

Financial Aid Office

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2026-2027 Documentation of Independent Status

Student Name: _____ RSC Student ID #: _____

****Please fill out in Blue or Black Ink only****

****Scanned or printed copies only, photos of completed forms will not be accepted****

When you completed the FAFSA, you answered yes to one or more questions which may mean you are not required to provide parental information on your FAFSA. You are required to provide supporting documentation of your answers in order to qualify for federal financial aid without reporting parental information. Please complete the form as indicated, attach the documentation as instructed, and return this form along with the required documentation to this office.

Section One – Please answer each question.

1. Are both your parents deceased? Yes No
 - If you answered “yes” attach documentation. Documentation could include death certificates, funeral notices or a signed statement from a person such as a pastor, teacher, counselor, principal, social worker, or a medical or mental health professional. The signed statement should include the title or position or the person and contact information.

2. Since age 13 have you been in foster care? Yes No
 - If you answered “yes” attach documentation from a social service agency (Department of Human Services, e.g.) or court.

3. Since age 13 have you been a dependent or ward of the court? Yes No
 - If you answered “yes” attach documentation from a social service agency (Department of Human Services, e.g.) attorney or court.

 - Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? Yes No
 - If you answered “yes” attach documentation from a court in the state of your legal residence.

5. Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? Yes No
 - If you answered “yes” attach documentation from a court in the state of your legal residence.

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Section Two – Please answer each question.

To be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth on the FAFSA form, an individual must be a youth who (1)unaccompanied **AND** homeless or (2) unaccompanied, self-supporting, **AND** at risk of being homeless.

Homeless: *lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing*

Unaccompanied: *when student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian*

At risk of being homeless: *when a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular and adequate (ex: being evicted or asked to leave current residence and unable to find fixed, regular and adequate housing)*

Self-Supporting: *when a student pays for his or her own living expenses, which include paying for fixed, regular and adequate housing.*

1. At any time, on or after July 1, 2025, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Yes No
 - If you answered “yes” attach documentation from the homeless liaison.

2. At any time, on or after July 1, 2025, did the director of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless drop-in center, or other program serving those experiencing homelessness determine that you were a youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and a risk of being homeless? Yes No
 - If you answered “yes” attach documentation from the shelter or housing program.

3. At any time, on or after July 1, 2025, did the director of a project supported by a federal TRIO or GEAR UP program grant determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Yes No
 - If you answered “yes” attach documentation from the director of the program that determined your status.

4. Please describe in your own words where you have lived over the past 12 months.
(Use an additional sheet of paper if necessary.)

I certify that all information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I have provided the documentation requested to verify the information provided on this form. I understand I may be required to provide additional documentation to support this request.

Student Signature

Date

RSC Financial Aid Office Use Only

Attached Documentation Acceptable: Yes No

Reviewed By FAO Admin: _____ Date: _____

If documentation is not acceptable, please provide reason: