

Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center Adoption Programs Overview and Fee Structure

Effective February 2018

**All fees paid are non-refundable unless otherwise noted. All fees are reviewed annually by our Board of Directors and are subject to change. See Refund Policy on page 8.
There is no guarantee of placement in any adoption program.**

Description of Adoption Programs

Home Study Only (HSO) Program – Our agency completes a Home Study (Domestic or International) for Illinois prospective adoptive parents who are working with other placing resources (agencies and/or attorneys).

Traditional Adoption Placement (TAP) Program – Our agency works with birth parents (BPs) that have approached the agency to explore the option of developing adoption plans for their children. We assist BPs to find potential placements for their child by sharing profiles of our prospective adoptive parents who may be a good fit. To minimize prospective adoptive parents' financial risk, there are no matching fees and our agency pays all BP expenses.

Agency-Assisted Placement (AAP) Program – Similar to our TAP program, our agency supports BPs and prospective adoptive parents throughout the adoption process. With the AAP program, prospective adoptive parents have already identified a BP residing in Illinois who is considering placing a child for adoption. Prospective adoptive parents pay for staff expenses (mileage, time, etc.) and legally allowable BP expenses (that they have approved). These fees are not recoverable if placement does not occur. The placement fee is only paid if the adoption is successful.

Waiting Child Services (WCS) Program – Our agency supports prospective adoptive parents to navigate the various foster care systems throughout the US, including Illinois, by helping them identify and obtain information about children available for adoption. Once matched, our agency will coordinate the process with the agency or sending state.

Primary Provider Services – Our agency may be able to serve as the Primary Provider for your international adoption, in particular for relative or parent-identified adoptions. This service is independent and separate from the international home study service. Family Resource Center (the legal name of Adoption Center of Illinois) has been a Hague-accredited agency since 2008. This accreditation allows us to act as an Accredited Adoption Service Provider (ASP) for international adoptions, both Hague adoptions and non-Hague adoptions.

Hague Outgoing Primary Provider – Family Resource Center (the legal name of Adoption Center of Illinois) is a Hague-accredited agency accredited for Outgoing adoptions. We work with prospective adoptive parents residing in other Hague Convention countries who are interested in pursuing the adoption of a child in the United States, either through our TAP program or when families independently locate US children available for adoption through their own resources.

Please note: Prospective adoptive parents are responsible for obtaining legal counsel at their own expense. Prospective adoptive parents are also responsible for expenses including but not limited to: fingerprinting, registry clearances when prospective adoptive parents have resided in other states/countries, out-of-state agency expenses, travel and lodging, USCIS fees for international adoption.

Home Study Only (HSO) Program

Phase I – Comprehensive Home Study Services

Services:

- Initial Application Interview
- Orientation
- Home Study¹
- Adoption Education/Training (classes offered at our agency)
- Up to 5 Post Placements Visits for one child
- Court report
- ICPC (Interstate Placement of Children) for Domestic

¹All domestic home studies must be updated annually for a \$600 fee until placement occurs. All International home studies must be updated when prospective adoptive parents I800A/I600A will be expiring (if prospective adoptive parents have not filed an I800/I600 for a specific child).

Fee [due with application] - \$4,200

\$3,900 for returning ACI applicants

Traditional Adoption Placement (TAP) Program

Phase I – Comprehensive Home Study Services

Services:

- Initial Application Interview
- Orientation
- Home Study¹
- Adoption Education/Training (classes offered at our agency)
- Up to 5 Post Placements Visits for one child
- Court report
- FBFA Application (TAP Only)
- ICPC (Interstate Placement of Children)

¹All domestic home studies must be updated annually for a \$600 fee until placement occurs.

Fee [due with application] - \$4,200

\$3,900 for returning ACI applicants
\$2,500 for applicants with current Home Study²

²Fee only applies to applicants who are using another agency to provide home study and post placement services.

Phase II – TAP Program

Services:

- BPs outreach/advertising efforts
- Emergency response service – staff on call 24 hours per day
- Support/feedback in the creation of family profiles
- Presentation of family profiles to Illinois BP's
- Family profile on our website
- BP expenses paid by agency
- Coordination of post-placement communication plan between APs and BPs

Fee [due after acceptance into program] - \$5,800

Phase III – Placement

Fee [due at the time of placement] – \$24,000³

³Sibling Placements: When two or more children from the same birth parent(s) are placed at the same time through the TAP program, prospective adoptive parents will pay \$36,000 (1.5 full placement fees).

