

Post Adoption and Guardianship Services



Post Adoption and Guardianship Services

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) realizes the valuable contribution families make in giving a child a permanent family through adoption or guardianship. This undertaking is one that will change lives forever.

By making the lifelong commitment to be there for a child, adoptive and guardianship parents have ended the formal, day-to-day involvement of DCFS. That prospect can raise many emotions and perhaps even some concerns. Your family now makes the important decisions for the children now in your home. You, not a caseworker, are responsible for finding information and programs.

It is important that children and families do more than survive. They should thrive. There are many resources through the department, other government agencies, and in the community that can help you meet your responsibilities.

The Post Adoption and Guardianship Services booklet is designed to present families with an overview of the many services available to meet your child's ongoing needs. The first section outlines services that the department provides or funds for children previously in its care. It also includes resources outside of DCFS that you may contact for services. At the end of the booklet there is a collection of information available to all families that is not specific to adoption but may be of special interest to adoptive and guardianship families. Please keep this booklet as a handy reference.



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Part 1: Adoption and Guardianship Subsidy and Other Financial Considerations

The Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy

Families adopting waiting children or becoming guardians of children in the care of DCFS may receive subsidies to assist them after adoption or guardianship.

Subsidy components

Subsidies for eligible children may include any or all of the following:

- Payment for non-recurring expenses directly related to the adoption is available in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 per child for the adoption and \$2,000 for the guardianship.
- Monthly cash payments are available based on the needs of the child and the family circumstances, not to exceed the amount received in care.
- A Medicaid card is available to cover Medicaid-eligible services.
- Payment or reimbursement payment can be made for physical, emotional and mental health needs that are not covered through insurance or public resources and that resulted from a pre-existing condition.
- Employment-related day care payments are available for children under the age of three years, if day care is required due to the parent or guardian's employment or participation in a training program that will lead to employment.
- Therapeutic day care is available for children who are determined to have a disability that requires special education services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) and is not fundable through another source.
- Respite care for medically-fragile/technology-dependent children may be available for children who meet the medical eligibility guidelines used by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS).



If you have questions about your subsidy, contact the DCFS Adoption Support Line at 888-96-ADOPT (888-962-3678) and you will be connected to the assigned adoption worker in your region.

Mediation and appeals of subsidies

If you believe that your rights under an adoption assistance or subsidized guardianship agreement have been violated in some way, an Administrative Appeal may be available to you. A written appeal must be filed within 45 calendar days of the department's determination.



Submit requests for an appeal to:

Administrative Hearings Unit
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
406 East Monroe Street
Springfield IL 62701

For additional information about the DCFS Administrative Hearing process, call 217-782-6655 if you live outside of Cook county. If you live in Cook county, call 312-814-5540.

Missing subsidy checks

If you have been receiving subsidy checks regularly and suddenly don't receive your monthly subsidy check, call the DCFS Payment Unit at 800-525-0499 select #2.

Medical Care Payments

Medical card

DCFS has arrangements with the Department of Public Aid (DPA) for all foster children to receive health coverage under the Medicaid plan. That arrangement continues after adoption or guardianship of a child formerly under DCFS care as part of the subsidy. When an adoption or guardianship finalizes, a medical card is issued with the first subsidy payment. This will be the only card you receive for the remainder of the life of the case, unless a replacement card is requested. The medical card will pay for all Medicaid-eligible services provided by an approved Medicaid provider.

If your child's medical card is ever lost, call 800-228-6533 to request a replacement. You will be given a form letter (Notice of Medicaid Coverage for DCFS Clients) which can be used until your card is replaced.

Dental/Orthodontic services

If you need to find a dental or orthodontic provider in your area who accepts Medicaid, contact Dentaquest at 888-286-2447. When given your zip code, they will locate providers near your home.

Subsidy and Medical Coverage Payments When Moving Out of Illinois

Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA)

ICAMA and adoptive families

Families often worry about what will happen to their child's subsidy if they move out of state. Illinois is a member of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA), which assists adoptive families moving in or out of Illinois.

Moving prior to adoption finalization

Your adoption worker will provide you with information about your child's medical coverage prior to the adoption. If you will be moving out of state, there are a number of options for medical care in your new state of residence. Be sure to contact your adoption worker or contact the Interstate Compact Office at 217-785-2596 to discuss these options before moving out of state.



