



# COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT DOCUMENTATION

In order to be considered eligible for a 2021-2022 tax credit scholarship, families must demonstrate financial need. The requirements under the Invest in Kids Act indicate that a student may qualify for scholarship so long as their household income does not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level for first time scholarship applicants and 400% for returning scholarship applicants. The Invest in Kids Act provides additional priority for students in a family with a household income less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Below are the income guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year, based on the FPLs.

	<b>185% of FPL</b>	<b>300% of FPL</b>	<b>400% of FPL</b>
<b>2 person family</b>	\$31,894	\$51,720	\$68,960
<b>3 person family</b>	\$40,182	\$65,160	\$86,880
<b>4 person family</b>	\$48,470	\$78,600	\$104,800
<b>5 person family</b>	\$56,758	\$92,040	\$122,720
<b>6 person family</b>	\$65,046	\$105,480	\$140,640
<b>Each additional family member</b>	Add \$8,288	Add \$13,440	Add \$17,920

The Invest in Kids Act requires that scholarship decisions be made with the most recent tax year's information available. Effects from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, however, may have changed the employment and/or income status of families for the 2021-2022 school year, and, Empower Illinois understands that final 2020 tax information may be delayed. This delay will not stop a family from moving forward in the scholarship process.

The following chart lists documents that can be submitted for scholarship consideration. **Documents from Option 1 provide the quickest path to a scholarship eligibility determination. Documents from Option 2 may be submitted when you apply, but may require additional documentation before final scholarship eligibility determination.**

OPTION 1	OPTION 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2020 W-2/s</li> <li>● Federal tax return (pages 1 and 2)</li> <li>● 2020 1099/s Form</li> <li>● Year-end pay stub</li> <li>● Employer letter (on letterhead) indicating total wages paid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2019 W-2</li> <li>● Employer letter indicating change in hours worked and/or wages</li> <li>● Letter from Illinois Department of Employment Security indicating status as beneficiary of unemployment insurance benefits</li> <li>● Statement indicating unemployment insurance benefits paid</li> </ul>

Please reach out to our Scholars Helpline (800-616-7606 or [scholars@empowerillinois.org](mailto:scholars@empowerillinois.org)) with any questions.

*Empower Illinois reserves the right to request additional information and documentation to verify income, address, and employment claims.*