



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO APPLY FOR A TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

► The application is a two-part process:

01.

A reservation available **January 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with submission at 7 p.m.**

02.

The complete application, which requires household documents, available **January 15, 2021.**

- Visit EmpowerIllinois.org to access the reservation form and begin your application.
- Similar to last year, the reservation will open at 6:30 p.m., half an hour before the submission time, to allow families 30 minutes to enter their information. On page one, families will enter their information. On page two, families will review and confirm their information.
- Once you complete the form and click submit on page two, you will receive your timestamp. **Your timestamp matters and may impact your chances of receiving a scholarship.**
- You will be notified by email when the complete application is available on January 15. You can complete this step whenever you are able, but Empower Illinois **encourages you to submit your application before January 25 to increase your chances at receiving a scholarship.**

► Before April 1, some applicants receive priority.

Per Illinois law, priority will be given to students who meet any of the following categories:

- Are members of a household whose total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level (\$47,637.50 for a family of 4 in 2019); OR
- Reside within a focus district (for a list of focus districts, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/rev/programs/InvestInKids/Schools/Documents/FocusDistricts.pdf>); OR
- Received a scholarship from a scholarship granting organization during the previous school year; OR
- Are siblings of students currently receiving a scholarship.

► For part two of the application, choose your most recent household and income documents. Use documents from the same year throughout your application.



PROOF OF ILLINOIS RESIDENCY

Examples: Illinois driver's license, Illinois identification card or W-2



ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

Examples: Federal tax return, (pages 1 & 2), 1099/s or W-2,

► Visit EmpowerIllinois.org for more details, such as a complete list of the types of documents accepted.