



Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is Ohio's new Scholarship Tax-Credit Program?

In 2022, Ohio General Assembly established a new program whereby Ohioans can receive a 100% tax credit against Ohio income tax liability for cash contributions to certified organizations that grant scholarships to students, including those attending Catholic schools. The maximum credit amount is currently \$750 (\$1,500 if married filing jointly).

Who will benefit from this program?

The program will benefit Ohio Catholic schools and students by prioritizing scholarships for low-income families that seek higher-quality education opportunities for their children. It will also offer taxpayers the ability to reduce their Ohio state tax liability by making a contribution to Scholarship Granting Organizations such as the Scholarship Granting Organization Notre Dame Schools ("LionSGO"). This is a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against your tax liability, or the tax you owe to the state of Ohio.

What is LionSGO?

Notre Dame Schools has established LionSGO as a Scholarship Granting Organization to support our Catholic Schools and students at Notre Dame Schools. Beginning October 1, 2022, it is possible to "transform your taxes" by making a charitable contribution to LionSGO that is eligible for a 100% tax credit on the donor's 2022 State of Ohio income tax return. The maximum credit amount is currently \$750 (\$1,500 if married filing jointly through two separate \$750 donations).

How did Notre Dame Schools establish a Scholarship Granting Opportunity?

Through work with the [Ohio Secretary of State](#), Notre Dame Schools became the 1st Catholic School authorized to become a Scholarship Granting Organization ("LionSGO"). LionSGO has been established to receive funds for granting scholarships to students throughout Notre Dame Schools.

How does this new program work?

Donors can make undesignated contributions to LionSGO, and LionSGO can then award to any eligible student from Notre Dame Schools. LionSGO, like any SGO, is required to prioritize recipients demonstrating the highest financial need (under 300% of the poverty threshold), but otherwise the law does not place limits on which K-12 students can be served or the number of scholarships that can be awarded. This program holds tremendous potential for bolstering our efforts to ensure the viability of our Catholic schools and has the potential to benefit every Catholic school in the diocese.

Will LionSGO be awarded to students who are not demonstrating the highest financial need?

All students demonstrating financial need are eligible to receive from LionSGO. While students that are under 300% of the poverty threshold (in 2021-2022 this is \$79,500 for a family of four) will be prioritized, applicants that are over this threshold are also eligible to receive from LionSGO, based on availability of funds.



When will scholarships from LionSGO be granted?

This depends upon the initial response from donors. Scholarship awards could begin as soon as the Spring of 2023.

How can I learn more about the LionSGO?

Please visit www.LionSGO.org for more information about this exciting initiative!

Note: The State of Ohio Tax Credit Scholarship initiative is subject to change from the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

CONTRIBUTING TO LionSGO

Who can contribute to LionSGO?

Any Ohio taxpayer, single or married, with an Ohio tax liability.

I already gave to the Annual Fund and/or on Giving Day. Do I have to donate to LionSGO to receive the tax credit?

Thank you for your generosity! LionSGO is a separate account from Notre Dame Schools' Annual Fund. In order to receive the tax credit you will need to donate to LionSGO.

Is there a cap on the amount I can contribute to LionSGO?

No! Contributions of any size will be accepted, and generous giving is encouraged as a means for helping more students receive a scholarship towards a Catholic education. While the tax-credit is capped at \$750, those who give a larger amount to LionSGO will be extending their generosity even further.

Can I contribute to the LionSGO more than once in 2022?

Yes. You can contribute multiple times in support of the area of greatest need and the school/s of your choosing. Keep in mind that the total tax-credit you are able to take is equal to the lesser of \$750 or your total tax liability.

Can my contribution be directed to the school of my choice?

While low-income families will be prioritized, the intent of LionSGO is to offer donors the option of making an undesignated contribution that supports schools and students across Notre Dame Schools based on financial need.

May donors designate their contribution to a specific student?

As a 501(c)(3) organization, LionSGO does not accept contributions that are designated for specific students.

May I contribute online?