Total Fees for TAP Program

\$34,000

\$33,700 for returning ACI applicants
\$32,300 for applicants with current Home Study

Family Based Financial Aid – TAP PROGRAM ONLY: Our Board of Directors created the FBFA program to support prospective adoptive parents from a wide range of economic circumstances in pursuing adoption. The FBFA program provides non-cash grants to prospective adoptive parents who demonstrate financial need. Need is not determined strictly on an income-based sliding scale. This program takes into account a variety of factors including, but not limited to: household income, assets, age, extenuating circumstances, extraordinary medical expenses, and number of dependents. However, in reviewing financial aid grants awarded over the past 10 years, it is extremely rare that financial aid is awarded when the total household income of the prospective adoptive parents is over \$135,000 unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Prospective adoptive parents have the option of applying for FBFA prior to submitting their Phase I fee by submitting a non-refundable \$250 fee payable to Adoption Center of Illinois. Prospective adoptive parents must otherwise apply for FBFA within 60 days of submitting their application and Phase I fee, with no additional FBFA application fee.

FBFA award amounts range from \$1,000 to \$13,000. If any amount of FBFA is awarded, \$1,000 of the total award amount will be applied to Phase II fees. Financial aid grants can only be applied toward the TAP Program Phase II program fee and Phase III placement fee. At the time of placement, your financial aid grant letter will act as cash in your payment of the placement fee. *This program is only open to US citizens and US residents.*

Agency-Assisted Placement (AAP) Program

Phase I – Comprehensive Home Study Services

Services:

- Initial Application Interview
- Orientation
- Home Study¹
- Adoption Education/Training (classes offered at our agency)
- Up to 5 Post Placements Visits for one child
- Court report
- ICPC (Interstate Placement of Children)

¹All domestic home studies must be updated annually for a \$600 fee until placement occurs.

Fee [due with application] - \$4,200

\$3,900 for returning ACI applicants
\$2,500 for applicants with current Home Study²

²Fee only applies to applicants who are using another agency to provide home study and post placement services.

Phase II – AAP Program Services and Fees

Services:

- Emergency response service – staff on call 24 hours per day
- Birth Parent counseling services to identified BP(s)
- Coordination of hospital plan
- Management of BP Expense Fund
- Coordination of post-placement communication plan between APs and BPs

Fee [due with submission of AAP Program Agreement] - \$1,800

\$1,800 for first 15 hours / \$120 per hour thereafter

Birth Parent Expense Fund - \$2,500

These are funds deposited with our agency to be used for BP and related expenses.

BP expenses may exceed this amount.

Phase III – Placement

Fee [due at the time of placement] – \$5,000³

³Sibling Placements: When two or more children from the same birth parent(s) are placed at the same time through the AAP program, prospective adoptive parents will pay \$7,500 (1.5 full placement fees).

Total Fees for AAP Program (excluding BP Expense Fund)

\$11,000

\$10,700 for returning ACI applicants
\$9,300 for applicants with current Home Study

Waiting Child Services (WCS) Program

Phase I – Comprehensive Home Study Services

Services:

- Initial Application Interview
- Orientation
- Home Study¹
- Adoption Education/Training (classes offered at our agency)
- Up to 5 Post Placements Visits for one child
- Court report
- ICPC (Interstate Placement of Children)

¹All domestic home studies must be updated annually for a \$600 fee until placement occurs.

Fee [due with application] - \$4,200

\$3,900 for returning ACI applicants

Phase II – WCS Program

Services:

- Pre-placement matching assistance
- Obtaining information about available children
- Coordinating process with the sending state
- Identifying and locating services that may be needed (i.e. counseling, psychologists)

Fee [due after acceptance into program] - \$2,600

Program fee due annually (after the initial 24 months has expired) - \$600

Phase III – Placement

Fee – \$0

Total Fees for WCS Program³

\$6,800

\$6,500 for returning ACI applicants

³Total fees do not include travel expenses; fees also do not include WCS program fee if prospective adoptive parents are in WCS Program for more than 24 months.

Primary Provider

Phase I

Services:

- Initial Consultation with other adoption service providers, in-country attorneys and/or foreign authorities as needed
- Review of any adoption documents already obtained
- Determination of the viability of providing primary provider services
- Includes a \$500 Monitoring and Oversight fee that agency will pay directly to IAAME, the accrediting entity, for the adoption of ONE child.

Fee - \$2,500

Phase II

Services:

- Ongoing communication and/or supervision of home study service provider, foreign supervised providers, foreign attorneys, foreign and US governmental agencies and Central Authorities.
- Review of all documentation required to verify completion of all six adoption services in order to allow prospective adoptive parents to apply for visa for child's entry to United States. Support and assistance with USCIS and Visa application process.

