



# 2024 College Starter Kit Opportunity

For College Bound Students Experiencing Homelessness

## PURPOSE & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Idaho Department of Education's Homeless Education for Children & Youth Program is offering an opportunity for graduating high school students in Idaho who are experiencing homelessness to receive a College Starter Kit. The kit will include items such as a laptop, luggage, school supplies, and other essential items to prepare a student for success in the first year of college for the 2023-24 academic year.

## QUALIFICATIONS

1. Student must have experienced homelessness during the 2023-24 school year.
2. Student must have been identified as experiencing homelessness (McKinney-Vento eligible) by the LEA or charter in ISEE data reporting.
3. Student must provide proof of acceptance and/or enrollment into a college or university for the 2024 summer/fall semester or term.

## RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All recipients are required to participate in a check-in with their liaison during the spring term to monitor academic progress during the 2023-24 academic year.
2. All recipients are required to attend the College Starter Kit Celebration Send-Off located in Boise, Idaho, either in-person or via online in July 2024.
3. All recipients are required to participate in a virtual check-in during the 2024-25 college academic year with the [Coordinator](#) for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program at the Idaho Department of Education.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit a completed application packet through <https://form.jotform.com/233475991318163>. Application packet must include the following:

1. A completed application

2. A personal essay (1,000-1,500 words) about the impact of experiencing homelessness and the desire to attend college (see essay evaluation criteria).
3. A minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or adult who can speak to the applicant's educational qualifications (Advanced Placement classes, honor roll selection, academic improvements, standardized tests, academic certificates, or awards) and life experiences.
4. Proof of acceptance into a college or university (e.g. college acceptance letter, class schedule, or housing confirmation letter).

## DEADLINE

Application materials must be submitted electronically by 11:59pm MT, Friday, May 31, 2024 to Emily Kesler at [esommer@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:esommer@sde.idaho.gov).

## AWARD NOTIFICATION

Students selected to receive a College Starter Kit will be notified in July 2024 by phone, email or other information provided by the applicant, legal guardian or district liaison. College Starter Kits will be distributed by August 2024 while supplies last.

## ESSAY EVALUATION CRITERIA

The applicant will submit an essay about the impact of experiencing homelessness on the student's life and their desire to attend college, consisting of a 1,000–1,500-word range. Essays must be submitted as a Microsoft Word attachment or PDF. Each essay will be evaluated based on the following:

- Demonstrated commitment to education during their experience of homelessness
- Academic achievement and accomplishments
- Potential impact of receiving the College Starter Kit on the student's educational career
- Statement of goals and career interests
- Grammar and use of language

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or questions, please contact Emily Kesler, Coordinator for the Education for Homeless Children & Youth at [esommer@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:esommer@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6904.