Moving after finalization

If you plan an out-of-state move after the adoption is finalized, contact your adoption worker for information on the steps that will be taken to ensure that the new state has all of the necessary information. **Illinois will continue to process your monthly subsidy payment and you may contact your adoption worker as needed.** Your adoption worker will provide information about the options for medical coverage described above.

ICAMA and subsidized guardianship families

At this time there is no formalized Compact Program for guardianship families. However, there are several options available to provide medical coverage. First, if you are a relative to the child/ren under guardianship, you are encouraged to apply for medical coverage through the Medicaid program in your new state. If you are not a relative or are not eligible, there are two alternatives. You could select a medical provider who would choose to enroll in the Illinois Medicaid Program and thus be covered directly through Illinois Medicaid. Lastly, families could pay for the services and be reimbursed by DCFS at the Medicaid rate for Medicaid-eligible services or for other therapeutic services. Additionally, the child may have a pre-existing condition for which therapeutic treatment or services would be covered under the subsidy. Before accessing such services, families should seek prior approval from the adoption worker in Illinois.

Guardianship families can contact the Interstate Compact Office at 217-785-2596 to discuss these options before moving out of state.

Illinois will continue to process your monthly subsidy payment and you may continue to contact your adoption worker as needed.

Tax Information for Foster and Adoptive Families

Since 2003, families who adopt a child with special needs from foster care can claim a federal adoption tax credit without needing to incur or document expenses. For non-special needs adoptions (except step-parent adoptions, which do not qualify for the credit), parents can claim the credit with the same rules as below, except that they have to document qualified adoption expenses. You do not have to submit documents to IRS, but must keep them for your files.

The amount of the credit is based on the year the adoption finalized:

2015: \$13,400	2014: \$13,190	2013: \$12,970	2012: \$12,650
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To qualify for the credit without documenting expenses, families must:

- have adopted a child with special needs, and
- have a modified adjusted gross income of a certain level

For example, how much, if any, of the credit you can use is based on your income. Families with a 2014 federal modified adjusted gross income above \$237,880 cannot claim the credit at all; families with 2010 incomes above \$197,880 can claim partial credit.

To claim the credit, complete IRS Form 8839 in addition to filing your usual IRS Form 1040. Forms are available on www.irs.gov or <https://www.nacac.org/taxcredit/forms.html>. As documentation of your adoption of a child with special needs, the IRS requires a copy of your adoption decree and adoption assistance agreement. For more information, visit www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit.html, e-mail taxcredit@nacac.org, or call 651-644-3036. NACAC is not a tax professional organization and this information should not be considered to be legal or tax advice.

Education and Transition Services After Adoption and Guardianship

Youth in a subsidized adoption or subsidized guardianship from DCFS may access the following services as they transition to adulthood:

Scholarship Program: Youth may apply to this program through which 53 scholarships are awarded statewide each year. They must be between 16 and 21 years of age at point of application.

Education Training Vouchers Program: Youth adopted or moved to guardianship after their 16th birthday may be eligible for these vouchers that assist in providing for post-secondary school expenses.

Youth Housing Advocacy Program: Youth adopted or moved to guardianship after their 14th birthday and are currently between 17½ and their 21st birthday may access housing advocacy services. Housing Advocacy services assist youth in obtaining and/or maintaining stable housing. Services include:

- Assistance in securing affordable housing;
- Consumer education;
- Budget counseling;
- Linkages to community-based resources (i.e. assistance with utilities, clothing and food); and
- Follow-up services, for a minimum of three months after appropriate housing is secured.

This program does not include any monetary assistance. Call 312-814-5571 for more information.



Part 2: Services and Supports for Adoptive and Guardianship Families

Statewide Post Adoption and Guardianship Information

Post adoption and guardianship contacts

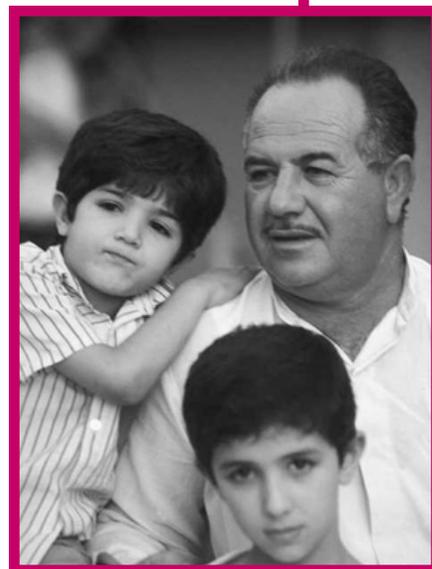
For most services listed in this booklet you can contact the agencies directly at the numbers listed with the service such as Adoption and Guardianship Preservation, Respite, etc. **For any of the services listed in your subsidy agreement, you must contact your adoption worker to obtain prior approval.** To speak to your regional adoption worker, contact the Statewide Post Adoption Number at 866-538-8892 or 312-808-5250.

Preservation Services

Families created through adoption or guardianship may experience problems that require intensive services to help a family gain stability and to reduce the risk of out-of-home placement. The Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Program recognizes that families built through adoption or guardianship may have characteristics significantly different from those created through birth. This can result in unique challenges for the family. The Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Program helps families who often feel they are at the end of their rope, by offering family-centered support and services. Testimonials from families who have used preservation services reveal that these services worked, while other traditional, less intensive services they had tried, did not. DCFS contracts with agencies statewide to provide Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Services.

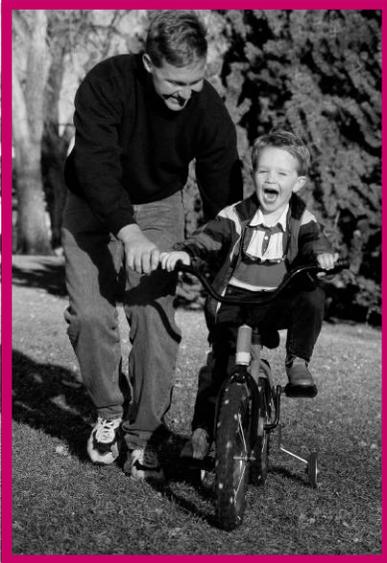
The goals of all preservation programs are to help parents:

- Feel better about their ability to parent
- Understand adoption and guardianship and its impact on children
- Connect current behavior to past history
- Understand the child's past losses
- Gain skills to help their child



Each adoption preservation agency can provide services to help meet the following needs.

- **Comprehensive assessment/Crisis intervention:** Preservation staff will respond by phone within 24 hours and make an in-home visit within three days. A therapist will help a family identify their own strengths, complete an assessment and develop a family treatment plan within 30 days of the referral to the program.
- **Clinical services:** The therapist will provide the clinical services in the family treatment plan.



- **Support groups:** Support groups are offered for both parents and youth at times and locations that meet the family's needs.
- **Case management/Advocacy services:** The preservation agency will manage the case and the services as outlined in the family treatment plan.
- **Children's mental health advocacy services:** If a child has significant mental health needs, the program will provide or facilitate the services.
- **Cash assistance:** If a family participating in the program experiences economic hardships or require specialized services that cannot be obtained through other resources, a cash assistance payment (limited to \$500 per family per fiscal year) may be provided.

The key to preservation services is that they serve the whole family to keep the family together. The preservation specialists work with all members of the family, not just the child with problems, to identify ways they can work as a unit. The adoption and guardianship preservation service agencies understand the rhythms of the special families they serve and are able to respond to crisis situations. Preservation services are provided to adoptive and guardianship families by nine private child welfare agencies that serve a specific geographic area. Families that find they need intensive intervention to keep their family together can call the appropriate agency from the list on the following pages.

DCFS Cook County Regions

Catholic Charities/Chicago
Metropolitan Family Services/Chicago
Jewish Children and Family Services
Healthy Families Chicago
(Families in Cook County can contact either agency for service)

312-655-8357
773-884-2211
312-673-2711
773-257-0111

DCFS Northern Region

Children's Home & Aid Society/Rockford
Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle,
Stephenson, Winnebago and Whiteside

815-720-2145

Metropolitan Family Services/Wheaton
Counties: DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall,
Lake, McHenry and Will

630-784-4800

DCFS Central Region

Cornerstone/Quincy
Counties: Adams, Brown, Cass, Norther Calhoun*,
Greene, Hancock, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler
and Scott

217-222-8254

*Families in this county are served by two agencies, according to address.
Call to be referred to the appropriate agency.

Lutheran Social Services/Peoria

Counties: Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Knox, LaSalle, Marshall,
Mason, McDonough, Mercer, Peoria, Rock Island, Tazewell,
Warren and Woodford

309-671-0300



The Baby Fold

309-557-1066

Bloomington and Springfield
Counties: Champaign, Christian,
Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt,
Edgar, Douglas, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston,
Logan, Macon, Macoupin*, McLean,
Menard, Montgomery, Moultrie, Piatt,
Sangamon, Shelby and Vermilion

Children’s Home & Aid Society

618-452-8900

Granite City
Counties: Calhoun*, Jersey, and Macoupin*
*Families in this county are served by two
agencies, according to address.
Call to be referred to the appropriate agency.

DCFS Southern Region

Children’s Home & Aid Society

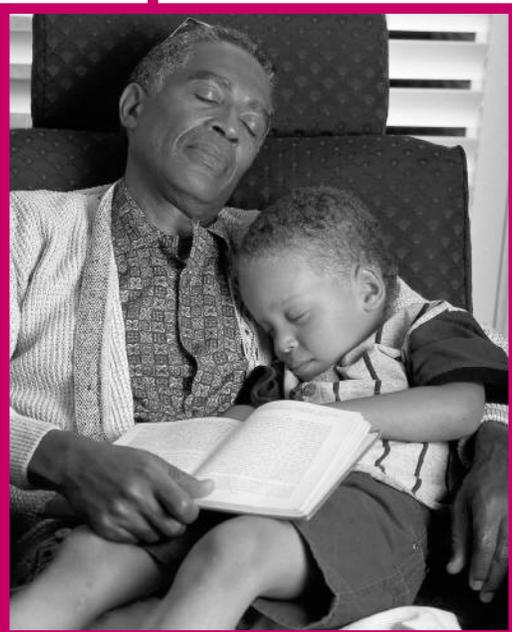
618-452-8900

Granite City
Counties: Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph,
St. Clair and Washington

Children’s Home & Aid Society

618-988-1330

Herrin
Counties: Alexander, Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham,
Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper,
Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope,
Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White
and Williamson



Preservation Services (continued)

Adoption and Guardianship Respite Program

Respite Services are available through purchase of service contracts between DCFS and licensed child welfare agencies in Illinois. These services are available to children who were former wards of DCFS who were adopted or who were in a subsidized guardianship placement.



Respite Services are defined as short-term, temporary care provided for children accepted for service to give some relief to the adoption or guardianship family. Respite components may include any or all of the following: hourly in-home, out-of-home and overnight respite care; and specialized camp experiences. The respite care may be regularly scheduled or may be requested on an emergency basis.

An initial assessment is completed on the family and child to develop a service plan which will offer the appropriate type of respite for that family. Services may be provided up to one year. There is no cost for

participation in this respite program.

Agency Respite Service Providers

DCFS Cook County Regions

Catholic Charities Chicago
2601 W. Marquette
Chicago, IL 60629
Serves Cook County

312-655-8357

Healthy Families Chicago
2100 S. Marshall, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60623
Serves Cook County

773-257-0111

Metropolitan Family Services
13136 South Western Avenue
Blue Island, IL 60406
Serves Cook County

708-974-5815

DCFS Northern Region

CHASI, Rockford

910 2nd Avenue

Rockford, IL 61104

Serves Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Winnebago and Whiteside counties

815-720-2145

Metropolitan Family Services

222 E. Willow

Wheaton, IL 60187-5276

Serves DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties

630-784-4800

DCFS Central Region

Baby Fold

612 Oglesby, Normal, IL 61761

5220 S. 6th St., Springfield, IL 62703

Serves Champaign, Christian, Clark, Cumberland, Coles, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, McLean, Menard, Montgomery, Moultrie, Piatt, Sangamon, Shelby and Vermilion counties

309-454-1770

Cornerstone

915 Vermont

Quincy, IL 62301

Serves Adams, Brown, Northern Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Hancock, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler and Scott counties

217-222-8254

Family Core

706 E. Forrest Hill Avenue

Peoria, IL 61603

Serves Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties

309-682-4621

One Hope United - Hudelson

1901 S. 4th St.

Suite 213

Effingham, IL 62401

Serves Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Douglas, Edgar, Shelby and Moultrie counties

217-347-5880



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
3000 Rohmann
Peoria, IL 61604
Serves Fulton, Henderson,
Henry, Knox, LaSalle, Marshall,
Mason, McDonough, Mercer, Peoria,
Rock Island, Tazewell,
Warren and Woodford counties

309-671-0300

DCFS Southern Region

CHASI, Granite City
2133 Johnson Road
Granite City, IL 62040
Serves Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph,
St. Clair and Washington counties

618-452-8900

CHASI, Herrin
109 Lou Ann Drive
Herrin, IL 62948
Serves Alexander, Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham,
Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper,
Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope,
Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White and
Williamson counties

618-988-1330



Search and Reunion Services

The DCFS Closed File Information and Search program provides information from DCFS files and can help you locate birth relatives. If you are an adult adopted person or the adoptive or guardianship parent of a minor, you are entitled to receive certain information. Midwest Adoption Center (MAC) will attempt to locate DCFS files and prepare a written report for you. It can include information about biological relatives, medical and social history, a description of how the child came into care and a record of placements before adoption or guardianship.

The law does not permit DCFS to release identifying information from the files such as the names and addresses of others. However, you can request search service to help locate relatives including birth parents, siblings, grandparents and others. In most cases, the person being sought is located. The MAC caseworker will explain the reason for the outreach and every attempt will be made to negotiate an arrangement that is comfortable for everyone. You may want to exchange some information through your MAC caseworker worker; communicate by letter without revealing your name; or you and your relative may decide to have direct contact. This program is not intended to provide in-depth counseling, but assistance and support will be offered to you and to your birth relative throughout the process. There is no fee for service.

To request service, please call or email Midwest Adoption Center. Forms can also be downloaded from the MAC website.

Midwest Adoption Center
847-298-9096
www.macadopt.org
mac@macadopt.org

Adoption Registry

The Illinois Adoption Registry provides a way for certain individuals involved in an adoption in Illinois to locate other people involved in the adoption. Persons who were adopted or surrendered for adoption, their birth parents, birth siblings, adoptive parents and legal guardians of an adopted person may file their consent to exchange information with others involved in the adoption. If done in compliance with the law, information may be exchanged without the need for a court order.

Confidential facts may be released to registrants only after at least two parties to the adoption have filed their consent to exchange the specified information.



The following individuals may register:

- Birth parents
- Adopted or surrendered person, 21 years of age or older
- Surviving relative of deceased (adult child of adopted or remaining adoptive parent of minor child or adoptive parent)



- Surviving relative of deceased birth parent (adult child or brother or sister of parent)
- Adoptive parents of adopted individuals under age 21
- Legal guardians of adopted or surrendered persons

The Adoption Registry also includes a medical exchange. The Medical Information Exchange Questionnaire asks questions about diseases or conditions that medical professionals believe may be inherited or have a genetic link, this is, illnesses that “run in families.” These diseases and conditions are of interest to other biological family members and their physicians because knowing about them may alert the family members and physicians to watch more carefully for certain signs and

symptoms and to take preventive action. Medical history can be exchanged confidentially without revealing identities. No identity will be exchanged unless all parties agree.

For more information about the Adoption Registry, contact: Illinois Department of Public Health Division of Vital Records, 925 E. Ridgeley Ave. Springfield 62702-2737, 217-782-6554, dphvitals@illinois.gov.

Arranging Future Plans for Your Child

Families are often concerned about planning for an adopted or guardianship child in their care in the event something unforeseen occurs. There are a number of options available to assist you in future planning for your child. **Your attorney can assist you with the legal requirements for the following options:**

Standby Adoption

Standby adoption is a court-approved arrangement that provides for a future adoption of your child if needed. Standby adoption allows you to ask the court to appoint a person or persons as standby adoptive parent(s) of your child, and that person “stands by” until needed. The standby adoptive parent doesn’t take custody of your child until the adoption becomes final, when a) you decide that you want the adoption to be final or b) upon your death. In the meantime, you retain all of your rights as a parent, and custody of your child.

Standby Guardianship

A standby guardianship is a legal arrangement approved by a judge that provides for future care for your child, but only if it is needed. It allows you to appoint someone as legal guardian of your child, but that person “stands by” until needed. In other words, the standby guardian does not take custody of your children immediately, but only at some point in the future when you are no longer able to take care of your children yourself.

Short-Term Guardianship

A short-term guardianship is a private legal arrangement between you and the person you want to take care of your child. A short-term guardian is not a permanent arrangement. The person that you appoint as short-term guardian will only have authority to act as guardian for as long as 365 days. It is very useful if you are going to be hospitalized, or are entering a residential program or facility where you will need to be without your children.

Notifying Adoption Staff

*Please note that you will need to advise your regional adoption staff of any standby or short-term arrangements that you are contemplating. Eligibility for a subsidy in a subsequent adoption or guardianship must be determined by adoption staff and a new subsidy document must be signed prior to the finalization of a new adoption or guardianship.

Center for Law and Social Work

The Center for Law and Social Work’s mission is to create, preserve and protect families. The agency assists families who have gone through adoption and guardianship with legal, therapeutic and case management services. They provide direction and assistance with backup planning, adult guardianship for adults with disabilities, minor guardianship, clinical services and adoption. For more information, visit www.clsw.org or contact them at 4753 N. Broadway Suite 632 Chicago, IL 60640, 773-728-7800.



Part 3: Resources for Training and Advocacy after Adoption and Guardianship



DCFS Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Information

All Statewide DCFS Foster and Adoptive Parent Training is scheduled and coordinated by the DCFS Office of Training in Springfield. Contact the Office of Training's Registration Unit at 877-800-3393 to register to attend the Caregivers Institutes, to register for classes, track training credit and have questions answered.

DCFS Lending Library

The DCFS Foster and Adoptive Parent Lending Library can be used as a convenient alternative for obtaining approved training credit for license renewal.

The Lending Library catalog highlights books, audio cassettes and videos in many categories for further education on specific topics for self-directed training in parenting and family life.

The Foster/Adoptive Parent Lending Library Catalog is available through the Office of Training in Springfield. You may contact DCFS at 217-785-5689 or 877-800-3393 to request a copy of the Lending Library Catalog.

All items are available to borrow for free and are mailed to the requesting family with a postage paid return envelope enclosed. Any resource available to be borrowed has been reviewed by foster, adoptive or guardianship families and recommended by them to be included in the library.

Adoption Learning Partners

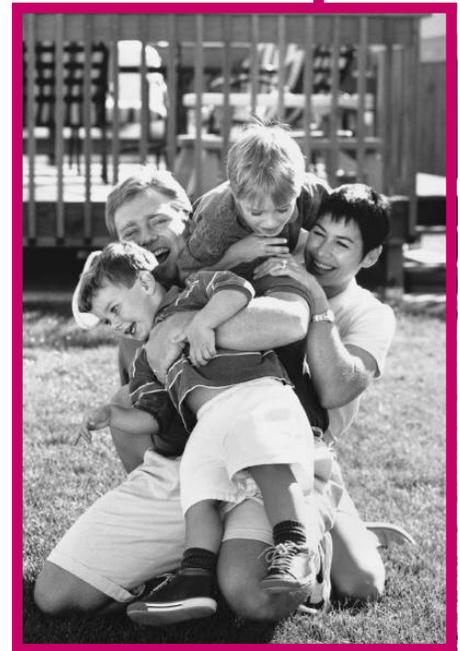
AdoptionLearningPartners.org offers courses and webinars that give parents tools they can use immediately at home. The courses offer advice on: what children need to know, what words to use to explain adoption, how to help your child, coping with grief and loss, forming identity in the teenage years, disciplining an adopted child and advocating for your child.

Many courses are FREE to DCFS families and training credits are available. During registration make sure to choose Illinois Department of Children and Family Services as your agency. Courses never expire and are in your account forever. Registration takes a few minutes; information lasts a lifetime!