Fee - \$3,000

Hague Outgoing Primary Provider

Phase I

Services:

- Review of current Home Study and Article 15
- Orientation to the Hague Convention process
- Communication with other adoption service providers (ASPs)
- Determination of the viability of the possible adoption

Fee - \$2,500

Phase II

Services:

- Ongoing communication and/or supervision of other ASPs
- Preparation of all required preliminary documents in compliance with the Hague convention

Fee - \$2,500

Phase III – Placement

Services:

- Review and/or preparation of Child Background Study, Birth Parent consents, Article 16 letter, Article 17 letter, post-placement supervision reports, and documentation for Hague Adoption Certificate

Fee - \$2,500

Additional Services

<p>Expedited Fee (For emergency situations only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our agency can expedite the Home Study process and visit to your home. However criminal clearances, references, medical releases, etc. may delay completion of the final Home Study as our agency cannot expedite these items. 	<p>Fee - \$800</p>
<p>Home Study Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required when a prospective adoptive parent moves to a new address or if there is the addition of a household member, including the birth of a biological child. Domestic home studies must be updated annually until placement occurs International home studies must be updated when prospective adoptive parents I800A/I600A will be expiring (if prospective adoptive parents have not filed an I800/I600 for a specific child) Home Study is converted from one format to another (i.e. Domestic to International, China to Ethiopia, Domestic to Waiting Child Services) 	<p>Fee - \$600</p>
<p>Posts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I fee includes up to five (5) post placement visits for one child; each additional post will need to be billed. Cost for each additional child per visit, if posts are conducted concurrently 	<p>Fee - \$325</p>
	<p>Fee - \$100</p>
<p>Court Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fee if our agency did not conduct the Home Study 	<p>Fee - \$500</p>
<p>Hourly Consultation Rate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all senior staff services – individual interviews, private consultation, post adoption services. 	<p>Fee - \$120 per hour</p>
<p>Mileage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a prospective adoptive parent resides more than 100 miles round trip from either our office (60660) or our downstate workers they will be assessed a mileage charge for each mile beyond 100 miles traveled for any agency related home visit (Home Study, post, etc.). This fee is based on the Internal Revenue Service proposed rates. 	<p>Fee – 54.5 cents per mile</p>
<p>Environmental/Safety Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A court ordered assessment required to obtain visitation or custody of a biological child residing out of state. This fee covers the first 12 hours of service provided (average time spent on assessments). Additional hours after the first 12 hours of service will be billed at the hourly rate of \$120. 	<p>Fee - \$1,200</p>
<p>Hosting Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-home assessment in order to host an international child. The fee would be applied to the IHSO fee for prospective adoptive parents who then continue to pursue an adoption. 	<p>Fee - \$2,000</p>
<p>Embryo Home Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fee covers the application, Home Study, and one post-placement visit. If an embryo adoption is not completed and the prospective adoptive parents wish to apply for a Domestic Home Study, the \$2,500 paid can be applied toward the full Home Study fee. 	<p>Fee - \$2,500</p>

Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center's Refund Policy

In the spirit of transparency, and in order to avoid any confusion, our agency wants prospective adoptive parents to know what fees are refundable and under what circumstances. Unless otherwise stated below, all fees paid to our agency are non-refundable.

I. Phase I Fee

A portion of the Phase I fee may be refundable under the following circumstances:

A] If prospective adoptive parents submit an application to our agency and withdraw¹ it before the initial application interview, all but \$250 of the Phase I fee is refundable.

B] If prospective adoptive parents submit an application to our agency and withdraw¹ it after the initial application interview, all but \$1,500 of the Phase I fee is refundable.

C] There shall be no refund of the Phase I fee (which includes post-placement fees) once a worker enters a prospective adoptive parent's home and begins an in-home visit and interview. The post-placement visit fees are part of the all-inclusive fee and are not billed separately.

II. TAP Program Placement Fee

The TAP Program Placement fee is refundable under the following circumstances:

In legal risk situations involving unknown putative fathers, the actual amount of the placement fee paid by prospective adoptive parents will be fully refunded by Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center in the event that the adoptive placement of the child is reversed prior to the finalization of the adoption, due to (1) a successful legal challenge brought by a putative/biological father and (2) loss of custody of the child by the prospective adoptive parents. This refund will be made by our agency to the prospective adoptive parents within 60 days after **both** the entry of the final court order and the return or surrender of the child to Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center or the putative/biological father. The 60 day period will begin after the second of the aforementioned events occurs.

III. Agency Assisted Placement Program "Expense Fund"

This section only applies to prospective adoptive parents in the Agency-Assisted Adoption Placement (AAP) Program. The unused portion of the prospective adoptive parents "Expense Fund" in the AAP Program is refundable as per the terms set forth in the signed AAP Program Agreement entered into by Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center and prospective adoptive parents.

¹ An application shall be considered "withdrawn" when prospective adoptive parents send an email or fax to an ACI staff member indicating their desire to withdraw their application. If prospective adoptive parents do not receive confirmation within 48 hours, please contact the agency's Executive Director.