



CHOICE
ADOPTIONS

Programs and Services



Choice Adoptions | 12901 SE 97th Ave., Suite 150 . Clackamas, OR 97015 | 503-232-1211

www.choiceadoptions.org



Hello,

Thank you for your interest in adopting through Choice. I am sure this has been at least a thought/glimmer/hope in your heart(s) for some time and we are thrilled you are inquiring about working with us. The services offered by Choice Adoptions are inclusive and holistic. Our team works closely with birth parents, prospective and placed adoptive parents and our communities at large. The bulk of our services are processing applications for adoption, aiding in home study preparation, supporting the match process, and providing post-placement supervision. In addition, we are always available to answer your questions, guide you in the right direction while supporting you each step of the way.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.
Congratulations on beginning your adoption journey!

We're in this together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taryn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Taryn O'Flynn, MA | Executive Director

www.choiceadoptions.org | phone 503-232-1211 | fax 503-232-4756

National Infant Program (Oregon / Washington Families)



The National Infant Program is one of Choice Adoption's Domestic Infant Adoption Programs. Choice partners with adoption agencies located in several states across the nation to place newborn infants in the homes of Choice Adoptions families. The waiting time for placement through the National Infant Program is estimated at 24-36 months after approval of an adoption home study.

Choice coordinates with more than a dozen agencies across the country that are working with birth mothers who are making an adoption plan and looking for the right family. These partner agencies share family profile books with birth mothers, giving them the opportunity to select the adoptive family. Occasionally, circumstances dictate that Choice Adoptions and the placing agency select a family. When this happens, the agencies work to create a match that will best meet the needs of both the adoptive family and the infant.

Agencies do their best to assure healthy pregnancies by offering prenatal care resources and counseling to birthmothers. However, it cannot be guaranteed that birth mothers will follow the suggestions of their counselors, and often a birth mother is referred late in her pregnancy resulting in little or no prenatal care.

When an agency begins working with a birth mother, a medical history is obtained and, if possible, one from the birth father as well. Adoptive families have the opportunity to provide which health risks or conditions in an infant's background they will knowingly accept. It is important to understand that Choice Adoptions cannot guarantee the health of any child.

Steps to Adopting through the National Infant Program

APPLICATION: The application is the first step in the adoption process. The application can be found at www.choiceadoptions.org or by contacting our office at 503-232-1211. Mail in a completed application along with the following documents: the fee listed on the application, two family photos, and copies of government issued ID(s) or passport(s). Please check with Choice prior to application, as there may be a hold or waitlist.

CONTRACT: Upon approval of the application, and possible waitlist time, Choice will send contracts for services, process background clearances, provide the home study packet and the Domestic Infant Training Course. This information is needed by the social worker conducting the home study. Once the contracts, Choice Adoptions fees and all other required documents and training have been completed and received, a social worker will be assigned to conduct a home safety inspection and interviews to complete the state adoption home study.

EDUCATION: 10 hours of pre-adoption education is required for all adopting families and provides important basic information about adoption-related issues such as prenatal and medical risks, understanding of transracial parenting issues, open adoption and importance of birthparents, and understanding grief and loss in the adoption triad. The Choice Adoptions Domestic Infant Program will provide the necessary training for families to complete. The Choice Adoptions training also includes ongoing Waiting Families Webinars.

HOME STUDY: The social worker will conduct the adoption home study, which, in addition to education, includes:

- medical forms
- financial forms and tax returns
- employment letters

- criminal and child abuse checks
- personal references
- releases of information
- general information and present life autobiographies

PROFILE BOOK: After the completion of the home study packet and Domestic Infant Training Course, instruction will be sent for how to create a profile book that will be presented to birth parents once the adoption home study is approved. Instructions for designing the book and a sample are included in the Domestic Infant Training Course. Once the study has been approved and the profile book has been completed, the profile will be added to the Choice Adoptions Waiting Family page and the matching process will begin. Profile books are sent to partner agencies according to the budget and preferences set by the pre-adoptive parent(s).

FAMILY SELECTION: When Choice Adoptions is notified about a potential match, contact with the pre-adoptive family will be made to discuss details such as medical and social history, legal risks, placement, travel plans, and fees. Choice will send as much information about the birth parents' background and current circumstances as is available to help in the decision making. If the pre-adoptive parents choose to be considered by the birth parents, Choice will notify the coordinating agency. If pre-adoptive families don't feel the situation is an appropriate match, it is okay to say no and wait for the next opportunity.

