

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Donor Mobilization Toolkit



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INTRODUCTION

The tax credit scholarship program through the “Invest in Kids Act” presents an exciting opportunity for Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools. This unique program can be complicated to explain, so we’ve developed this toolkit of materials to help guide your conversations with prospective donors about supporting the program.

If you have questions, please contact the Tax Credit Scholarship Office at the Archdiocese of Chicago at tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS 101

In August 2017, the State of Illinois passed a bill that creates a new way to fund scholarships for children who choose to attend private schools through the “Invest in Kids Act.” The law provides strong incentives for donors to support non-public school scholarships for low-income students in the state. Illinois students from low-income families may use these new scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake Counties.

Through this program, these students have access to scholarships that could cover **up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible fees.**

Demand for tax credit scholarships has been overwhelming and currently outweighs the supply of available funds. An anticipated 50,000 new and current Catholic school students, will apply for a tax credit scholarship.

Tax Credit Scholarships

Individuals and corporations that contribute to the Illinois tax credit scholarship program through a Scholarship Granting Organization will receive a tax credit (as opposed to a deduction) on their Illinois state income taxes.

Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO)

An SGO is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is responsible for:

- Receiving donations from individuals and corporations



- Receiving and processing scholarship applications from students/families
- Distributing scholarships to eligible students/families in accordance with the law

The Archdiocese is working with the following SGOs: Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders Fund SGO.

Scholarship Eligibility

Starting with the 2018/19 school year, K-12 students from low-income families are eligible to receive a tax credit scholarship. To be considered for a scholarship, students must be from a household with income below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$73,800 for family of four).

Tax Credits

Donations for tax credit scholarships are still being accepted and will help ensure that more families are able to take advantage of this opportunity. Individuals and corporations that donate to this program will receive a 75 percent Illinois state tax credit.

Example: A taxpayer donates \$1,000 to an SGO. The taxpayer will be eligible to claim a \$750 tax credit when he/she files their previous year's taxes.

Tax credits are capped at \$1 million per household per year, which means a donor can contribute about \$1.33 million to receive the maximum tax credit allowed. Total tax credits are capped at \$75 million per year statewide, which equates to \$100 million in donations and scholarships. Taxpayers can roll over their tax credits up to five years.

Designating Donations

Individuals may direct donations to specific schools, but not to an individual student or group of students. Corporate donors cannot restrict their donations, except to a certain region.

Federal Deduction Restriction

Donations made to an SGO cannot be claimed for a federal deduction.

Matching Gift Program

To help their donations have even more impact in 2019, several donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the more than 160 schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago, up to \$5 million total.



- For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019, the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school.
- The program will end when all matching funds have been depleted or on Feb. 28, 2019, whichever comes first.
- After April 1, 2019, any matching gift program funds that are not awarded at a designated school will be reallocated to low-income students at schools with unmet demand.
- Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2018 taxes should begin the process prior to Dec. 14, 2018 to ensure that they have enough time to make their gift by Dec. 31, 2018.

Example:

A donor with about \$75,000 in income could make a donation of \$5,000 to Empower Illinois, in cash or stock, that would...

- Eliminate Illinois state income tax liability (approximately \$3,750); and
- Provide \$15,000 in scholarship support (after the \$10,000 match)
- For a total of \$1,250, this donor has now provided three students with \$5,000 in scholarships to use to attend a Catholic school of their choice (donation of \$5,000 minus the \$3,750 in state credit)

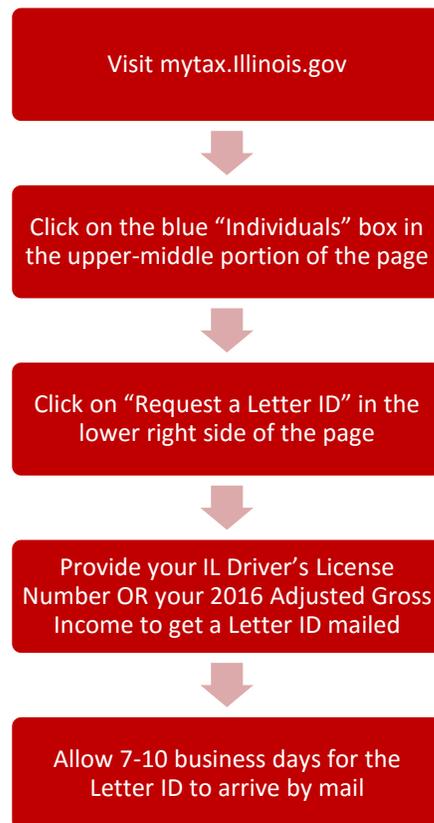
DONATION PROCESS

Donors must apply for a tax credit on the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) MyTax Illinois website. IDOR will grant tax credits on a first come, first served basis. Individuals and corporations then have 60 days to donate that indicated amount to an SGO.

