

Matching Gift Program FAQs

What is the TCS matching gift program?

In its first year the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program awarded scholarships to more than 3,000 students from low-income families to attend a school of their choice operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago. This was made possible through the generosity of thousands of donors who took advantage of the 75% state income tax credit on their donation.

To help their donations have even more impact for the 2019-2020 school year, several of these donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the 160+ elementary schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago, up to \$5 million total. This means every dollar designated to a qualifying school will be matched with two dollars from the matching gift pool.

What donations will be matched?

Any donation made to Empower Illinois between December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019 and designated to a school operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago will be matched, up to \$100,000 per school (for a maximum impact of \$300,000).

What schools are eligible?

Any school operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

What is the timeframe?

Donations made to Empower Illinois between December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019 will qualify for this program.

Is there a limit to the matching funds?

Each school can receive a match for up to \$100,000 in donations until February 28, 2019 or until the matching gift pool, which is expected to be close to \$5 million, is depleted.

What happens if there are leftover funds after all scholarships are awarded at my school?

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

Are there still tax credits available for 2018?

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