CHILD ARRIVAL: Pre-adoptive parents must travel to the state where the baby is born. Most adoptive placements are made 2 to 10 days after the birth of the child. There may be an opportunity to meet the birth parents at this time. Once the placement has been made and the documents with the placing agency have been completed, the adoptive family will need to remain in the state for interstate approval before returning home. Interstate approval (ICPC) generally takes 2 to 10 days.

POST PLACEMENT: After returning home with Baby, the social worker will make arrangements for required in-home post placement visits and, in most cases, will recommend finalization proceedings. Some states and/or agencies require more than 2 post placement visits. Choice will coordinate with the placing agency to send the necessary legal documents to the adoptive family attorney. Families are responsible to initiate the legal finalization with their attorney, if not done through the placing agency upon placement. Finalization can occur 3 to 12 months after placement.

National Infant Program Fee Schedule

(Oregon / Washington Residents)

Choice Adoptions Agency Fees:

(Due prior to home study)

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|-----------------------------------|---------|
| ● Application | \$500 |
| ● Adoption Home Study | \$3,000 |
| ● Post-placement Reports* | \$1,200 |
| ● Program Development Fee | \$6,800 |
| ● Domestic Infant Training Course | \$500 |
| ● Waiting Family Seminar | \$400 |

Total due prior to referral	\$12,400 plus mileage (mileage billed at current IRS rate)
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|---|---------|
| ● Coordination fee (Due at time of match) | \$2,500 |
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TOTAL PAID TO CHOICE ADOPTIONS	\$14,900
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* Some states require more than two supervision visits; if this is the case, you will be invoiced an additional \$500 per post placement due at time of service.

National Infant Placement Fees: (These are not Choice Adoptions fees and are paid directly to the Placing Agency.)



Local Infant Program (Oregon / Washington Families)

The Local Infant Program is also one of Choice's Domestic Infant Adoption Programs. Through a careful home study process, Choice matches families who long to parent with birth parents who are facing an unexpected pregnancy and are not able to parent.



The birth mother selects a Choice Adoptions waiting family for her baby. Both families decide on the level of openness they want in the placement. Waiting time can depend on many factors, but can generally be 18 to 36 months, or longer, after the approval of a home study. The Local Program primarily works with birth parents and adoptive families in the states of Oregon

and Washington. However, we sometimes have a birth mother outside Oregon and Washington who want to place with one of Choice's waiting families.

Choice Adoptions encourages an open adoption. The basis of an open adoption is developing a relationship with the birth parents for the well-being of the child.

Adoptive parents should anticipate ongoing communication with their baby's birth parents including pictures, letters, and visits.

Steps to Adopting through the Local Infant Program (Oregon / Washington Families)

APPLICATION: The application is the first step in the adoption process. The application can be found at www.choiceadoptions.org or by contacting our office at 503-232-1211. Mail in a completed application along with the following documents: the fee listed on the application, two family photos, and copies of government issued ID(s) or passport(s). Please check with Choice prior to application, as there may be a hold or waitlist.

CONTRACT: Upon approval of the application, and possible waitlist time, Choice will send contracts for services, process background clearances, provide the home study packet and the Domestic Infant Training Course. This information is needed by the social worker conducting the home study. Once the contracts, Choice Adoptions fees and all other required documents and training have been completed and received, a social worker will be assigned to conduct a home safety inspection and interviews to complete the state adoption home study.

EDUCATION: 10 hours of pre-adoption education is required for all adopting families and provides important basic information about adoption-related issues such as prenatal and medical risks, understanding of transracial parenting issues, open adoption and importance of birthparents, and understanding grief and loss in the adoption triad. The Choice Adoptions Domestic Infant Program will provide the necessary training for families to complete. The Choice Adoptions training also includes an ongoing Waiting Families Webinars.

HOME STUDY: The social worker will conduct the adoption home study, which, in addition to education, includes:

- medical forms
- financial forms and tax returns
- employment letters
- criminal and child abuse checks
- personal references
- releases of information
- general information and present life autobiographies

PROFILE BOOK: After the completion of the home study packet and Domestic Infant Training Course, instruction will be sent for how to create profile books that will be presented to birthparents once the adoption home study is approved. Instructions for designing the book and a sample are included in the Domestic Infant Training Course. Once the study has been approved and the profile book has been completed, the profile will be added to the Choice Adoptions Waiting Family page

and the matching process will begin. Profile books are sent to partner agencies according to the budget and preferences set by the pre-adoptive parent(s).