Yes. You can contribute online in just minutes. Make your contribution at www.LionSGO.org. You will receive an immediate electronic confirmation of your contribution. You will receive a tax receipt from LionSGO to use when filing your 2022 State of Ohio income taxes and claiming your tax credit.

What are the payment options?

A printable payment form is available. Payments may be made by check, credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express), electronic funds transfer in one single payment or monthly. LionSGO will send a tax receipt to you for your contribution.



Is it possible to make monthly contributions?

Yes! You can contact LionSGO to schedule monthly contributions if that best suits your family's budget. Or you can schedule monthly contributions online at www.LionSGO.org.

Who gets the contribution?

Students in Notre Dame Schools who have demonstrated need are the recipients of the tax credit scholarships through LionSGO.

Can matching contributions from employers be made to LionSGO?

Yes! This is a great way to double or triple your contribution. Contact your employer's human resources or benefits department to verify participation. If they do, fill out the employee portion of the application and send it to the Notre Dame Schools, 13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, OH 44024

Who is eligible to receive from LionSGO?

All students enrolling in K-12 within Notre Dame Schools who demonstrate the highest financial need are eligible. While LionSGO will strive to assist as many financially qualified students as possible, the primary criteria for awarding scholarships is financial need; the priority will be students with the highest need when processing awards for scholarships. "Highest need" means the student's household income is under 300% of the poverty threshold published by the United States Census Bureau, or the student, or their guardians, receive public assistance. Upon confirmation that a student/family is approved for tuition funding, the funds are sent by LionSGO directly to the school the student attends.

TAX-CREDIT INFORMATION*

Is the amount I claim a tax deduction?

LionSGO donors will receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit up to the \$750 maximum contribution, which is different from a tax deduction. Tax deductions reduce your taxable income. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar credit against the taxes paid to the state of Ohio. The funds are directed to LionSGO rather than the state.

How do I qualify for the tax credit?

To qualify for the tax credit, donors first make a monetary donation to LionSGO. The credit amount equals the lesser of \$750 or the total amount donated to the Fund during the tax year.*

* The information is general in nature and is not intended to be used by anyone as tax advice. Please consult a tax professional that is aware of your personal tax situation about this credit and your potential use of it.

LionSGO




How do I get a tax credit?

Follow 3 easy steps:

1


Estimate your 2022 Ohio state tax liability

(2021 1040 IT, line 8c)




2

Submit your contributions to LionSGO based on your state tax liability



3

Complete your 2022 Ohio income tax return and include your receipt from your contribution to the LionSGO for a 100% tax credit up to \$750 (\$1500 if married filing jointly)



How does the taxpayer estimate their tax liability for this year?

Taxpayers can contact their tax preparer, or review their previous year's state tax return; this may help to estimate your state tax liability for the current year against which the credit can be claimed. This is the total of your tax and not necessarily the amount deducted from your paychecks, the amount refunded to you, or the amount due. Call your tax preparer with additional questions or for further assistance.

How does the taxpayer claim the tax credit?

Taxpayers claim the credit when they complete their tax return by writing in their support amount on the designated lines of the Ohio individual income tax return and attaching their tax receipt from LionSGO. If you do not pay any income tax to the State of Ohio, no benefit will be received. Tax forms are available by calling the Department of Revenue at (800) 352-4090 or clicking on the tax form pages (when they become available) on the LionSGO webpage.

Does LionSGO submit my contribution information to the State of Ohio or the IRS?

No. LionSGO does not submit your contribution information to the state of Ohio nor the IRS, but it does provide a tax receipt that you can use to claim the credit, if applicable.

How do I know if I pay state income taxes?

Everyone pays state income taxes unless you take a loss or don't have earned income. Even if you receive a state tax refund, you have paid state income taxes. Take a look at your last year's tax return to determine how much you pay in state income taxes. Checking last year's tax liability may give you an idea as to what your tax credit may be when you make a contribution to LionSGO this year, up to the \$750 maximum.