



EMPOWER ILLINOIS

Scholarship Granting Organization

Tax Credit Scholarships

APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES

STEP 1

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., 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 matters and may impact your chances of receiving a scholarship. You will want to submit this form right at 7 p.m. Minutes matter.

STEP 2

Beginning on or about Monday, Jan. 18, 2021, 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 Friday, Jan. 29, 2021. Scholarship awards are subject to the availability of funds at your school of choice. We recommend you submit your application **before Monday, Jan. 25** 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 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

Proof of income:

- Federal tax return, page 1, showing Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on line 8b

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:

- 2020 W-2 forms
- 1099(s)
- WIC, SNAP or Unemployment 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.)

For more information, empowerillinois.org.



BIG SHOULDERS FUND

Scholarship Granting Organization Tax Credit Scholarships

APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES

The Big Shoulders Fund SGO application will be a two-step process this year.

STEP 1

Step 1 will open on **Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021 at 8 a.m.** 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
- 2019 or 2020 federal adjusted gross income
- Student name(s) and birth date(s)
- Student gender(s) and race
- Student grade(s) for 2021/22 school year
- Name of private school you wish the student to attend

Not all applicants will be asked to complete step 2. After Jan. 15, Big Shoulders Fund will email a limited number of applicants based on available donations, requesting applicants to complete step 2 of the process by submitting documentation to verify income and residence. More information and an application how-to guide can be found on Big Shoulders Fund's website:

bigshouldersfundsgo.org.

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 2020, 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.**

For more information, visit **bigshouldersfundsgo.org**.

**Big
Shoulders
Fund.®**