



Duration of Enrollment

Once a student has been enrolled in the nutrition program, she is eligible for the rest of the year and up to 30 days into the next school year.

Homeless Children Residing Within Another Household

- ▶ The income of the host family is irrelevant to determine eligibility of homeless youth.
- ▶ If the host family applies for free or reduced meals for their own children, the host family may include the homeless family as household members if the host family provides financial support to the homeless family, such as shelter, utilities, clothing or food.



Ohio State Legal Services

555 Buttlers Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215
614-221-7201
800-589-5888
www.oslsa.org

To get the contact information for your local legal aid office, call **1-800-LAW-OHIO** or visit www.ohiolegalservices.org

Equal Justice Foundation

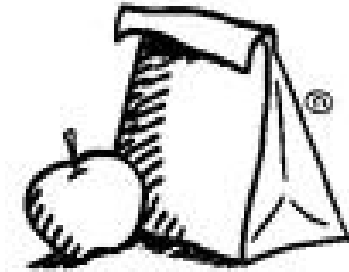
88 E. Broad St., Suite 1590
Columbus, OH 43215
614-221-9800
800-898-0545



Youth Empowerment Program

Coalition on Housing & Homelessness in Ohio
175 S. 3rd Street, Suite 250
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-280-1984

Student Eligibility for School Meals



A Guide to the Nutritional Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Ohio



Who is Homeless?

For the purposes of the school lunch program, an individual who is homeless is someone who does not have a **fixed, regular, or adequate place to live**, including:

- ▶ Sharing housing of relatives or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- ▶ Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds **due to the lack of other adequate housing**;
- ▶ Living in emergency or transitional shelters, on the street, in a car, or in similar substandard arrangements.

Eligibility for School Nutrition Programs

Students who are experiencing homelessness **automatically qualify** for the school's free breakfast and lunch programs.



Who to Contact

Each school district in Ohio has a homeless liaison, who works to protect the rights of students in transition and helps them receive services they are entitled to. They can help students sign up for free meals.

To find your district liaison contact the State Coordinator at 614-466-4161.

How to Enroll

Children and youth experiencing homelessness do not have to fill out an application to be enrolled in their school's free nutrition programs. This means that you do **NOT** need to show proof of income. You must, however, provide documentation to the school with the following information:

- ✓ Child or Children's Name(s)
- ✓ Dates of Homelessness
- ✓ Signature of local educational liaison or the director of the homeless shelter