The full process required by IDOR is complex. Below is a simple four-step overview:

1. Create an account at mytax.illinois.gov.
 - a. All donors requesting a tax credit will need an account on mytax.illinois.gov.
 - b. If a donor does not have an account, he/she will need to request a Letter ID be mailed by IDOR to create one. The instructions to request a letter are at the right, and a step-by-step guide with screenshots is [HERE](#).
 - c. Instructions for setting up an account once the Letter ID arrives are [HERE](#).
2. Apply for a tax credit at mytax.illinois.gov. Donors will need to provide the following information:
 - a. Donation amount, SGO of choice (the Archdiocese is working with Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders Fund), and the region of choice (most Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools are in Region 1, Cook County. A full list is found [HERE](#)).
 - b. The application is found by logging into a MyTax Illinois account, clicking the blue "Individual" link, and selecting "Contribute to Invest in Kids" under the "I Want To" section.
3. Donate to the SGO within 60 days of receiving your application approval and the Contribution Authorization Certificate.
 - a. Designate the donation to "Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools."
 - b. If a donor is planning to designate his/her donation to a specific school, they should also include "Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools" as a second choice to ensure the funds are used.
 - c. CLICK [HERE](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to view and download your Contribution Authorization Certificate.
4. Obtain Certificate of Receipt (COR) from the Illinois Department of Revenue within 30 days of donation. Use this certificate to claim your credit when filing your 2018 tax return in 2019.

TAX LETTER ID PROCESS



The Archdiocese of Chicago recommends donors determine their donation amount by consulting with their financial team, advisors or others.



Our Goal

Based on the number of students, the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools form the largest private school system in Illinois. As such, the archdiocese has calculated that \$35-40 million would fairly represent the archdiocese's portion of the \$100 million donation and scholarship cap. That equates to approximately 6,000 to 8,000 scholarships for Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools through tax credit scholarships alone.

PRESENTING TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Tax credit scholarships can be challenging to explain because of the complex process. Unlike a campaign or annual gift, our supporters are required to go through several steps before giving to a third party. Plus, the tax credit they receive is used a year later when filing the prior year's taxes. Participating requires an open mind, certain financial flexibility, and a commitment to the process.

IMPORTANT: We **always** encourage donors to consult with their tax professionals, such as a certified public accountant (CPA) or financial advisor, if they need help determining exactly how this program would impact their taxes and overall finances. The Archdiocese of Chicago does not offer tax advice.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

Educating our school families, parishioners and the greater community is crucial to the success of the tax credit scholarship program. Since this is a new program, many people do not know that this opportunity to donate exists or how to participate. Included with this toolkit are materials that can be used to share information about tax credit scholarships, which can easily be incorporated into your current communications and activities. The page with links to the following items is found [HERE](#).

Letters

A personalized letter is a good tool to share a complete picture of the tax credit scholarships and the process to participate. This letter should come from a leader in the community, such as a pastor, priest, principal, school parent, active parishioner or others, and be mailed to anyone who is interested in supporting Catholic school education and has Illinois state income liability. A sample letter can be found in the appendix and downloaded [HERE](#).

Email Blasts

Mirroring the letter, an email can supplement the personalized letter and be sent individually or to your entire distribution list. A sample email can be found in the appendix and downloaded [HERE](#).

Newsletters and Bulletins

An easy way to reach a large audience is to share information about tax credit scholarships in your bulletin or newsletter. The fact sheet found [HERE](#) is easy to print and slide into printed publications. If



you are able to include information within the newsletter or bulletin, a sample write-up can be found in the appendix and downloaded [HERE](#).

Printed Materials

Printed materials, such as the fact sheet, are great pieces to provide potential donors so they can review information on their own time. Materials can be displayed in high-traffic areas and handed out at public gatherings. They also serve as good backpack stuffers for students to bring home to their parents. These materials are available to download [HERE](#). They include:

- Fact sheet
- Instructions to create a MyTax Illinois account and apply for tax credit
- Donation commitment form
- List of Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools by tax credit scholarship region

Website

Ensure information is available on your website about tax credit scholarships as an avenue for supporting Catholic school education, highlighting the significant personal tax credit. Direct visitors to www.archchicago.org/tcs for more information and to speak with an archdiocese staff member. Sample language is below:

Headline/Header

Invest in Kids: Personal Benefit, Common Good

Copy

In August 2017, the State of Illinois passed a bill that creates a new way to fund scholarships for children who choose to attend private schools through the “Invest in Kids Act.” The law provides strong incentives for donors to support non-public school scholarships for low-income students. Illinois students from low-income families may use these scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake Counties.

Individuals and corporations will receive a 75 percent Illinois state tax credit for donations made to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), created to distribute the scholarships. The archdiocese is working with the Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders Fund. Join us in providing a quality Catholic education more students. Visit www.archchicago.org/tcs for more information, or contact the Tax Credit Scholarship Office at the archdiocese at tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617.

Social Media

Posting on social media accounts, such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, is a quick and free way to share key information about the tax credit scholarship program. The more you post, the more likely your audience is to see the information. Below are sample posts available to adapt for use on any social media platform, which are most effective when used with graphics and images from your parish and school.



Sample Posts

Matching Gift Program

Several generous donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019 the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school. For more information, please visit www.archchicago.org/tcs. #InvestinKidsIL

Support tax credit scholarships through a new matching gift program. For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019 the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school. For more information, please visit www.archchicago.org/tcs. #InvestinKidsIL

General Program

There is still time to apply for a 2018 tax credit and make a donation to a Scholarship Granting Organization. For more information regarding how to apply for a tax credit, visit www.archchicago.org/tcs.

Support [tag Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools] by participating in the tax credit scholarship program. For more details, please visit: archchicago.org/tcs #InvestinKidsIL

Do you pay taxes to the State of IL? You can receive a 75% tax credit for donations made to a needs-based scholarship fund supporting Catholic schools. Learn how: www.archchicago.org/tcs

You can help thousands of students and their families realize the dream of a quality Catholic education and receive a 75% tax credit in the process. Learn how: www.archchicago.org/tcs

Are you blessed with the opportunity to send your kids to a Catholic school? Make this opportunity available to more students and receive a 75% state tax credit for your donation: archchicago.org/tcs #InvestinKidsIL

Talking Points

In the appendix you will find simple talking points to use when having conversations with potential donors about the benefits of tax credit scholarships.

CHICAGO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STATS

The Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools represents one of the largest private school systems in the nation with 209 elementary and high schools serving more than 71,000 students in Cook and Lake Counties. Operating results from the 2018/19 school year demonstrate the extraordinary commitment on part of families, parishes and donors who believe in and support the mission of the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools.



2018/19 School Year Facts and Figures

- Elementary schools: 176
- High schools: 33
- Elementary school enrollment: 51,565
- High school enrollment: 20,282
- Total enrollment: 71,847
- Greatest number of U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards of any school system — public or private
- All archdiocesan elementary and high schools accredited by AdvancED, the largest community of education professionals in the world



APPENDIX

Letter Template

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a Word version

Matching Gift Program

Dear [Salutation]:

During this season of giving we have a singular opportunity to make a huge difference for our Catholic school students.

The new Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship (TCS) program allows you to make a gift of scholarships for in-need Catholic school students and receive **75 percent of that gift returned to you as an Illinois state income tax credit**. As we approach the end of the calendar year, this is a powerful way to support low-income students while earning a significant income tax benefit.

And there has never been a better time to take advantage of the TCS program. For a limited time, a group of generous donors has created a **2-to-1 matching gift program**, which means that for every dollar you donate to Empower Illinois two more dollars will be donated to the scholarship fund and designated to our school. A matching fund pool will be available for new donations made to any of the more than 160 schools operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Now, when you make a gift to the tax credit scholarship program, you can:

- Help a student in need achieve a life-changing Catholic school education;
- Receive an Illinois state tax credit for 75 percent of your donation;
- Triple the impact of your gift through the matching gift program!

Our school can receive up to \$100,000 in donations as part of this matching program. When those funds are matched, the total impact will be \$300,000. But we must act fast. The matching gift program will only last until Feb. 28, 2019 or until in matching funds is depleted. Any funds not used at our school before April 1 will be used to meet the needs of other low-income families attending an Archdiocesan-operated school. If you want to capture a state tax credit to use in the 2018 tax year, we recommend completing the necessary steps by Dec. 14, 2018.

Here is an example of how powerful this program is: a donor with about \$75,000 in income could donate \$5,000 which would 1) eliminate Illinois state income tax liability (approximately \$3,750) and 2) provide \$15,000 in scholarship support (after the \$10,000 match). For a total of \$1,250 (her donation of \$5,000 minus the \$3,750 in state credit), this donor has now provided three students with \$5,000 in scholarships to use to attend a Catholic school of their choice.

At our school, we received <# of Scholarship> scholarships in this first year of the program, but we still have an additional <number of applicants> students who qualified for a scholarship but did not receive one due to lack of donated funds. Within the Archdiocese of Chicago, there are over 8,000 qualified students who did not receive a TCS scholarship. We want to raise enough funds to provide a scholarship to all qualified students.



I humbly ask you to consider the gift of education as you look at your year-end giving in 2018. By donating to the TCS program you can redirect some, or all, of your state tax liability to fund scholarships for families in need within our parish community and across the archdiocese.

Yours in Christ,

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a Word version

General Program

Dear [insert salutation],

[NAME OF PARISH/SCHOOL] is grateful to you for supporting the advancement of Catholic education. I am writing to share an exciting opportunity that will have a transformational impact on Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools. Through “Invest in Kids”, passed by the State of Illinois in August 2017, a tax credit scholarship program was created, to mutually benefit students and donors. It provides a 75 percent Illinois state income tax credit to individuals and corporations that contribute money to fund scholarships for students to attend private schools. Illinois students from low-income families may use these scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake Counties.

Demand for tax credit scholarships has been overwhelming and currently outweighs the supply of available funds. For the 2018/19 school year, the first year of the program, more than 44,000 students applied for a tax credit scholarship, including many new and current Catholic school students. However, due to lack of available scholarship funds, four out of every five of those students **are not receiving a scholarship**. There are millions of dollars in tax credits waiting to be claimed, and more donations for tax credit scholarships will ensure that our doors are open to more students who deserve an equal opportunity to receive a Catholic education.

- Under the tax credit scholarship program, individuals and corporations can make donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO), which will distribute scholarships to qualified students.
- Individual and corporate donors will receive a 75 percent Illinois state income tax credit for donations made to an SGO. Individuals can designate their donation to Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools.
- Students in grades K-12 may receive tax credit scholarships beginning with the 2018/19 school year.

Join us in supporting Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools and provide more children a quality Catholic education. Contact the Tax Credit Scholarship Office at tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617 today.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[TITLE]



Email Blast Template

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a Word version

Matching Gift Program

Subject Line: Matching Gift Opportunity for Tax Credit Scholarships

Dear [insert salutation],

[NAME OF PARISH/SCHOOL] is grateful to you for supporting the advancement of Catholic school education. I am writing about a unique opportunity for Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools. In August 2017, the State of Illinois passed a bill to create a tax credit scholarship program, "[Invest in Kids](#)," that is mutually beneficial to students and donors. It provides a 75 percent Illinois state income tax credit to individuals and corporations that contribute money to fund scholarships for students to attend private schools. Illinois students from low-income families may use these scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake Counties.

Donors who are passionate about school choice have contributed more than \$46 million to the program statewide this year. To further their impact by increasing the funds available for scholarships next year, several donors have partnered with Empower Illinois and the archdiocese to create a **matching gift pool**.

- Every dollar donated to this program through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019, and designated to a school operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago, will be matched with two dollars from this pool (limitations apply). The program will end when all matching funds have been depleted or on Feb. 28, 2019, whichever comes first.
- When you take into account the 75% tax credit you receive on the donation and this match, a T will have a net cost to you of \$1,250 and will provide \$15,000 in scholarships for low-income families.
- After April 1, 2019, any matching gift program funds that are not awarded at a designated school will be reallocated to low-income students at schools with unmet demand.
- Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2018 taxes should begin the process prior to Dec. 14, 2018 to ensure they have enough time to make their gift by Dec. 31, 2018.

Join us in supporting Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools and provide more children a quality Catholic school education. Contact the Tax Credit Scholarship Office at tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617 today.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[TITLE]



General Program

Subject line: Personal Benefit, Common Good

Dear [insert salutation],

[NAME OF PARISH/SCHOOL] is grateful to you for supporting the advancement of Catholic school education. I am writing about a unique opportunity for Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools. In August 2017, the State of Illinois passed a bill to create a tax credit scholarship program, "[Invest in Kids](#)," that is mutually beneficial to students and donors. It provides a 75 percent Illinois state income tax credit to individuals and corporations that contribute money to fund scholarships for students to attend private schools. Illinois students from low-income families may use these scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake Counties.

To date, nearly 3,000 students in Illinois have received scholarships. However, more than 44,000 students have applied for a tax credit scholarship, including many new and current Catholic school students, but due to lack of available scholarship funds, four out of every five of those students **are not receiving a scholarship**. There are millions of dollars in tax credits waiting to be claimed, and more donations for tax credit scholarships will ensure that our doors are open to more students who deserve an equal opportunity to receive a Catholic school education.

- Individuals and corporations can make donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO) that will distribute scholarships to qualified K-12 students.
- Donors will receive a 75 percent state tax credit for donations made to an SGO.
- Students may receive tax credit scholarships beginning with the 2018/19 school year.

Join us in supporting Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools and provide more children a quality Catholic school education. Contact the Tax Credit Scholarship Office at tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617 today.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[TITLE]



Social Media Posts

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a Word Version

Matching Gift Program

Several generous donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019 the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school. For more information, please visit www.archchicago.org/tcs. #InvestinKidsIL

Support tax credit scholarships through a new matching gift program. For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019 the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school. For more information, please visit www.archchicago.org/tcs. #InvestinKidsIL

General Program

There is still time to apply for a 2018 tax credit and make a donation to a Scholarship Granting Organization. For more information regarding how to apply for a tax credit, visit www.archchicago.org/tcs.

Support [tag Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools] by participating in the tax credit scholarship program. For more details, please visit: archchicago.org/tcs #InvestinKidsIL

Do you pay taxes to the State of IL? You can receive a 75% tax credit for donations made to a needs-based scholarship fund supporting Catholic schools. Learn how: www.archchicago.org/tcs

You can help thousands of students and their families realize the dream of a quality Catholic education and receive a 75% tax credit in the process. Learn how: www.archchicago.org/tcs

Are you blessed with the opportunity to send your kids to a Catholic school? Make this opportunity available to more students and receive a 75% state tax credit for your donation: archchicago.org/tcs #InvestinKidsIL



Newsletter/Bulletin and Mass Announcements and Write-Up

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a Word version

Matching Gift Program

A group of generous donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019, the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school.

After April 1, 2019, any matching gift program funds that are not awarded at a designated school will be reallocated to low-income students at schools with unmet demand.

Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2018 taxes should begin the process prior to Dec. 14, 2018 to ensure that they have enough time to make their gift by Dec. 31, 2018.

For more information please visit www.archchicago.org/tcs or call 312.534.2617.

General Program

There is still time to apply for a 2018 Illinois tax credit and donate to a Scholarship Granting Organization. Visit www.archchicago.org/tcs to learn more, or contact tcs@archchicago.org and 312.534.2617.

You can receive a 75 percent Illinois state income tax credit for donating to needs-based scholarships through the Illinois tax credit scholarship program. Visit www.archchicago.org/tcs to learn more, or contact tcs@archchicago.org and 312.534.2617.

Support low-income students at archdiocesan schools while receiving a 75 percent state tax credit through the Illinois tax credit scholarship program. Visit www.archchicago.org/tcs to learn more, or contact tcs@archchicago.org and 312.534.2617.

You can provide a Catholic school education to children from low-income families while also receiving a state tax credit yourself. The Invest in Kids Act is different from regular charitable giving to **[PARISH NAME]** or another organization. Visit archchicago.org/tcs to learn why and to access a step-by-step guide to the program.



Tax Credit Scholarships Conversation Script

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a Word version

I would love to talk about how you can get a credit for your state taxes while providing scholarship aid for students in need. First, I want to make sure I am giving you the right information about this program. Do you have income or another source of revenue subject to Illinois state taxes, such as a retirement disbursement?

If so, I would like to share a few key information points for taking advantage of this opportunity before the impending deadline.

- 1. Today we have an unprecedented opportunity for more children in Illinois to attend a private school of their choice thanks to the new tax credit scholarship program – Invest in Kids.**
 - Invest in Kids awards needs-based scholarships to students from low-income households to attend a non-public school, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake Counties.
 - Scholarships can cover up to 100 percent of tuition, providing an exciting opportunity for more children to receive a quality Catholic school education.
 - This program is funded through donations made by individuals and corporations.

- 2. Demand for tax credit scholarships has been overwhelming and currently outweighs the supply of available funds, which is why we need your help.**
 - This year 44,000 students applied for a tax credit scholarship, including many new and current Catholic school students.
 - Four out of every five of these students will not receive a scholarship due to lack of available scholarship funds.
 - Donations for tax credit scholarships are still being accepted, and your investment will ensure that our doors are open to more students who deserve an equal opportunity to receive a Catholic education.

- 3. This exciting program is mutually beneficial to students and donors because it allows donors to take advantage of state income tax credits while also directly impacting families through student scholarships.**
 - Those who donate to this program will receive a 75 percent state tax credit.
 - Donations will help fund Catholic school education for thousands of students who otherwise would not have access to the lifelong benefits it provides.
 - Potential donors take four easy steps to donate and can learn more by visiting our website at www.archchicago.org/tcs.

- 4. A group of generous donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the more than 160 schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago, up to \$5 million total.**
 - For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019, the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school.
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