THE MATCHING PROCESS: Birth parents select families based on criteria they consider important for their expected baby. After being selected, adoptive families will receive as much background and current medical, genetic, and social information regarding the birth parents as is available. After reviewing the information and consulting with the program director and other trusted advisors, the choice to accept or decline the opportunity to match is made. In most cases, a match meeting with the birth parent(s) and adoptive parents will be scheduled and facilitated by a Choice advocate. Following the match meeting, all parties are asked to decide if they would like to commit to the match.

CHILD ARRIVAL: The birth plan and particular placement arrangements will be discussed between the adoptive parent advocate and the birthparent's advocate. In most cases, the adoptive family is invited by the birth mother to be a part of the hospital experience. Usually, 1 to 2 days after the birth of the child, he or she can be placed directly from the hospital into the adoptive parents' home.

POST PLACEMENT: The social worker will make two in-home post placement visits and, in most cases, will then recommend finalization proceedings. Once all post placement and contractual obligations have been met, Choice Adoptions can consent to the adoption. The necessary legal documents will be sent to the adoptive parents' adoption attorney who will complete the finalization. Adoptive families are responsible to retain an adoption attorney to initiate proceedings for legal finalization as soon as possible at or before placement of the baby.

AGENCY FEES: Choice Adoptions' heart for finding adoptive families for children is reflected in the efforts to keep fees as low as possible. Fees herein are subject to change without notice; please contact the office for current fees.

Local Infant Program Fee Schedule

(Fees below are subject to change without notice; please contact Choice Adoptions for current fees.)

● Application	\$500
● Domestic Infant Training course	\$500
● Waiting Families Webinars	\$400
● Adoption Home Study (plus mileage)	\$3,000
● Post-placement reports (2) (plus mileage)	\$1,200
● Program development fee	\$6,800
Total due prior to home study	\$12,400 plus mileage (mileage billed at current IRS rate)
● Birth Parent Support Fee*:	\$8,400 <i>Due at time of match acceptance</i>
● Placement Fee:	\$16,500 <i>Due at time of placement</i>
 TOTAL CHOICE FEES	 \$37,300

ADDITIONAL FEES

Home Study Update	\$300
Home Study Update with Visit	\$500

**8,400 is the minimum fee for birth parent support. Families are responsible for all birth parent expenses that exceed this amount. No refund of minimum deposit is available. Medical and legal costs are not included and will be paid separately.*

Extra Estimated Fees

- Finalization attorney fees \$2,500-4,000

**Infant Programs - Additional expenses may include, but are not limited to 5 color copies of family profile book, travel and mileage for home study, post placement visits, and finalization expenses.*

Foster Child Adoption Program (Oregon Families Only)



The Department of Human Services in Oregon has many children in foster care waiting for permanent adoptive and guardianship homes. The children in state custody have a wide range of special needs resulting from varied backgrounds and life experiences. They may have suffered from physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect. They may have experienced multiple homes and varied family settings, making attachment difficult. Some are physically or mentally delayed. All of them need unconditional love, unlimited encouragement and total commitment from a family of their own.

While it is always the first choice to see children reunited with their biological family, for many children, returning to their families is not possible, or not a safe stable option. As a result, they have been released to the state for adoption or permanent guardianship. Choice Adoptions is committed to helping these children find safe, loving homes of their own. Choice Adoptions has very experienced and dedicated caseworkers who will walk through this process with families every step of the way.

WAITING CHILDREN

Children may be viewed at websites such as:

Northwest Adoption Exchange

www.nwae.org

AdoptUSKids

www.adoptuskids.org

Heart Gallery of America

www.heartgalleryofamerica.org

Steps to Adopt through the Oregon State Foster Child Adoption Program

INQUIRY: The first step is to contact Choice by phone (503-232-1211) or email mail@choiceadoptions.org to learn about this program and get all questions answered.

APPLICATION: Submit an application with the following documents: application fee, two family photos, certificates of any completed pre-adoption training, and copies of government issued photo ID cards.

