

**OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

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**Title: Homeless and At-Risk Students****Background:**

Benedictine University (the “University”) provides assistance to enrolled students who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness in accordance with IL Public ACT 102-0883. The University has designated a liaison to assist enrolled students who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. If you are an enrolled student who is experiencing or are at risk of homelessness you can contact:

**Benedictine University HOUSE Liaison:** Marco Masini, Dean of Students (630) 829-6006 or [mmasini@ben.edu](mailto:mmasini@ben.edu)

**Policy Statement:**

Students enrolled in institutions of Higher Education are increasingly struggling to meet basic needs such as affordable and stable housing. Benedictine University provides resources available to assist enrolled students experiencing or are at risk of homelessness.

**Definitions:**

**Student experiencing homelessness or homeless student** - means an individual enrolled at Benedictine University who lacks or is at imminent risk of lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and care and includes a homeless individual as defined under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For the purposes of this definition, the term "fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence" does not include residence in an institution of higher education's on-campus housing.

**Student in care** - means any person, regardless of age, who is or was under the care and legal custody of the Department of Children and Family Services, including youth for whom the Department has court-ordered legal responsibility, youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who have been adopted and were the subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who have been placed in private guardianship and were the subject of a subsidized guardianship agreement.

**Procedures:****Designated Liaison’s Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Benedictine University Designated HOUSE Liaison offers assistance and identifies resources for enrolled students who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. The HOUSE Liaison has the following responsibilities to:

- understand provisions pertaining to the financial aid eligibility of homeless students, including eligibility as an independent student under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965;
- identify services and resources that are available to and appropriate for a homeless student;
- assist a homeless student in applying for and receiving federal and state financial aid and available services;
- act as an intermediary between a homeless student and the Office of Financial Aid and with the various student support services on campus;
- connect a homeless student to a local continuation of care program; and
- provide access to on-campus housing or to suitable off-campus housing between academic breaks to enrolled homeless students; and
- train employees to identify students experiencing homelessness and to refer those students to the HOUSE Liaison.



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### **Benedictine University shall:**

- grant priority for on-campus housing to enrolled students experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, access to on-campus housing that remains open during academic breaks, and waive fees for the on-campus housing during academic breaks;
- allow enrolled students experiencing homelessness who are enrolled part-time to access on-campus housing;
- provide information about the availability of on-campus housing to enrolled students experiencing homelessness; and
- provide information about the services and assistance offered by Benedictine University regarding homelessness in financial aid packets and admission packets and on Benedictine University's website.

### **Reporting Requirements:**

#### **The HOUSE Liaison will:**

- track and monitor the graduation rate and retention rate of homeless enrolled students and students in care; and
- report annually to the Illinois Board of Higher Education the number of homeless enrolled students.

### **Policy Contact:**

- Chief Institutional Compliance and Risk Management Officer (630) 829-6404

**Date of Issuance: September 9, 2022**

**Last Revised: October 4, 2023**

**Department Responsible: Office of Institutional Compliance and Risk Management**

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**RESOURCES****Housing Resources:**

- **On Campus Housing:** Students who require housing can contact the HOUSE liaison to determine options in the University Residence Halls and Apartments. The University will keep on campus housing options available during breaks and summer for students.
- **360 Youth Services:** 360 Youth Services is proud to offer housing to youth experiencing Homelessness. Through their Emergency Youth Shelter, Transitional and Rapid Rehousing Programs, and Cornerstone Group Home, they serve young people ages 18-24 and work side by side with young people to ultimately transition to independence.
  - For more information, visit [360 Youth Services](#) or call (630) 717-9408.
- **Bridge Communities:** Bridge Communities provides free transitional housing to more than 100 homeless DuPage County families each year. During the two years each family spends in the program, they are able to save money, learn budgeting skills, and obtain better employment, so they can live self-sufficiently once they graduate.
  - Must be over 21 and have at least 1 child under 18.
  - For more information, visit [Bridge Communities](#) or call (630) 545-0610.
- **Community Housing Advocacy & Development (CHAD):** Offers below market housing to qualified applicants.
  - For more information, visit [Chad Housing](#) or call (630) 456-4452.
- DuPage County Continuum of Care: Their Mission is to develop and support effective strategies to end homelessness in DuPage County, IL.
  - For more information, visit <https://dupagehomeless.org/> or call 630 407-6500.
- **DuPage Housing Authority:** DuPage Housing Authority is a public housing agency (PHA) that administers the Housing Choice Voucher Program, a federally funded subsidized housing program under the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Housing Choice Vouchers allow income eligible families - including individuals, elderly persons, veterans and persons with disabilities - to live in safe and affordable rental units like single-family homes, apartments, townhouses, mobile homes and some condos and cooperatives.
  - For more information, visit [DuPage Housing Authority](#) or call (630) 690-3555.
- **DuPage PADS:** provider of interim and permanent housing, coupled with support services in order to help individuals work toward a place to call home – DuPage Pads vital support services enable the individuals they help to receive case management and life coaching, employment support such as GED courses and job coaching, as well as engagement with employers—effectively stopping the cycle of homelessness.
  - For more information, visit [DuPage PADS](#) or call (630) 682-3846.

