Too often youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness must choose between stable housing or obtaining full-time education. Due to a limitation in the eligibility criteria for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, individuals who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness would otherwise qualify to live in low-income housing are not eligible for LIHTC rental units if they attend school full-time. Congress should fix this issue by including the bipartisan Housing for Homeless Students Act final FY2022 omnibus appropriations package to expand access to housing for homeless youth and veterans.

Fixing the “student rule” is critical to preventing and ending youth homelessness and supporting survivors of trafficking.

Currently, homeless individuals or those who have experienced homelessness would qualify to live in low-income housing, but are not permitted to attend school full-time. The Housing Credit helps create affordable apartment communities with lower than market rate rents by offering tax incentives to the property owners. This means many young people who have experienced homelessness must choose between stable housing or obtaining full-time education. Education has a powerful role to play in preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Fixing this policy would ensure that youth and veterans who have experienced homelessness can access affordable housing while simultaneously pursuing education.

NN4Y urges Congress to include the Housing for Homeless Students Act in the final FY2022 omnibus appropriations package to and fix the student rule, making it so students experiencing homelessness can go to school full time and access vital LIHTC funded housing.

Visit our website to learn more.