



# EMPOWER ILLINOIS

## Scholarship Granting Organization Tax Credit Scholarships

### APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES

#### STEP 1

**At 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023**, you may access the reservation form on the Empower Illinois website.

The reservation form **requires** 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

**At 7 p.m.**, you will submit the reservation form. Your submission timestamps your reservation. This is a critical step as your timestamp may impact your chances of receiving a scholarship. You will want to submit this form promptly at 7 p.m.

#### STEP 2

**Beginning on Monday, January 23, 2023**, you must 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 or about Jan. 30, 2023. Scholarship awards are subject to the availability of funds at your school of choice. We recommend you submit your application **before Jan. 30** to increase your chances of receiving a scholarship.

### 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 SCHOLARSHIP TO DETERMINE PRIORITY 2023/24

If you received a scholarship in the 2022/23 school year from a scholarship granting organization (SGO) other than Empower Illinois, you will be required to submit a letter from the school attended on that scholarship. The school letter should include student name, school name, school year scholarship was received and the name of the SGO that provided the scholarship.

### NEED MORE INFO OR HAVE A QUESTION?

Please visit [empowerillinois.org](https://empowerillinois.org) for more information on your eligibility, the application process and what documents will be required to complete your application. Empower Illinois understands that all families have different income scenarios, and you may review these different scenarios on their website.

Visit [empowerillinois.org](https://empowerillinois.org) and be prepared to apply on Jan. 18!

Additional questions and concerns can be emailed to [scholars@empowerillinois.org](mailto:scholars@empowerillinois.org) or you can call and speak to someone by dialing 1.800.616.7606.



# BIG SHOULDERS FUND

## Scholarship Granting Organization

### Tax Credit Scholarships

#### APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES

The Big Shoulders Fund Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) application will be a two-step process this year.

##### STEP 1

Step 1 will open at **8 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.**

In the first step, applicants must provide the following information in order to receive their date-time stamp:

- Parent/guardian contact information
- Number of household members
- School district number in which you live (#299 for City of Chicago. Click [here](#) for a complete list of public school districts.)
- 2022 or 2023 federal adjusted gross income
- Student name(s) and birth date(s)
- Student gender(s) and race
- Student grade(s) for 2023/24 school year
- Name of private school you wish the student to attend

Not all applicants will be asked to complete Step 2. After Jan. 19, Big Shoulders Fund will email a limited number of applicants based on available donations, and request that they complete Step 2 of the process by submitting documentation to verify income and residence.

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Fund.®**

##### STEP 2

Step 2 applicants will be asked to submit proof of residence and proof of income.

**Proof of Illinois residence and current address** (one of the following for the household):

- 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
- Residential lease (current address) in the parent's name

**Proof of income** (for all adult household members):

- Most recent federal 1040 tax return, page 1, showing Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on line 8b
- Sworn statement – If you did **not** file taxes, and do not plan on filing taxes in 2023, Big Shoulders Fund requires that all adult household members complete and sign a sworn statement that your taxes were not filed and attach proof of income. This sworn statement as well as a list of acceptable proof of income documents can be found on Big Shoulders Fund's website: [bigshouldersfundsgo.org/apply](https://bigshouldersfundsgo.org/apply).

**Proof of scholarship for determining priority 2023/24**

If you received a scholarship in the 2022/23 school year from another SGO, you will be asked to provide proof of that scholarship. Acceptable proof of scholarship may include a screenshot of the award offer, a letter from the school, or a copy of your award email.

Visit [bigshouldersfundsgo.org/apply](https://bigshouldersfundsgo.org/apply) and be prepared to apply on Jan. 12!