Determiner = FAA: ☐ Entered/confirmed ISIR transaction #: _____
Dependency override	☐ Not required, homeless youth status establishes independence ☐ Other: _____
Student notified	Date: _____ Method: _____
Future-year treatment	☐ Presume continued independence in later Rider award years unless student reports a change or conflicting information exists
Reviewer	Name/Initials: _____ Date: _____

FAA interview notes / determination rationale. Focus on whether the housing was fixed, regular, and adequate and whether the student was unaccompanied; do not require the student to justify why the situation occurred:
