

## Adoption Financial Assistance for Individuals

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption does not have an adoption grant or loan program for individuals. Please see below a list of organizations that provide financial assistance for adoption.

The **National Adoption Foundation** ([www.nationaladoptionfoundation.org](http://www.nationaladoptionfoundation.org)) grants are only available to families for the actual cost of the adoption. NAF loan programs and other services are open for any expenses an adoptive family may have before, during or after their adoption is finalized. This also includes post placement services. For more information, please call (203) 797-9600.

The **Gift of Adoption Fund** ([www.giftofadoption.org](http://www.giftofadoption.org)) is a public charity. The Fund provides financial assistance in the form of grants for adoptive parents. For further information call (877) 905-2367.

**Shaohannah's Hope** ([www.shaohannahshope.org](http://www.shaohannahshope.org)) awards financial grants to qualified families already in the process of domestic and international adoption. Please call (615) 550-5600 for more information.

**A Child Waits Foundation** ([www.achildwaits.org](http://www.achildwaits.org)) is a nonprofit charitable foundation formed to increase the number of children adopted from international orphanages by helping fund the cost of adoption. Eligibility to receive a loan is based on financial need. Please call (866) 999-2445.

**North American Council on Adoptable Children** ([www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org)) The Adoption Subsidy Resource Center provides general information on how each state operates their subsidy program. Families who are adopting children from the foster care system in the United States and Canada should speak with the child's caseworker or the adoption worker assigned to the case about an adoption subsidy. For further information, please call (800) 470-6665.

**The Orphan Foundation's** ([www.TheOrphanFoundation.org](http://www.TheOrphanFoundation.org)) primary mission is to help eliminate or minimize the financial barriers to adoption by providing grants of \$1,000 for each child adopted, and \$1,500 for each "special needs" adoption. Grants are subject to funding availability, the basis of need, completion of a home study, and other factors shown in the application. To apply for these grants, you may go to the website and click on the link that says "Grant Application." For further information, call (805) 823-3552 or visit the website.

**World Association for Children and Parents** ([www.wacap.org](http://www.wacap.org)) believe that financial concerns should not prevent qualified families from adopting children. They have set up special funds and programs to help parents cover the costs of certain adoptions. For more information, please call (206) 575-4550.

- 1) **African-American Infant Revolving Loan Fund.** Families who adopt through WACAP's African-American Infant program may apply for a loan through this fund. No-interest loans of up to \$4,500 over three years are available on a revolving basis. As loans are repaid, future loans are available.
- 2) **Waiting Child Revolving Loan Fund.** This fund has been established to benefit WACAP waiting children with special needs for whom fees are a significant barrier to adoption. No-interest loans of up to \$4,500 over three years are available on a revolving basis. As loans are repaid, future loans are available for future waiting children.
- 3) **Waiting Child Adoption Subsidy Fund.** This fund was established to help unite children with permanent families by reducing WACAP's processing and referral fees. Adoption subsidies may be available for the adoptions of certain children in WACAP's Family Finders program who may be waiting because they are older, have medical concerns, or are members of a sibling group.
- 4) **Promise Children.** In some circumstances, WACAP makes a special commitment to help a particular child find a "forever family." These children are Promise Children. Funds are available to cover nearly all

adoption expenses for Promise Children, and adoptive parents may also apply for interest-free WACAP loans to cover travel expenses.

**HelpUsAdopt** ( [www.helpusadopt.org](http://www.helpusadopt.org)) is a national non-profit 501(c) 3 financial assistance grant program that provides qualified couples and individuals (regardless of race, religion, marital status or sexual preference) with grants of up to \$15,000 towards their adoption expenses. For more information call (917) 684-5484

**Adopting families should also consider:**

### **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA)**

The federal FMLA and the California counterpart, the California Family Right Act of 1993 (CFRA) provide employees with the right to an unpaid leave of absence for up to 12 weeks within a 12 month period, for family and medical responsibilities. FMLA can be taken in the event of an adoption. Employers who regularly employ 50 or more employees may be eligible. One must have been employed for at least 12 months and worked at least 1250 hours during those preceding 12 months.

### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

A growing number of companies and government agencies now offer adoption benefits. Employer provided adoption benefits might include financial reimbursement, paid and unpaid leave and resource and referral services. For information and advice on seeking adoption benefits call (877) 777-4222 or visit [www.AdoptionFriendlyWorkplace.org](http://www.AdoptionFriendlyWorkplace.org).

### **THE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT**

The tax credit grants adoptive families an income tax break of \$11,650 (for tax year 2008) for adoption expenses, and expenses incurred in domestic adoptions of children with special needs. Adopting families should consult tax advice from a legal or tax professional to claim the Adoption Tax Credit. To learn more about tax benefits, please review the IRS publication "Instructions for Form 8839" available through the Internal Revenue Service at (800) 829-3676 or [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### **CREDIT UNIONS**

Many Credit Unions offer an adoption loan program.

### **BANKS**

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 concerning eligibility for the tax deduction.

**Bank of America** offers unsecured personal loans for a variety of purposes, including adoption. Bank of America may be contacted at (888) 457-2543 or [www.BankofAmerica.com](http://www.BankofAmerica.com).

### **LIFE INSURANCE**

Many families borrow from a 401K or Life Insurance Policy to cover the cost of adoption.

*The Dave Thomas Foundation does not offer college scholarships to adopted children. Several state child welfare agencies provide tuition assistance to foster children who graduate from high school without being adopted. Foster and adopting families should consult with the child's caseworker or call the state child welfare agency to inquire if scholarships or tuition assistance is available.*

**Please note:** *These organizations are provided because they offer useful information; they are not explicitly endorsed by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Always verify information for its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purposes, and obtain any appropriate legal and professional advice.*