

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Resources to Help Defray Adoption Costs

- Adoptive parents are sometimes eligible for a loan or a grant to offset some of their adoption costs. Such programs have specific requirements for types of adoption and may give preference to families with the greatest financial need or those with other specific factors. More detailed information may be found by checking the resources listed below.
 - Child Welfare Information Gateway offers factsheets that pertain to adoption costs:
 - www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_benefi.cfm
 - National Adoption Foundation offers adoption grants, adoption loans, and adoption insurance:
 - www.nafadopt.org
 - 100 Mill Plain Road
 - Danbury, Connecticut 06811
 - 1-800-448-7061
 - National Endowment for Financial Education offers an online booklet on adoption costs: “How to Make Adoption an Affordable Option”
 - www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/family/adoption
 - North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) lists State adoption subsidy profiles: www.nacac.org/adoptionssubsidy/stateprofiles.html
 - NACAC also provides information on tax credits for special needs adoption: www.nacac.org/postadopt/taxcredit.html
 - www.helpusadopt.org
 - www.adoptionnetwork.com
- You may be able to borrow against your retirement funds or life insurance policies.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has partnered with Fifth Third Bank to provide low interest loans to prospective adoptive parents. If you live in the State of Ohio, please contact your local Fifth Third Bank to inquire about additional information.
- Employers often provide for adoptions in their benefits packages. There may be a wide range of benefits for families that adopt, such as paid or unpaid leave when a child arrives in the home, reimbursement of some portion of adoption expenses, and assistance with adoption services. For more information on this topic, please visit the following websites: www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_benefi.cfm and www.adoptionbenefits.com
- Some insurance policies will cover the birth mother medical expenses. This practice is becoming more common. Consult your provider to see if this coverage is provided.
- Ask your family if they could provide a loan or perhaps even a monetary gift to help with your adoption expenses.
- Consider bank loans to cover the costs of your adoption.
- Churches are a good source of both financial and emotional support.

Federal Tax Credits, Tax Exclusion, and Refundable Credits

Prospective adoptive parents may qualify for an adoption tax credit (an amount subtracted from their tax liability). They may also be able to exclude from their income some amounts paid to them or for them by their employer under a qualified adoption assistance program. Find information about tax credits and tax exclusion for adoption at the IRS website:

www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html

The IRS offers frequently asked questions and answers about adoption taxes credits, exclusions, and refundable credits for adoption on its website:

www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=231663,00.html

Parents also should find out about the IRS adoption taxpayer identification number, which is used for temporary identification when adopting taxpayers do not have the child's Social Security number.

www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96452,00.html

Some of this information was provided courtesy of:

Child Welfare Information Gateway - www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s_cost/s_cost.cfm

Title IV-E Adoption Subsidy

Title IV-E Federal Adoption Subsidy program, provides federal financial support for children placed for adoption who meet the eligibility criteria. In order for a child to be eligible for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, a PCSA must determine and document that:

1. The child meets special needs status
2. At the time the child came into custody of the PCSA or private child placement agency and at the time adoption proceeding are initiated, the child would have been eligible for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) or the child is determined eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits by the Social Security Administration prior to the finalization of adoption

In addition to a monthly monetary payment, these children are eligible for medical coverage under Medicaid and may be eligible to receive assistance and services under the federal Title XX program. Applications for Title IV-E subsidy must be completed by the adoptive family

prior to adoption finalization. The amount of adoption assistance is determined by negotiation and mutual agreement between the adoptive parent(s) and the PCSA. For more information, please contact your county's PCSA.

State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy Program

The State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy Program is a financial program which provides monthly maintenance subsidy payments to adoptive families adopting children who meet the special needs criteria that is defined in the Ohio Administrative Code rules and who are not eligible for Title IV-E adoption assistance. The PCSA in your county is responsible for administering and determining the eligibility for the State Adoption Subsidy Program. Applications must be completed by the adoptive family prior to finalization. The family's income is taken into consideration when determining eligibility for the State maintenance Subsidy. The child may also be eligible for medical coverage under Medicaid. Contact your adoption caseworker to learn more about obtaining the State Adoption Subsidy Program.

Non-Recurring Adoption Expense Subsidy

The Non-Recurring Adoption Expense is designed to promote the adoption of special needs children by providing eligible families the opportunity for reimbursement of certain costs related to adopting a child with special needs. Non-recurring adoption expenses are those one-time expenses directly related to the legal adoption of a child with special needs. The program provides reimbursement, up to a certain amount, for expenses such as supervision of placements prior to the adoption, attorney's fees, court cost, transportation costs, and the reasonable and necessary adoption fees. The adoptive family's income is not taken into consideration in determining whether non-recurring expenses should be paid. Applications and agreements for the Non-Recurring Adoption Expense Subsidy must be completed by the adoptive family prior to adoption finalization.