



FINANCING ADOPTION

2011 RESOURCE GUIDE

Working alongside you to finance your adoption

Many people think that it is very expensive to adopt children. A question that we often hear is, “Why does it have to cost tens of thousands of dollars to adopt a child?”.

Sorting through the costs of adoption can be substantial and confusing. As a non-profit agency Bethany Christian Services works to raise financial contributions that assist in making adoptions as affordable as possible. The bottom line is that expenses can be substantially less than the initial cost quoted at the beginning of the process.

As one of the largest adoption agencies in the U.S. we have helped thousands of people achieve their goal of adopting a child. Bethany can often absorb a portion of the cost of adoption, making it easier for you, the family. Our goal is to help each child find a loving forever family, and we are committed to working alongside you to help discover ways to finance your adoption.



BETHANY WORKS TO HELP MAKE ADOPTION AS AFFORDABLE AS POSSIBLE FOR YOU.

BETHANY COVERS A PORTION OF THE ACTUAL COST OF ADOPTION, REDUCING THE COST THAT IS PASSED ONTO THE FAMILY.

Get to know your financing options

Adoption costs can be greatly reduced through tax credits, loans, grants, and subsidies.

FEDERAL ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

One of the most important factors making adoption affordable for you is the Federal Adoption Tax Credit. A tax reduction of up to \$13,170 is available to your family, depending on your income.

The tax credit applies to both domestic and international adoptions, but the process is different. Credit for international adoption expenses can be claimed only after the adoption has been finalized.

Some states also offer tax credits or deductions. Ask your tax advisor about how these credits may apply to your family's taxes. For up-to-date federal adoption tax credit information, visit www.irs.gov.

STATE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

Your state may have a tax credit or deduction in addition to the federal tax credit. More than a dozen states offer a tax credit of \$1,000 or

more. Check with your tax advisor to see if your state is included.

SHORT-TERM LOANS

While many families do not have the funds to cover the entire cost of adoption, they can work with America's Christian Credit Union who offers an affordable adoption loan program to obtain the funds needed before you receive adoption tax credits. Because it may take years until you receive the money from your tax credits, a short-term loan with an easy payment plan can be the difference in making adoption work for your family. For more information, see www.americaschristiancu.com.

CARING CONNECTION FUND FOR ADOPTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Through our Caring Connection Fund, Bethany offers grants for adopting children with special needs. Grants are awarded based on the child's needs and on the financial needs of the adoptive family. Over the last decade, our donors have helped more than 1,000 children be adopted by providing several million dollars of assistance. Typical grants range in the amounts of \$2,000–\$5,000 depending on the needs of each individual family.

You will find more information on special needs adoption and applying for grants at www.bethany.org. Or you can contact the Caring Connection Coordinator at **616.224.7482** or caringconnection@bethany.org.



GRANTS FOR ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL

If you are active duty personnel in the military, you can qualify for grants and subsidies toward adoption. The military will reimburse you for most one-time adoption costs of up to \$2,000 per child. This child can be an infant, an older child in the United States, or a child from another country. Travel costs, foreign or domestic, are not covered. There is a maximum



of \$5,000 available in a given year, even if both parents are in the military. Reimbursements are made after the adoption has been finalized. The adoption must be completed through a non-profit private agency like Bethany Christian Services or directly with a state government.

An adopted child with special needs may be eligible for monthly financial assistance under the military's Program for Persons with Disabilities. In addition, the military's Exceptional Family Member Program is designed to ensure that adoptive families of children with special needs are assigned to duty stations where the child's needs can best be met.

EMPLOYER ADOPTION BENEFITS

Recently, more employers have begun to offer adoption benefits for their employees. Benefits include time off to care for an adopted child or cash reimbursements for adoption expenses. Check with your employer about adoption benefits that may be offered through your workplace.

SHOW HOPE

You may apply for a grant through Show Hope, founded by Steven Curtis and Mary Beth Chapman, Bethany adoptive parents and public advocates for adoption. Show Hope awards grants to qualified families who are in the process of adopting. The size of the grant is determined by several factors, including financial need. To learn more, visit www.showhope.org.



Discover the Bethany advantage!

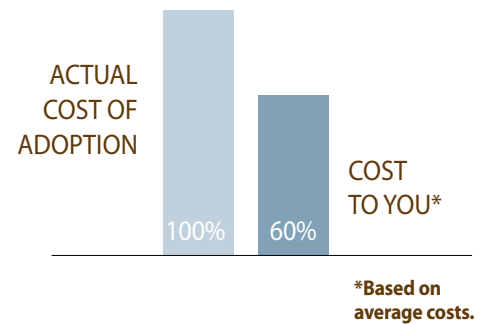
There are many advantages to adopting through Bethany Christian Services.