For more information, visit www.AdoptionLearningPartners.org, call 800-566-3995, or e-mail info@adoptionlearningpartners.org.

The Illinois Adoption Advisory Council

The Council began in November 2000 and was created to guide the department in several areas: assisting the department with finding new homes for waiting children, supporting families and children in the adoption process, and supporting these families after they adopt. The Adoption Council's membership includes adoptive parents, adoptees, and other experts throughout the state of Illinois.



Advocacy Office for Children and Families

DCFS established The Advocacy Office for Children and Families to receive and respond to concerns presented to DCFS regarding the child welfare system in Illinois. Advocacy Office staff function as advocates on behalf of the best interest of the child, providing assistance in seeking resolution to a problem when the caller has not been able, or does not know how, to find a satisfactory resolution.

The Advocacy Office accepts concerns by phone, electronic mail, letters, or in person. Anyone can call the Advocacy Office and speak with an Advocate. The Advocacy Office has a statewide toll-free number (1-800-232-3798) that may be used to present issues or obtain information about child welfare services from DCFS or its agents.



National and Internet Resources

The Internet has become an important source of information for busy families with computer access at home or through their local public library. You will find a wealth of state and national information about adoption and guardianship on the Internet.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services website: www.DCFS.illinois.gov is one place to obtain information regarding post-adoption and guardianship resources. Other websites are as follows:

Adopt America Network

3100 W. Central Ave., Suite 225
Toledo, OH 43606
800-246-1731
www.adoptamericanetwork.org

Adoptive Families of America

(AFA) Magazine
108 W. 39th St., Suite 805
New York, NY 10018
800-372-3300
www.adoptivefamilies.com
E-mail:
customerservice@adoptivefamilies.com

Child Welfare Information Gateway

Children's Bureau/ACYF
1250 Maryland Ave., SW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20024
800-394-3366
www.childwelfare.gov/index.cfm
Email: email.info@childwelfare.gov

Child Welfare League of America

(CWLA)
1726 M St. NW, Ste. 500
Washington, DC 20036-4200
202-638-2952
Fax: 202-833-1689
www.cwla.org
E-mail: cwla@cwla.org

Children Awaiting Parents, Inc.

(CAP)
274 N. Goodman St, Suite D103
Rochester, NY 14607
888-835-8802 or 585-232-5110
www.capbook.org
E-mail: info@capbook.org
Collaboration to Adopt US Kids
Adoption Exchange Association
605 Global Way, Ste. 100
Linthicum, MD 21090
888-200-4005
www.adoptuskids.org
info@adoptuskids

National Adoption Center (NAC)

1500 Walnut Street, 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-735-9988
800-TO ADOPT
Fax: 215-735-9410
www.adopt.org
E-mail: nac@adopt.org

North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)

970 Raymond Ave., Ste 106
St. Paul, MN 55114-1149
651-644-3036
Fax: 651-644-9848
www.nacac.org
E-mail: info@nacac.org
PACT, An Adoption Alliance
5515 Doyle St. Ste. 1
Emeryville, CA 94608
510-243-9460
Fax: 510-243-9970
www.pactadopt.org
E-mail: info@pactadopt.org

Spaulding for Children / National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption

16250 Northland Dr., Ste 100
Southfield, MI 48075
248-443-7080
Fax: 248-443-7099
www.spaulding.org
E-mail: SFC@ic.net

The Learning Center, by National Adoption Center

Sponsored by DHHS and Conectiv
www.adopt.org
www.adopting.com

Websites listed in this booklet are solely for the convenience of the reader. Inclusion in this listing does not imply an endorsement of that organization, website or individual by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS is not responsible for the maintenance of any website shown other than its own.

Part 4: Additional Family Resources

Income-based Services and Resources

Day care for children over three



Adoptive or guardianship families with children three years of age and older who do not qualify for therapeutic day care may still be eligible for day care assistance through the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS). Parents must meet the following criteria to receive daycare assistance:

- you have a child (or children) under the age of 13, and
- you are working and meet income requirements, or
- you receive TANF and are in an education, training, or other work activity approved by your caseworker, or
- you are a teen parent (under age 20) in high school, an alternative high school, or GED program, or
- you are attending education or training activities including ESL, GED, vocational training and 2- and 4-year college degree programs.

