

## Diocese of Sioux City Scholarship Program

### Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

<b>How is income eligibility determined?</b>	Your income determines if you are eligible for the Diocese of Sioux City Scholarship Program. To qualify for these programs TADS will look at your <b>Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)</b> on your most current tax return.			
<b>Is scholarship funding available for middle income families?</b>	Yes! The diocesan Together As One (TAO) fund has provided scholarships to middle income families for several years. In recent years, the Bishop's Dinner proceeds have funded the Parent Partner scholarships.			
<b>What are the upper income limits for eligibility?</b>	Family size		Family size	
	1	\$110,000	5	\$250,000
	2	\$140,000	6	\$290,000
	3	\$180,000	7	\$320,000
	4	\$210,000	8	\$360,000
	A chart of income limits for each program can be found at <a href="http://www.scdiocese.org/scholarship">www.scdiocese.org/scholarship</a>			
<b>How many students are funded by Diocesan tuition scholarships?</b>	Over 50% of the students are funded by one of the diocesan scholarship programs. Last year 2,929 students received scholarships ranging from \$250.00 to \$2,625.00.			
<b>Is there any other criteria to qualify?</b>	To qualify for a MLTF scholarship the family must be an Iowa resident. To receive a TAO scholarship the family must be a registered parishioner at a parish in the diocese. Both funds are available for K-12 students. Schools can elect Pre-k participation in MLTF if students are 5 by Sept 15th and in a state certified program.			
<b>Do my taxes need to be completed prior to applying?</b>	No, The application itself that is due April 1st does not ask for anything from your tax return. Any questions regarding expenses/income can be estimates.			
<b>How do I apply for a tuition scholarship?</b>	The Diocese of Sioux City Scholarship Program applications must be submitted online. The online application link is available on your local school's website and can be found at: <a href="http://www.scdiocese.org/scholarship">www.scdiocese.org/scholarship</a> Please contact your local school if you need assistance.			
<b>What if I don't have internet access to complete an online application?</b>	Parents can contact their local school for an individual appointment to use the school's Internet access to complete an online application. Parents must submit their Form 1040 from the previous year and other required supporting documentation as requested by TADS.			
<b>Do I have to have an email address to complete the online application?</b>	Since all notifications about missing/incomplete materials are by email you are strongly encouraged to provide it and monitor it for communications from TADS.			
<b>When is the application open?</b>	The online application is open beginning February 15th of each year. The application is available in English and Spanish.			
<b>Do I need to fill out an application for each of my children?</b>	No, only one application per household is required. Be sure to include all children on this application.			
<b>When are applications due? When will we be notified?</b>	<b>1st round:</b> <b>Application due April 1st</b> Emails sent to parents by the end of May Enrollment/parish registration verified by schools in early September Funds sent to schools in mid-October			
	<b>2nd round (new students only):</b> <b>Application due September 15th</b> Enrollment/parish registration verified by schools in early October Emails sent to parent in mid-October Funds sent to schools in mid-November			

<b>Do Foreign Exchange students qualify?</b>	Residence in Iowa is temporary for foreign exchange students therefore they would not qualify for any Diocesan assistance.
<b>How should divorced parents apply?</b>	In the case of divorced parents the tuition responsibility of each parent should be indicated on the application. (ex: 50-50 split on tuition then award is based on 50% of tuition). A scholarship awarded to one parent cannot be shared between the parents. If divorced parents each pay a portion of the tuition bill, then each household needs to complete an application for a possible scholarship towards their portion of tuition.
<b>How should guardians apply?</b>	Applications for students residing with a grandparent or guardian should be filled out by the individual who claims the student(s) on a tax return. TADS will use that tax return to determine eligibility and need.
<b>How should foster parents apply?</b>	Families with foster children in their home should complete a separate application with just those children listed on it. Any income such as state subsidies should be included; however, no expenses need to be listed. The application should exclude all financial information of the parents and the foster parents.
<b>What if the application fee is cost prohibitive for my family?</b>	If the application fee is cost prohibitive, you are encouraged to contact the school to request that they pay the fee on your behalf.
<b>Are special financial circumstances considered?</b>	Families experiencing a hardship are asked to provide information in the supplemental questions. The individual scholarship amounts as recommended by TADS cannot be altered by Diocesan staff or school representatives due to financial hardships.
<b>What if parents were not required to file taxes?</b>	Those families who were not required to file taxes will notate that on the application. Copies of all supporting documentation for household non-taxable income such as Social Security income, Child support, Food stamps, Workers' compensation, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are required to be submitted. A notarized Non-filer form(VNF) will also be required.
<b>What if I have questions about how to complete the application?</b>	TADS is happy to assist families with questions about completing their applications. The TADS call center is open Monday-Friday from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm at 800-477-8237. The TADS online application also has a chat feature that is available. You can also contact your school for additional assistance.
<b>Is the Diocese of Sioux City Scholarship Program the only assistance available?</b>	Many schools have local assistance programs in addition to the Diocese of Sioux City Scholarship Program awards. Generally families must first complete an application with TADS as a prerequisite to applying for local assistance. Local assistance programs, however, can create their own eligibility guidelines or consideration of special circumstances.
<b>What if the award my family receives is not enough?</b>	Scholarships made by the Diocese of Sioux City Scholarship Program cannot be appealed as the income guidelines are set by state law and the proportion of funds available for each family is based on the overall need of qualifying applicants. If you feel you need additional funds to supplement your scholarship, you are strongly encouraged to contact your local school/parish about local assistance programs and any other opportunities for assistance.
<b>Can an application be withdrawn?</b>	Applicants who choose to withdraw their application for a scholarship must communicate directly with TADS their decision to withdraw. Neither school representatives or Diocesan staff can make this request.