



## 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

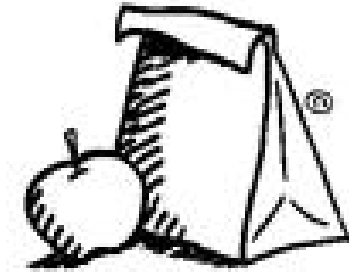


**Equal Justice Foundation**  
 88 E. Broad St., Suite 1590  
 Columbus, OH 43215  
 614-221-9800  
 800-898-0545



**Youth Empowerment Program**  
 Coalition on Housing & Homelessness  
 in Ohio  
 175 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

