



## MEOC Application FAQs



**Motherlode Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) is a federally-funded program that provides personalized transition services to individuals who wish to obtain a GED/High School Equivalency and attend a college/vocational program. Some of our services include: assistance applying for financial aid, help applying to any college/vocational program, and financial literacy workshops. Our goal is to help our clients to realize the transformative impact of education, take advantage of the financial resources that are available, and make a successful transition into higher education.**

### **Why do you need my social security number?**

MEOC is a federally funded grant. As such, it requires us to gather and report certain information. Your social security number is one of those required pieces of information. However, you can be sure that we will not share that information with anyone. It is strictly for reporting purposes.

### **What is “taxable income”?**

Your “taxable income” is your adjusted gross income minus your itemized deduction or standard deduction, minus any exemptions. For those that filed taxes, it can be found on line 43 of IRS form 1040 or line 27 of form 1040A. **If you are under 24 years old and still categorized as a dependent by FAFSA standards, this should be your parent’s income and requires a parent’s signature.**

### **Why do you ask about my citizenship?**

One of the federal requirements of the program is that all participants need to be citizens or legal residents. If you do not meet either of those requirements, don’t worry. We still have resources for you! We will always do our best to connect you to services that you might qualify for. Also, you can be confident that your citizenship/residency status is strictly confidential and will not be shared.

### **Why do you need to know if I am receiving services from any other agencies?**

MEOC partners with many community agencies. We want to make sure that we are combining efforts to provide each client with the best resources possible. Identifying other agencies that you work with helps us to make those connections more quickly.

### **What do you do with the information in the needs assessment section?**

We use this section to form a service plan that is tailored to your needs. We will review the items that you have marked and put together resources based on your request, so please mark any that you think you might want more information about.

### **How do I submit my application?**

There are several ways to submit your MEOC application. If none of these options work for you, please contact us at 588-5066 and we will work with you to find a way for you to submit it.

1. Scan and email to: [ColumbiaTrio@yosemite.edu](mailto:ColumbiaTrio@yosemite.edu)
2. Fax to: 209-588-5058
3. Mail to: Columbia College  
MEOC Office - Manzanita 212  
11600 Columbia College Drive  
Sonora, CA 95370
4. Submit online application:  
<http://www.gocolumbia.edu/trio/triomotherlodeeducationalopportunitycenter.php>