

What You Need to Know About the “Invest in Kids” Tax Credit Scholarships

Through the “Invest in Kids Act,” Illinois children from low-income households who want to attend private schools will have access to new scholarships. The scholarships offered through this program could cover up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible fees for next school year.* Below is more information about how to apply and details on eligibility requirements.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Students from low-income households in grades K-12 have the opportunity to receive tax credit scholarships for the 2018/19 school year. These scholarships are funded by donors who receive a credit on their Illinois state income tax as a result of their donation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

You need to apply for tax credit scholarships through a scholarship granting organization (SGO), which will manage this process, instead of the Archdiocese or a school directly. There are several SGOs in Illinois. The Archdiocese of Chicago is working with two SGOs:

Empower Illinois and **Big Shoulders Fund**.

The application process with Empower Illinois will be completed online at empowerillinois.org. The application process will open January 24, 2018.

The application process with Big Shoulders Fund will be completed online at bigshouldersfundsgo.org. The application process will open the second half of January 2018.

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

Based on current information from the SGOs, families will need the following documents in order to apply for a tax credit scholarship:

- Copy of 2016 federal tax return, 1099, W-2 or year-end pay stubs
- Proof of Illinois residency (driver’s license, state ID or utility bill)
- Documentation of student age (birth certificate, federal/state ID or passport)
- If available, a letter of acceptance or enrollment at an eligible, participating, non-public school

HELP APPLYING

You will be able to get help applying for the scholarship in-person at a variety of events in your community in the coming months. The Archdiocese will share the dates and locations of these events as these details are finalized. For families whose first language is not English, we will have in-person resources available to help you through the application process.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting applications is still being determined. Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, so it is very important that when the application process begins, you apply early.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Eligibility to receive a scholarship is based on your family’s household income. For example, a student could receive a scholarship if his/her family income is less than \$73,800 a year for a family of four. See chart below for more information on eligibility for tax credit scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

Your family could receive a scholarship that covers up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible fees for next school year.

See the chart below that shows how much you could receive to cover tuition based on your income for a family of four.

Household Income Per Year (Family of Four)	Eligible Scholarship Amount
Less than \$45,510	100 percent of tuition
\$45,510–\$61,500	75 percent of tuition
\$61,500–\$73,800	50 percent of tuition

To learn more, please visit archchicago.org/tcs or contact the Archdiocese at investinkids@archchicago.org or 312.534.5321.

*Scholarships may NOT exceed \$12,973, the 2018/19 statewide average public school cost for K-12 students.