

# COLLEGE ACCESSIBILITY FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

## SB190

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Despite facing many challenges including deep poverty and instability many youth who experience homelessness wish to pursue careers that require some form of postsecondary education. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago's study found that 4.2 million youth and young adults experienced homelessness on their own during a 12-month period. The study also found 29% of young adults who experienced homelessness were enrolled in college or another educational program at the time that they experienced homelessness.

They are often invisible on campus, they are unsure if there are services available, confused on who or if they should turn to someone when problems arise. Students attempt to blend in because they want to be like other students despite their atypical circumstances.

Nationally, state legislatures are enacting laws to better support college students experiencing homelessness. SB190 allows Illinois follow that lead and better serve our students.

### SOLUTIONS

#### SB190 will:

- ▶ Ask Illinois colleges and universities to designate a HOUSE (Housing and Opportunities that are Useful for Students' Excellence) liaison for students experiencing homelessness and/or are students in care
- ▶ Create training for HOUSE liaisons to ensure they have the information needed to best serve the students
- ▶ Provide students experiencing homelessness and students in care priority for on-campus housing
- ▶ Provide the opportunity for students experiencing homelessness and students in care to remain on campus during school breaks if on-campus housing remains open, ensuring they have access to housing as well as other necessities.
- ▶ Ensure students experiencing homelessness and students in care leaving high school seamlessly matriculate into higher education
- ▶ Require colleges and universities to identify students who are experiencing homelessness and report this information to Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
- ▶ If after three academic years of tracking data universities and colleges with one percent of their student body experiencing homelessness or in care the liaison position will become a standalone position to best serve students.

“My school's administration did not know how to assist me. When I let them know I was unaccompanied they told me I needed to find my parents. School was my way of escape from it all. I did not have a home to go to, school was my home.”

**Organization Endorsers:** Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County  
Arab American Family Services • Children's Home & Aid • Connections for the Homeless  
Foster Progress • The Harbour • Heartland Alliance • Housing Forward • New Moms  
Respond Now

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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