All families pay a portion of the cost as a co-payment. The amount of the family's co-payment is based on income and family size. Call the DHS toll-free day care referral line, 877-20-CHILD or visit the website: www.dhs.state.il.us and click the link child care.

Need help finding child care?

Call Illinois Action for Children at 312-823-1100 option 3 or referral@actforchildren.org. If you are located outside of Cook County, ask for a Parent Referral Line that serves your county. Families from around the state can also call the DHS toll-free referral line (877-20-CHILD). By entering a zip code, the call will be connected to the referral agency serving that area. Visit the website at www.actforchildren.org

All Kids Healthcare

All Kids is a state program offering health care coverage or help in paying premiums of employer-sponsored or private insurance plans for children through age 18. For eligibility requirements or more information, call 866-255-5437.

Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Credit (EIC) is a special tax benefit for people who work full or part-time. Families that qualify may owe less in taxes or even get cash back. Even working families who don't owe any taxes may be able to receive a tax credit. Benefits and eligibility may change each year. To obtain this benefit, families only need to complete their tax form (1040 or 1040A) and attach Schedule EIC. More information on EIC can be obtained by calling the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040.

Resources For Older Parents

Are you over 60 and raising children or grandchildren? The Illinois Department of Aging's Senior Helpline at **800-252-8966** (Voice) and 888-266-1327 (TTY) refers callers to programs or services related to any health or aging issue. Website: www.illinois.gov/aging/resources. Email: againg.ilsenior@illinois.gov

Anyone over age 60 will also find a wealth of information through AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) **1-888-687-2277** (TTY: 1-877-434-7598) or the Midwest Regional Office **773-714-9800**. AARP also maintains a separate Grandparent Information Center for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Metropolitan Older Caregivers Project

This Metropolitan Family Services program serves caregivers 60 years old and over, who are currently raising children they have adopted or obtained guardianship of, and are under the age of 18 years old. The goal of the program is to establish a stronger support system that will help caregivers continue to care for the children in their care. In cases where this is not possible, program staff assists families in making new and more appropriate arrangements that ensures the safety, well-being and permanency of the children. These services are only provided to residents of Cook County. Contact them at 773-884-2288.



Resources for Individuals with Disabilities

Home services

The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) offers Home Services to qualifying Illinois residents aimed at enabling individuals with disabilities to remain at home. Available services include: Personal Assistant, Homemaker Services, Maintenance Home Health, Electronic Home Response, Home Delivered Meals, Adult Day Care, Assistive Equipment, Environmental Modification and Respite Care. To find your local DHS counselor to see if you, your child, or your family qualifies, call 800-843-6154 (Voice) and 800-447-6404 (TTY). Select option four from the voicemail menu.

All DHS rules and services are also given on the website: www.state.il.us/agency/dhs.



Advocacy services

Equip for Equality, Inc. is the corporation designated in Illinois as the protection and advocacy system for people with physical disabilities, mental illness and developmental disabilities.

Equip for Equality, Inc. offers

- Professional advocates and attorneys who provide technical assistance and advice in self-advocacy and direct legal services
- Monitoring of agencies responsible for delivering services to people with disabilities to ensure compliance with individual rights
- Lobbying for laws to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities
- A quarterly publication, The Equalizer

For further information about services, contact your nearest regional office.

Main Office
20 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 300
Chicago, IL 60602
312-341-0022
800-537-2632 (TTY line)

Northwestern Region
1515 Fifth Ave., Suite 420
Moline, IL 61265
800-758-6869

Central Region
1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 816
Springfield, IL 62701
800-758-0464

Southern Region
300 E. Main St., Suite 18
Carbondale, IL 62901
800-758-0559

www.equipforequality.org/

Training funds for family members of persons with a disability

Each year Illinois allocates training funds to families of persons with a disability to attend training related to the family member's disability. Only individuals — not agencies or organizations — may apply. Amount of funds available and eligibility guidelines may change each state fiscal year.

Call the Early Intervention Clearinghouse at 877-275-3227 for information or for an application.



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