



MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE?

In its third year, Empower Illinois awarded over 5,500 tax credit scholarships to students from low-income and working-class families to attend a school of their choice. This was made possible through the generosity of thousands of donors who took advantage of the 75 percent state income tax credit on their donation.

To help even more children during the Fall 2021-Spring 2022 school year, a generous donor has agreed offer a 1-for-1 matching gift program to select Catholic schools in Regions 4 and 5. This means every dollar designated to a qualifying school will be matched with from the matching gift pool.

WHAT DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED?

Any donation made to Empower Illinois between February 1 – March 31, 2021, and designated to a participating school.

IS THERE A LIMIT TO MATCHING FUNDS?

Yes. Contact your school's Regional Director, Bobby Sylvester, to confirm the cap amount.

WHAT IS THE TIMEFRAME?

Donations must be made to your school through Empower Illinois between February 1 – March 31, 2021 to be eligible for the match.

HOW DO I MAKE A DONATION?

Before reserving their tax credit, donors must first establish an account via mytax.illinois.gov. This may take up to 10 days. After creating an account, individual and corporate donors will be able to reserve tax credits. When reserving their tax credit, donors should select Empower Illinois as the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO).

Donors will then have 60 days to donate the amount reserved to a scholarship granting organization (SGO) of their choice. After donating, they will receive a certificate of receipt from the SGO and the Department of Revenue will be notified that a donation was made.

If a donation is not made, or is less than the reserved tax credit with the Department of Revenue, NO tax credit will be awarded. All unused tax credits will be put back into the program until the cap is hit.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL KNOW I MADE A DONATION THROUGH EMPOWER ILLINOIS?

Schools can track all of their donations through the EmpowerXChange portal, which can be accessed on Empower Illinois' website under the "Schools" tab.

ARE THERE STILL TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR 2021?

Yes, there are tax credits available for 2021.

HOW DO I GET HELP WITH THE DONATION PROCESS?

If you need help with the donation process, please contact Empower Illinois' Donor Helpline at donors@empowerillinois.org or (800) 616-7606.