One advantage, is how the actual cost is subsidized initially, lowering the cost of adoption that is passed on to the family. Thanks to gifts from our generous donors, Bethany is able to subsidize a significant portion of your child's adoption cost, before it ever reaches you. In addition, rather than paying a large amount up-front, which is done by some other organizations, you pay appropriate fees at the time of each service provided by Bethany. For example, in domestic infant adoption, if an expectant mother is in need of rent and medical care, Bethany evaluates each request and only passes along costs you have agreed upon beforehand. This means there are no hidden fees or costs to surprise you along the way. With other agencies, you may incur these expenses and not be reimbursed if the expectant mother decided to parent.

Through gifts from our generous donors, Bethany is able to subsidize a portion of the cost of your child's adoption.



ADOPTING THROUGH BETHANY



FEE SCHEDULE

Adoption fees vary based on the type of adoption and what office you are working with. Please request an adoption information packet to see the specific fees associated with the adoption programs you are interested in.

Within our domestic infant adoption program, actual costs of adoption vary by state, averaging from \$14,500 - \$30,000. Thanks to our donors, Bethany was able to subsidize an average of \$10,000 of that cost, making the cost to the family \$19,300 on average.

Please note that legal fees for adoption finalization are a separate expense. Please work with your local Bethany staff to determine an estimate to budget this into your overall expenses.

Comparing domestic and international adoption fees

Adoption expenses vary depending on whether you adopt an infant, an older child, or a child from another country.

* Depending on state

** This represents the agency fee only: Additional costs include Country fees, which may range from 1,500-22,000, processing fees of approximately \$3,000, and travel fees which vary.

*** For the most up-to-date adoption tax benefits for your specific situation, please consult a professional tax advisor.

	DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION	DOMESTIC OLDER CHILD ADOPTION	INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION
Bethany's cost to deliver services (average)	\$30,000*	\$0 - \$25,000*	\$17,000 - \$22,000**
Adoptive families' cost (average)	\$18,000*	\$0 - \$25,000*	\$8,000- \$13,500**

OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Federal Adoption Tax Credit	\$13,170 (2010)***
State Adoption Tax Credit	\$0-\$5,000***
Adoption Grants	\$0-\$4,000
Employer/Military Adoption Benefits	\$0-\$10,000



What do my adoption fees cover?

Each country has unique regulations and fee structures. The following chart will help you compare the countries where Bethany offers adoption.

Domestic infant adoption is a fee-based program. Adopting families are charged for the services that are provided. Costs are associated with all phases of the adoption process and include, but are not limited to, counseling and support of expectant parents, adoption education, support groups, family assessment, national networking, interim care, post-placement support, legal documentation, and finalization. Fees are due at specific times as outlined in the service contract.

The following is a chart with fees for international adoptions. Please note that domestic older child adoption costs are usually covered by your state government, with medical and financial subsidies available to you until the child turns 18.

COUNTRY	BETHANY FEES	COUNTRY FEES	TRAVEL FEES *	MISC.	TOTAL COST *
Bulgaria	\$10,850	\$12,250	\$8,200-\$12,200	\$1,488	\$30,988-\$41,288
China	\$10,850	\$9,790-\$10,490	\$6,400-\$11,000	\$2,303-\$2,368	\$28,143-\$40,208
Colombia	\$10,850	\$3,865-\$5,365 + \$2,000-\$2,500 (Attorney Fees)	\$7,470-\$11,480	\$1,673 + \$0-\$11,000 (Humanitarian Aid)	\$24,058-\$47,368
Ethiopia	\$10,850	\$10,900-\$11,650 (\$6,500 for a sibling's case)	\$6,980-\$11,600	\$2,033-\$3,088	\$28,363-\$40,688
Ghana	\$10,850	\$8,650 (\$5,500 for a sibling's case)	\$4,140-\$13,540	\$1,833-\$2,088	\$24,273-\$40,628
Haiti	\$10,850	\$12,825-\$13,785	\$8,450-\$10,125	\$2,533-\$3,088	\$28,633-\$41,34
Hong Kong	\$10,850	\$1,500	\$3,600-\$5,200	\$1,684	\$15,234-\$22,734
Lithuania	\$10,850	\$11,700	\$11,000-\$15,800	\$1,488	\$33,838-\$45,338
Philippines	\$10,850	\$5,800-\$6,300	\$3,800-\$8,200	\$1,684	\$19,734-\$30,534
Russia	\$10,850	**	**	**	**
South Korea	\$10,850	\$16,625	\$3,600-\$6,200	\$1,684	\$30,359-\$38,859
Uganda	\$10,850	\$7,650 (\$5,500 for a sibling's case)	\$5,180-\$11,780	\$3,228-\$4,228	\$24,508-\$38,008

*This is calculated for two people traveling and is an approximate cost. Contact Bethany for the most up-to-date figures.

** Contact your local Bethany office for information about fees for a Russian adoption.

All fees are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable unless otherwise specified in the contract. Fees may vary by state and individual circumstances. Check with your local Bethany office for the latest information about fees in your state and for the country you have chosen. At Bethany, we are here to help you. Do not hesitate to contact us for more information about financing your adoption.



Bethany Christian Services demonstrates the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services.