



COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT DOCUMENTATION: CHEAT SHEET

In order to be considered eligible for a 2021-2022 tax credit scholarship, families must demonstrate financial need. Income qualification is **based on the tax year listed on the proof of income documents** submitted with an application. More information about qualifying for the Tax Credit Scholarship Program can be found on the Empower Illinois website at empowerillinois.org/apply/do-i-qualify.

Traditional Documentation

To meet the Invest in Kids Act requirements for proof of income, Empower Illinois will accept the following documents when you apply for a 2021-2022 scholarship. Submitting these documents will require less follow-up and additional verifications.

- 2020 W-2/s
- Federal tax return (pages 1 and 2)
- 2020 1099/s Form
- Year-end pay stub
- Employer letter (on letterhead) indicating total wages paid

COVID-19 Documentation

Alternatively, if your income or employment status has changed since your last tax filing, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following documents may be submitted when you apply for a 2021-2022 tax credit scholarship. These documents will allow you to submit an application, but may require additional documentation before final scholarship eligibility determination.

- 2019 W-2
- Employer letter indicating change in hours worked and/or wages
- Letter from Illinois Department of Employment Security indicating status as beneficiary of unemployment insurance benefits
- Statement indicating unemployment insurance benefits paid

Please reach out to our Scholars Helpline (800-616-7606 or scholars@empowerillinois.org) with any questions.

Empower Illinois reserves the right to request additional information and documentation to verify income, address, and employment claims.