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- **Family Shelter Service of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage:** Family Shelter Service has answered the call in their community to help victims of domestic violence escape abuse and rebuild their lives.
  - For more information, visit [Family Shelter Service of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage](#) or call (630) 221-8290.
- **Hesed House – Aurora:** Hesed is a comprehensive homeless resource center for counseling, employment and housing assistance serving adults and families.
  - For more information, visit [Hesed House](#) or call (630) 897-2156.
- **Hope House – DuPage County:** The Kathy Paulsen Hope House serves as a 24-hour hotline to assist in locating homeless services in DuPage County. Hope House also provides housing and support services to those who are homeless.
  - For more information, visit [Catholic Charities](#) or call (800) 941-8681.

**Financial Resources:**

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** Application for federal grants, work-study, and loans. The FAFSA can be completed online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.
- If your financial aid award exceeds the amount you owe the school for tuition and other expenses at the time of disbursement, you may receive a financial aid refund.
  - For more information, visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).
- **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** will not be required to add parent information to the FAFSA application.
  - “Homeless” means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, you may be considered homeless even if your parent would otherwise provide a place to live. “Unaccompanied” means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.
  - For more information, visit [Student Aid](#).
- **Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES):** Find information about unemployment insurance (UI) and file a claim.
  - For more information, visit [IDES](#).

**Food and Clothing Resources:**

- **Benedictine University Food Pantry:** provides food for Benedictine University students on campus who may be food-insecure. No proof of need is necessary. Contact [campusministry@ben.edu](mailto:campusministry@ben.edu) for the location.
- **DuPage County Community Services:** Provides a list of resources in DuPage County.
  - Visit [DuPage County Community Services](#) to find food, clothing, and other resources in your area.

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- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called Food Stamps). SNAP helps low income people buy the food they need for good nutritional health. If you qualify for SNAP, you will get an Illinois Link card. Each month, the amount of your SNAP benefits will be added to your Link Card account, and you can use it like a debit card to pay for food at most grocery stores.
  - For more information or to complete a general application for benefits (ABE) visit [ABE Illinois](#).
  - Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 1-800-843-6154 or 1-866-324-5553 TTY

**Employment Resources:**

- **Benedictine University Office of Career and Personal Development:** The Office of Career and Personal Development assists students with the job and internship search process by equipping students with the appropriate tools and resources to secure current or future employment. More information on the Office of Career and Personal Development can be found online at <https://ben.edu/student-life/career-and-personal-development/>.
- **Benedictine University Student Employment:** Find out if you are eligible and put student employment to work for you. Information on Benedictine University Student Employment can be found online at <https://ben.edu/resources/employment-opportunities/>.
- **Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES):** Get help finding your next career.
  - For more information, visit [IDES](#).

**Health and Counseling Resources:**

- **Counseling Services:** recommended by Benedictine Counseling located at <https://ben.edu/student-life/wellness-center/>.
- **DuPage County Health Department:** The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) aims to protect the health of residents and visitors through services provided.
  - For more information, visit [DuPage County Health Department](#) or call (630) 682-7400
- **Medicaid:** Medicaid and All Kids cover health care for low income people of all ages in Illinois. The Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services (HFS) is committed to improving the health of Illinois' families by providing access to quality health care. This mission is accomplished through HFS Medical Programs that pay for a wide range of health services, provided by thousands of medical providers throughout Illinois, to about two million Illinoisans each year.
  - For more information or to complete a general application for benefits, visit [ABE Illinois](#).
  - Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 1-800-843-6154 or 1-866-324-5553 TTY
- **Student Health Insurance:** Benedictine University is pleased to offer health, dental, vision, and supplemental insurance plans for students and their families. Additional information on voluntary student insurance for students attending the Lisle campus can be found online at <https://benedictine.studentbenefitplans.com/>. Additional information on voluntary student

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insurance for students attending the Mesa campus can be found online at <https://benmesa.studentbenefitplans.com/>.

**Internet/Technology:**

- **Affordable Connectivity Program:** Your household may be eligible to receive a monthly discount on a new or existing internet service plan with the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). There are several ways to qualify for the ACP: through your participation in other government programs or based on your annual household income (students receiving Pell Grants are automatically eligible).
  - For more information, visit [WhiteHouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov/).

**Child Care:**

- **Illinois Department of Human Services – Child Care Assistance:** The [Illinois Department of Human Services' \(IDHS\) Child Care Assistance Program](#) (CCAP) and your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency work together to support families to get the information and resources the need to find and select the best child care for their child.
  - [View eligibility and learn how to apply](#) or contact Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 1-800-843-6154 or 1-866-324-5553 TTY
- **Illinois Action for Children:** The Illinois Action for Children's goal is to create a just system for child care and early education that ensures racially and economically equitable outcomes for all children.
  - For more information, contact the [Illinois Action for Children](#).
- **Metropolitan Family Services – Early Learning and Head Start (Chicago & DuPage County):** Metropolitan Family Services offers affordable and accredited educational programs for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age.
  - For more information, contact [Metropolitan Family Services](#).
- **YWCA Family Support Services:** YWCA Metropolitan Chicago offers a variety of support services for families. These services include income supports like our Child Care Assistance Program, referrals and resources for parents seeking child care and parenting education and home visits through the Young Parents Program. They are committed to ensuring that families receive all of the support necessary to achieve optimal health and wellness and create economic sustainability.
  - For more information, contact [YWCA Family Support Services](#).