

Many Children are Waiting For Loving Homes

If you are willing and able to adopt a child with special needs, but feel you may not be able to afford the total cost of raising a child, the New Jersey Subsidized Adoption Program can help. About 98% of children adopted through the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) receive adoption subsidy.

The program offers financial assistance to prospective adoptive parents who seek to adopt certain children.

The children who benefit from the program are presently in foster homes, because adoptive homes are not readily available to them. These children have been difficult to place because they may:

- ▶ Be older, or of a race or ethnic group for which adoptive homes are not readily available.
- ▶ Have a significant physical, intellectual or emotional disability.
- ▶ Need, and may continue to need, extensive medical treatment or special services, equipment or training.
- ▶ Be part of a group of brothers and sisters who should be kept together.
- ▶ Be over five years old, living with a foster family for at least one year and would benefit by being adopted by their present foster family.

ABOUT SUBSIDIES FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

If you are an adoptive parent, or if you are interested in becoming an adoptive parent, the child you adopt may be eligible for financial assistance through the Adoption Subsidy Program.

If you are presently a foster parent or are interested in adopting your foster child from DYFS, your caseworker can provide you with further information and assist you in completing an application.

To find out if you qualify and how to go about applying for a subsidy, visit DCF's adoption Web site

WWW.NJADOPT.ORG

or call toll-free

1-800-99 ADOPT



Department of Children and Families
Division of Youth and Family Services



NEW JERSEY'S

Subsidized Adoption Program



Learn about financial support to help care for children waiting for adoptive families

Adoptive Families Must Meet These Requirements:

Age

You must be 18 years old before the adoption is finalized and you must be at least ten years older than the child you wish to adopt.

Residence

You must live in New Jersey or any other state with which New Jersey can arrange a cooperative agreement.

Marital Status

You may be single, married or in a civil union.

Health

A medical examination must show that you are in reasonably good physical and emotional health with the long-term ability to provide day-to-day care for the child.

Income

You must be able to financially support and care for your family.

Subsidies can help adoptive families by providing:

- 1 A regular monthly payment including clothing allowance to help parents meet everyday needs.
- 2 A one-time payment that covers the legal fees related to adoption.
- 3 Medicaid coverage for the child to assist with any physical or psychological condition that is not covered by the family's own insurance.
- 4 Children with disabilities may be able to receive special services for a specific medical, health or equipment need, which may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- 5 Out-of-state medical coverage (for most states).
- 6 A \$10,000 Federal Tax Credit the year the adoption takes place.



Preschool child care services may be available for subsidy eligible children. Child care services are funded by the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (while funds are available) for adoptive parents who work or attend school full-time.

Parents receive the full subsidy until the child turns 18 or until the child completes high school or other equivalent program, whichever is later. Such payments may not exceed the cost of providing comparable assistance in foster care. After the child turns 21, other state services may be available.

