**EXCERPT OF GUIDELINES**

**AND APPLICATION FOR FUNDS**

**The R4T Fund (RisforThursday Network of Oklahoma)**

**R is for Thursday (R4T)** is a statewide network of higher education professionals, community members and organizations, and foster alumni college students/graduates working toward increased understanding and support of former foster youth attending, or who have graduated from, Oklahoma colleges or universities. A foster alumni college student is defined as any person who was in foster care, or foster care conditions, in any state or country at age 13 or after and is currently enrolled at, or has graduated from, an Oklahoma college or university.

The R4T Fund primarily provides a final safety net for individual, current foster alumni college students who are at risk for dropout due to financial challenges. It is intended to be secondary to existing campus-based assistance and campus-based Foundation crisis/emergency funds. It is a grant to the student and repayment is not required; however, should a student later be in a position to replenish funds for other students, that effort is appreciated and encouraged as a way to help those coming behind them.

The following criteria qualify an individual student for application for funds: currently enrolled at an Oklahoma college or university and support of their campus-based RisforThursday advocate.

What the Fund may be accessed for:

* Direct educational costs when temporary support may bridge the student to a more stable situation (e.g. a situation is being resolved with federal financial aid, etc.), e.g.: tuition and fees, textbooks and/or required equipment
* Medical costs that are not covered by other sources
* Unexpected and sudden short-term costs that may derail a student, e.g. transportation, childcare, rent deposits
* Events or incidentals that would be a part of the typical student experience, e.g. cap and gown to be able to participate in graduation ceremonies
* Short-term situations encountered by individual students that may be unforeseen at the time of these guidelines but are unanimously approved by the Fund’s executive committee members

**Process for individual student application**

* Signed and completed student section of application form
* Signed and completed advocate section of application form
  + Verifies that, to the best of the advocate’s knowledge, the student meets the RisforThursday definition of foster alumni college student and the student is in good standing (according to their campus’ guidelines)
  + For direct educational costs: verifies existence of cost, that campus-based resources have been exhausted and retention risk is immediate
  + For medical or other unexpected costs: provides explanation for cost and how will be addressed in the future
  + For typical student experience costs: provides explanation for cost
  + Verifies that FERPA form has been signed

***Please note that campus-based advocates of students receiving funds agree, through their participation in the process, to remain a point of contact for the executive committee; advocates may be asked to provide follow-up information on the student’s progress.***

* Signed and completed educational specialist section of the application form (if applicable)
* Signed RisforThursday FERPA form (scanned and attached to email)
* Send application materials to [risforthursday@okstate.edu](mailto:risforthursday@okstate.edu)

**Conditions for receipt of funds to individual students**

As stated on the application, a student receiving funds:

* Must remain in regular contact with his or her RisforThursday campus-based advocate (frequency to be determined with advocate), and
* Must sign a RisforThursday FERPA Release that allows for monitoring of academic progress toward degree completion.

**Student Application for R4T Fund**

Funds are needed for the following (check appropriate box):

* Direct educational costs when temporary support may bridge you to a more stable situation (e.g. a situation is being resolved with federal financial aid, etc.), e.g.: tuition and fees, textbooks and/or required equipment
* Medical costs that are not covered by other sources
* Unexpected and sudden short-term costs that may prevent your attendance in class or progress in your studies, e.g. transportation, childcare, rent deposits
* Events or incidentals that would be a part of the typical student experience, e.g. cap and gown to be able to participate in graduation ceremonies
* Short-term situations encountered by you that may be unforeseen at the time of these guidelines (require special approval; please fully explain the situation/need in your paragraphs below)

Student’s Name:

College/university email:

Personal (non-college/university) email:

College or University in which currently enrolled:

Current classification (freshman, sophomore, etc.):

Name of campus-based advocate:

Name of DHS educational specialist (if applicable):

Other academic information about that may be important for the funding decision:

In one to two paragraphs, please explain why the funding is needed, how it will be used, and why you are a good candidate for the R4T Fund.

If application for funds is approved, I agree to be in regular contact with my RisforThursday campus-based advocate (frequency to be determined with advocate) and to sign a RisforThursday FERPA Release that allows for monitoring my academic progress and related student information.

I understand that, after a decision is communicated to me about this application for financial assistance, I will receive an invitation to participate in research on foster alumni college students (regardless of the funding decision made). I understand that the decision to participate (or not) in research activities is solely mine and is not a factor in future funding requests or student support for me.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Students and their R4T advocates should expect funding decisions within 3-5 business days (not including holidays). Decisions will be communicated via the provided emails. If conditions related to the request need to be met more quickly than 3-5 days, please note this in the body of the email with the application form.***

***Only complete applications will be considered.***

**R is for Thursday-approved campus advocate** (section may be completed on this form or the information emailed to [risforthursday@okstate.edu](mailto:risforthursday@okstate.edu); please clearly identify the student’s name in all emails)

Please check all that apply:

* To the best of my knowledge, the above student meets the RisforThursday definition of foster alumni college student
* The student is in good academic standing (per campus’ guidelines)
* The request is for direct educational costs **and**:
  + I have verified the costs,
  + To the best of my knowledge, campus-based resources have been exhausted, and
  + The student retention risk is immediate.
* The request is for medical costs **and**
  + The student and I have discussed how he/she will address any ongoing, associated expenses.
* The request is for events or incidentals that are part of the typical student (non-foster) experience, e.g. cap and gown to be able to participate in graduation ceremonies
* The student and I have a plan for periodic contact to assess his/her progress and any needed support.
* The student has signed the RisforThursday FERPA release (provided by RisforThursday Network).

***Please note that campus-based advocates of students receiving funds agree, through their participation in the process, to remain a point of contact for the executive committee and may be asked to provide follow-up information.***

***The student’s signed RisforThursday FERPA form must be attached to the application email with the application form.***

The check should be made out to: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The check should be mailed to (please provide complete address): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

R4T Advocate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DHS Educational Specialist** (section may be completed on this form or the information emailed to [risforthursday@okstate.edu](mailto:risforthursday@okstate.edu); please clearly identify the student’s name in all emails)

* I have reviewed the financial request in this application and, to the best of my knowledge, the above student is not eligible for DHS funds for this purpose.

Educational Specialist Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Only complete applications will be considered.

Send all application materials to [risforthursday@okstate.edu](mailto:risforthursday@okstate.edu)