



# FILING TAXES & CLAIMING CREDIT FAQ

To ensure you receive your tax credits, please share the following information with your accountant or tax preparer: This FAQ is not intended to be tax advice.

## WHAT TAX DOCUMENT WILL I NEED TO CLAIM MY CREDIT?

In order to file and claim your 2020 Invest in Kids Tax Credit, you will need to submit IL 2020 Schedule 1299-C. If you are filing by mail, you must submit all three pages of your 1299-C.

## HOW DO I COMPLETE THE REQUIRED TAX FORM?

Enter the information in Lines 21-41 on the IL Schedule 1299-C form as follows:

- Column A: Years Left to Carry → 5 (\*this number may vary by individual if you are carrying forward credits from previous years)
- Column B: Credit Code → 5660 Invest in Kids
- Column C: IL Tax Year Credit Earned → 2020
- Column D: Identifying Number → Enter the certificate number from your Invest in Kids Certificate of Receipt.
- Column E: Credit Earned or Carried → Enter your tax credit amount. (This number equals to 75% of your donation to Empower Illinois.)
- Column G: Total Credit → Enter credit amount again.
- Column I: Credit Applied → Enter the total credit you will be applying to the 2020 tax year.
- Column J: Credit Carried Forward → Enter credit amount you will be carrying over into 2021 or beyond.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MY CERTIFICATE OF RECEIPT?

- Log into your MyTax Illinois account.
- Click "Correspondence."
- Click "View Letters" in the Unread Letters column.
- Select "Invest in Kids Cert of Receipt." See example [here](#).

## WHAT IF I MADE MORE THAN ONE CONTRIBUTION?

If you made more than one contribution, you will need to fill a separate line for each contribution with its Certificate of Receipt.

## WHAT WILL MY TAX CREDIT BE?

You will receive a 75% credit on your donation. This means that if you contributed \$1,000, you will receive a state tax credit of \$750. Donations by individuals, joint filers, and corporate donors are capped at \$1.33 million, i.e. a per-donor tax credit of \$1 million.

## CAN I RECEIVE MY CREDIT WITH TURBO TAX?

Yes! Follow these steps below.

Fill out the 'My Info' Tab with general information.

- Name
- Birthday
- State(s) of Residence
  - Be sure to mark Illinois and any additional state of residence in 2020.

If preparing a federal return, complete the "Federal" tab before moving on to the "State" tab.

- You can claim your donation to Empower Illinois as a federal income tax deduction; however, if you choose to do so, you will not be able to claim the donation as an Illinois tax credit.

After completing the "Federal" Tab, navigate to the "State" Tab using the menu on the left-hand side.

- Turbo Tax will pull all relevant information provided in the "My Info" and "Federal" Tabs to the "State" Tab.
- Turbo Tax will ask you to confirm your residence in Illinois and your county.
- Provide Income Information
  - In addition to the income reported on the "Federal" Tab, Turbo Tax will provide additional options for income that Illinois treats differently than federal. Select the applicable sources (if any).
- Illinois Credits and Taxes
  - Invest in Kids is listed under "Personal, home and family credits" (see below). Locate this credit and select "Start" on the right-hand side of the page.
  - You will be required to select "Yes" on the following page, stating that you qualify to take a credit for qualified contributions to one or more Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs).
  - Select "Add Another Certificate" on the following page. You will need to provide the Certificate Number and Amount.
  - Review the IL 1040 filing to ensure the credit generated on the IL 2020 Schedule 1299-C flowed through to IL 1040 Line 17.

## CAN I RECEIVE MY CREDIT WITH H&R BLOCK FREE ONLINE VERSION?

While you are able to add the credit amount, the required IL 2020 Schedule 1299-C is unavailable for completion in the H&R Block Software. You can still file your taxes through H&R Block, but you will need to paper-file the IL 2020 Schedule 1299-C form. Please note that if you are filing through the mail, all three pages of your 1299-C form must be included.

Fill out the "My Info" tab with general information

- New users will need to provide their name, date of birth, social security number, and phone number.
- Returning users should verify their address and primary residence.

- Be sure to mark Illinois and any additional state of residence in 2020.

If preparing a federal return, complete the “Federal” tab before moving on to the “State” tab.

- You can claim your donation to Empower Illinois as a federal income tax deduction; however, if you choose to do so, you will not be able to claim the donation as an Illinois tax credit.

After completing the “Federal” Tab, navigate to the “State” Tab using the menu at the top of the page.

- Note: The H&R Block software will not allow you to access the “State” Tab until the “Federal” Tab is completed.
- H&R Block will ask you to confirm your residence in Illinois and your county.
- Provide Income Information
- Complete the “Credits” Tab
  - Select the “Business Credits” drop-down and select “Visit Topic”
  - On the “Illinois Business Credits” page, you will be asked to provide the total credit amount as shown on the 1299-C. The H&R Block software provides a link to the Form 1299-C.
  - To complete the Form 1299-C for the purposes of completing the IL 1040, visit the Illinois Department of Revenue’s website to [download the form](#).
  - You will need to verify that the credit amount appears on IL 1040 Line 17.
- All three pages of the 1299-C will need to be paper-filed.

## **CAN I DONATE AND CLAIM A CREDIT AGAIN IN 2021?**

Yes! We encourage you to be a donor for the 2021 tax year, as well. If you are a returning donor, you already have one step in the process completed. If you created an Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) login in 2018, 2019 or 2020, you can reuse that same login in 2021. Then, you only need to reserve your Contribution Authorization Certificate (CAC) with the IDOR before you make your donation to Empower Illinois.

## **WHAT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

If you have more questions, please call us at 800-616-7606, or email us at [donors@empowerillinois.org](mailto:donors@empowerillinois.org).

*Please note, the information provided here was accurate at the time of creation, and is intended to be informative and educational, not to be mistaken as legal, accounting, or tax advice. The description and examples provided are for illustrative purposes only and should not be used as the sole example.*