CONTRACT: Upon approval of your application, a letter of instruction will be sent out along with contracts for services, and information regarding the required special needs adoption training education. Pre-adoptive parents will be asked to submit the home study packet documents, which include: background checks, medical and financial forms, personal references, release of information form, and an autobiography among other required documentation. This information is needed by the social worker conducting the home study. Once the contracts, fees, documents, and training certificates have been received, a Choice Adoptions social worker will be assigned to conduct interviews, do a home safety assessment, and write the adoption home study.

EDUCATION: Pre-adoption education, Resource and Adoptive Training (RAFT), is required and provides important basic information about adoption and trauma related issues and is required for all adopting families.

Oregon State Foster Adopt Program Fee Schedule

- Application fee \$500
- Special Needs Home Study \$3,500
- Committee Process Fee \$2,700

TOTAL: \$6,700 plus mileage billed at current IRS rate

Additional expenses:

Travel and mileage expenses (to represent family at committee)

Annual home study update \$300

Annual home study update with visit \$500

*Please contact the Choice Adoptions office with questions and to receive current fee information. Some costs may be reimbursed at finalization through the State of Oregon. Ongoing financial assistance may be available for each child. Tax credits are also available through the Federal government.

Home Study and Post Placement Services (Oregon / Washington Families)



Choice Adoptions has been completing home studies and post placement reports for over 30 years. Choice Adoptions is licensed in both Oregon and Washington State and is able to write home study reports for families living anywhere in both states. After placement, Choice provides supervision and post placement reports to courts. Choice Adoptions is dedicated to providing high quality professional services in an expedited manner. Social workers are able to

begin your study as soon as paperwork is approved and fees are paid.

Home Study Timeline

- Contact Choice Adoptions to get questions answered and learn the process (mail@choiceadoptions.org or 503-232-1211).
- The family fills out an application and submits it to Choice Adoptions along with the required documentation.
- The Program Director reviews the application for approval. Please allow 7 business days.
- The home study packet is sent to the family, including the background check process and adoption education options.
- When the family completes the required adoption training and home study paperwork, Choice Adoptions assigns a social worker to do the home study.
- The family will be contacted by the social worker to set up interviews and the required home safety assessment visit to begin their home study.

Home Study Facts

- A home study is a report required by the state for every domestic adoption to determine the eligibility of adoptive parents.
- Home studies are valid for 2 years in Oregon and Washington state. Home studies need to be updated after 1 year to update medicals, background checks, and financials.
- A home study can only be used for one adoption (sibling groups are considered one adoption if the children are placed at the same time).
- Home studies are confidential and shared only with the family and professionals involved with the adoption.
- Each type of adoption has a slightly different home study process and requirements. To save time and money, it is important to choose the type of adoption you want to pursue before obtaining a home study.

- During the home study process, a minimum of 10 adoption training hours are required depending on the type of adoption.
- Choice Adoptions is not an international child placing agency.

Post Placement Services

After placement, one or more additional social worker visits with the family and reports are required to ensure that the child and family are adjusting well and are equipped with all necessary resources. The social worker summarizes the visit in a written post placement report. Reports are filed with the court. Post placement requirements vary depending on the state, but generally involve 1 to 6 reports. Choice Adoptions has extensive experience in providing post placement supervision and domestic adoptions.

Home Study and Post Placement Fee Schedule (Oregon / Washington Families)

Independent Adoptions (child born in the US)

- Application Fee \$500
- Home study Fee \$3,000
- Oregon Independent Court report: Contracted by Oregon DHS
(Court report fees may be paid directly to the State of Oregon or Choice Adoptions – case by case)
- Coordinating Agency Fee \$400
- Post Placement fee \$600 per visit/report

*The number of post placement visits/reports vary depending on the state requirements.

Home Study Updates/Addendums

New to the area? Switching programs? Choice Adoptions is able to provide home study updates and addendums as needed. The update/addendum price is dependent on the type of documentation, visits, and writing required. Price to be determined on a case by case basis.

Home Study Update	\$300
Home Study Update with Visit	\$500

Finalization of Adoption

Families are responsible to finalize their adoption

Adoption Attorney estimated fees can be between \$2,500 and \$4,000

Travel Expenses

Caseworker's mileage is billed to the family at the current IRS standard rate per mile.

Trips over 150 miles round trip require car rental. Actual expenses are billed to the family in lieu of the IRS standard rate per mile. Should an overnight stay or alternate travel arrangements (such as a flight) be needed, the adopting family is responsible for paying the expenses including but not limited to travel time, food, and lodging.

