



# 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 Diocese or a school directly. There are several SGOs in Illinois. The Diocese of Rockford is working with one SGOs: [Empower Illinois](#).

The application process with Empower Illinois will be completed online at [empowerillinois.org](#). The application process will open **January 31, 2018 at 12 noon**.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

Families need the following documents in order to apply for a tax credit scholarship:

- Household Income Verification, specifically:
- Form 1040 (Federal Tax Return; 2016 or 2017), pages one and two only
  - If you do NOT file taxes, provide other evidence of income (e.g. W-2, recent pay stubs, Form 1099, official letter from employer, disability statement, or documentation of SNAP or WIC)

Proof of Residence (one of the following):

- Illinois Driver’s License with current address
- Illinois State ID with current address
- Utility bill with name and current address

Evidence of Child’s Age for Kindergarten and 1st Grade students only (one of the following):

- Birth certificate
- Passport

Valid Email Address (e.g. Gmail, Hotmail, AOL, etc.)

Additionally, families should know the number of the Public School District in which the household resides. Example, school district #205 for the Rockford Public School System.

## HELP APPLYING

The Diocese will provide families help applying for tax credit scholarships at in-person events. The Diocese will share the dates and locations of these events as details are finalized.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

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

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

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

| Persons in Household | Full Scholarship | 75% Scholarship | 50% Scholarship |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1                    | \$22,311         | \$30,150        | \$36,180        |
| 2                    | \$30,044         | \$40,600        | \$48,720        |
| 3                    | \$37,777         | \$51,050        | \$61,260        |
| 4                    | \$45,510         | \$61,500        | \$73,800        |
| 5                    | \$53,243         | \$71,950        | \$86,340        |
| 6                    | \$60,976         | \$82,400        | \$98,880        |
| 7                    | \$68,709         | \$92,850        | \$111,420       |
| 8*                   | \$76,442         | \$103,300       | \$123,960       |

\*If more than eight people in your household, for each additional person, add \$4,180 to the baseline FPL number for a family of 8 (\$41,320) and then multiply by 1.85, 2.5 and 3 to arrive at the corresponding income limits.

Above income based on Adjusted Gross Income (“AGI”) as reported on family’s tax return. Use combined household income if co-applicants. It is NOT W-2 income or what is on your pay stub.

You may find AGI on your tax return as follows:

- Form 1040 - Line 37
- Form 1040A - Line 21
- Form 1040EZ - Line 4

To learn more, please visit [ceorockford.org](#) or contact Elizabeth Heitkamp at [ehaitkamp@rockforddiocese.org](#) or 815.399.4300.

\*Up to a maximum of \$12,973.