



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

**EDUCATION**

## OSSE 2019 College Starter Kit for Students Experiencing Homelessness

**Purpose & Eligibility Criteria:** The Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE's) Homeless Education Program is offering an opportunity for graduating high school students, who are experiencing homelessness to receive a College Starter Kit. The kit will include items such as a laptop, school supplies and other essential items to prepare a student for success in the first year of college.

### Qualifications:

1. The students must have experienced homelessness during the 2018-19 school year.
2. Students must have been identified as experiencing homelessness in the McKinney-Vento QuickBase application, Comprehensive Homeless Student Data application or by an advocate/case worker during the 2018-19 school year.
3. Students must show proof of acceptance into a college or university for the 2019 fall semester.

### Instructions:

Applicants must submit a completed application packet which includes:

1. A completed cover sheet;
2. An essay (up to 1,500 words) about the impact of experiencing homelessness on their life and their desire to attend college (see essay evaluation criteria listed below);
3. A minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adult who can speak to the applicant's educational qualifications and life experience; and
4. Proof of acceptance into a college or university (e.g., acceptance letter, class schedule or housing confirmation letter).

**Deadline:** Applications must be submitted electronically by **Friday, May 31, 2019** to Tasheen Stallings at [Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov](mailto:Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov).

Recipients will be notified regarding the application outcome and next steps via phone, email or information provided from the parent/guardian or school.

### When will the College Starter Kits be awarded?

College Starter Kits will be distributed to recipients during a **mandatory** college send-off workshop on **Wednesday, July 31, 2019 from 12-1:30 p.m.** at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, 1050 First St. NE, Washington, DC, 20002 in Eleanor Holmes Norton I Conference Room (First Floor, Room 108).

### OSSE Point of Contact

For more information or questions, please contact Tasheen Stallings, Homeless Education Program Analyst, at [Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov](mailto:Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov) or (202) 478-5927.



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## OSSE 2019 College Starter Kit Application Cover Sheet

### Student's Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

High School/Community Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Most Stable Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

College/University (attending in summer/fall 2019) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Student \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Person for the Student:

Please provide the name, title, and organization of a contact person with whom we can communicate with regarding the student's application. An appropriate contact person would be someone who is in regular communication with the applicant and is able to reach him or her (e.g., school counselor, teacher, social worker, coach, case manager, or shelter director).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



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## OSSE 2019 College Starter Kit Application

Here is what you need to submit by **Friday, May 31, 2019**:

**1. 2019 College Starter Kit Application Cover Sheet:**

Submit via email to [Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov](mailto:Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov).

**2. Essay:**

Applicants must submit an essay about the impact of experiencing homelessness on their life and their desire to attend college (up to 1,500 words). Each essay will be evaluated on the following:

- Demonstrated commitment to education during the experience of homelessness;
- Academic achievement and accomplishments;
- Potential impact of the scholarship on the student's educational career;
- Statement of goals and career interests; and
- Grammar and use of language.

Please note that the essay is one of the most important components of the application. Applicants must submit the essay as a Microsoft Word document attachment via email to [Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov](mailto:Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov).

**3. Letter of Recommendation:**

Applicants must provide a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adult who can speak to the applicant's educational qualifications and life experience. Please submit the signed letter as a PDF attachment via email with the above requested items to [Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov](mailto:Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov).

**4. Proof of acceptance into a college or university:**

Applicants must provide evidence of acceptance into a college or university. Acceptable evidence includes an acceptance letter, a class schedule or a letter confirming housing via email to [Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov](mailto:Tasheen.Stallings@dc.gov).