This list does not cover all the possibilities. Call us at 503-232-1211 for more information and to discuss unique circumstances.

Affording Adoption

The prospect of paying for adoption can be intimidating. Never fear! There are plenty of resources to help make your adoption affordable.

Adoption Tax Credit

This provides a tax credit (an amount that can be deducted directly from the taxes you owe) for expenses incurred in the adoption of a child who is not the child of the taxpayer's spouse. The adoption tax credit is adjusted each year based upon the cost of living allowance. For 2024, this non-refundable credit is \$16,810. The full credit will be available to taxpayers with modified adjusted gross incomes. For more information regarding the adoption tax credit please contact a tax professional or visit <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>

Most children adopted from foster care are eligible for adoption assistance, (also called a subsidy) in an effort to keep adoption expenses low. This typically includes a medical card and a monthly stipend to care for the child.

Special Needs Adoptions

- [Angels In Disguise](#) - For families adopting children with Down's Syndrome.
- [Shepherd's Crook Ministries](#) - Offers Financial assistance to Christian families who are led to adopt any of the children listed on their website.
- [Holt's Special Needs Adoption Fund](#) - Assists families adoption through Holt Adoption Agency who need additional financial support.
- [Brittany's Hope](#) - Works closely with multiple adoption agencies who share their mission to find a family for every waiting child.

Adoption Loans

Many Credit Unions offer an adoption loan program. Most banks offer home equity loans for adoptions or equity lines of credit with the interest qualifying for a tax deduction. Check with your bank and tax accountant about eligibility for the tax deduction. Some interest loans to eligible families to reach their goal of increasing the number of children who are adopted.

- [Adoption Network Law Center](#) - Offers credit-based loans featuring 24-84 month terms. Call: 1-800-FOR-ADOPT
- [America's Christian Credit Union](#) - Offers financial solutions and ministries to empower individuals to reach their financial goals while expanding God's Kingdom.
- [National Adoption Foundation](#)- The NAF offers unsecured loans through a revolving \$9 million loan bank for adoptive parents.
- [TMG Foundation](#)- They help remove the financial burden of adoption by offering matching grants which encourage the adopting couple's church family to financially and prayerfully support the adoption. They also offer interest-free loans to eligible families.

Adoption Grants

This process usually includes an application. It's not a loan, and you won't need to repay anything!

- [Adopt Together](#) - A non-profit crowdfunding platform.
- [Every Child Has A Dream](#)- Grants for two-parent families with no history of divorce.
- [Gift of Adoption Fund](#) - Preference given to those facing extraordinary financial hardship. Amounts range from \$2,000 - \$5,000, and are awarded monthly.
- [Parents for ME](#) - Grants for those pursuing parenthood via adoption or medical intervention.
- [Open Arms Adoption](#) - Grant applications are accepted from all applicants- regardless of country, marital status, or other considerations. Awarded biannually.
- [Boatner Family Foundation](#) - Requires agency approval, a financial statement, and formal application. Grants from \$1,000 - \$10,000. Inquiries to P.O. Box 132272, The Woodlands, TX 77393
- [Families Outreach, Inc.](#) - Grants for Christian adoptive families.
- [Show Hope: Shaohannah's Hope](#) - Grants to Christian families.

- [Life Song for Orphans](#) - Matching grants range from \$2,000 - \$4,000, and encourage the adopting couple's church family to financially and prayerfully support the adoption.
- [Help US Adopt](#) - Grants for any US citizen pursuing any kind of adoption.
- [National Adoption Foundation Grant](#) - Awarded without exclusion to race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, family characteristics, or income.
- [God's Grace Adoption Ministry](#) - Financial assistance awarded to married couples earning less than \$60,000 a year.

Other Options

- [Life Insurance](#): Many families borrow from a 401k or Life Insurance Policy to cover the cost of adoption.
- [Employee Benefit Programs](#): An adoption benefits plan is a company-sponsored program that financially assists or reimburses employees for expenses related to the adoption of a child and/or provides for paid or unpaid leave for the adoptive parent employee. Financial assistance may be reimbursed for specific costs or a set of money, regardless of actual expenses.
- [Military Benefits](#): Thanks to the Defense Department Adoption Reimbursement Policy, you can claim up to \$2,000 per child and \$5,000 per calendar year in reimbursement for certain adoption expenses.