



EMPOWER ILLINOIS

Scholarship Granting Organization

Tax Credit Scholarships

APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES

STEP 1:

On Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7 p.m. CT, you will complete a brief reservation form on Empower Illinois' website – **empowerillinois.org** – that timestamps your reservation. This is a critical step as your timestamp matters and may impact your chances of receiving a scholarship. You will want to complete this form right at 7 p.m. CT. Minutes matter.

The reservation form will ask you for the following information:

- Parent name
- Contact information – address, phone number, email address
- Child(ren) name(s) include ALL children for whom you would like to apply for a scholarship

STEP 2:

Beginning on or about Friday, January 18, 2019, you may complete the full scholarship application through the Empower Illinois online student portal. You will receive instructions via email about setting up your student portal after your reservation has been completed (step 1). Empower Illinois will begin awarding scholarships on Monday, January 28, 2019. Scholarship awards are subject to the availability of funds at your school of choice. We recommend you submit your application **before Monday, January 28, 2019** to increase your chances of receiving a scholarship.

If a student received a tax credit scholarship for the 2018/19 school year from Empower Illinois, you need to indicate that in your application when asked. If a student received a tax credit scholarship for the 2018/19 school year from another SGO (not Empower Illinois), when asked in the application you need to upload a copy of the letter from your school indicating you received a scholarship.

The Empower Illinois application will be available in English, Spanish and Polish.

For more information, empowerillinois.org.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

To apply, you need proof of Illinois residency, your adjusted gross income and a valid email address. Choose your most recent household and income documents from the same year to use throughout your application. We recommend securing these materials and scanning copies or taking photos of them now, so you have them on-hand when it is time to complete the application.

Proof of Illinois Residence (one of the following for the household):

- Federal Form 1040 with name and current address
- Illinois driver's license with current address
- Illinois identification card (issued by the Secretary of State) with current address
- Utility bill with name and current address
- Statement of benefits from WIC or SNAP with name and current address
- W-2 or 1099 with name and current address
- Residential lease (current address) in the parent's name

Adjusted Gross Income:

- Federal tax return, pages 1 and 2

If your federal tax return is not available to you, you can submit one of the following as proof of your household adjusted gross income:

- W-2
- 1099(s)
- WIC or SNAP benefits statements
- Year-end pay stub
- Letter, on company letterhead, from employer(s) indicating cash wages paid

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





BIG SHOULDERS FUND

Scholarship Granting Organization

Tax Credit Scholarships

APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES

The Big Shoulders Fund Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) will follow a similar application process as its' process last year. It will be a one-step process, which will open on **Tuesday, January 22 at 8 a.m. CT.**

The Big Shoulders Fund SGO application will be available in English and Spanish.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

To apply, you need proof of Illinois residency, your federal tax return and a valid email address. We recommend securing these materials and scanning copies or taking photos of them now, so you have them on-hand when it is time to complete the application.

Proof of Illinois Residence (one of the following for the household):

- Federal Form 1040 with name and current address
- Illinois driver's license with current address
- Illinois identification card (issued by the Secretary of State) with current address
- Utility bill with name and current address
- Statement of benefits from WIC or SNAP with name and current address
- W-2 or 1099 with name and current address
- Residential lease (current address) in the parent's name

Adjusted Gross Income:

- Federal tax return, pages 1 and 2*

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

For more information, visit bigshouldersfundsgo.org.



*Note: If you did not file taxes and do not have a federal tax return, Big Shoulders Fund has requested that you complete and sign a sworn statement that your taxes were not filed. This sworn statement can be found on Big Shoulders Fund's website: bigshouldersfundsgo.org/apply. The completed and signed sworn statement will need to be uploaded as part of the application process.