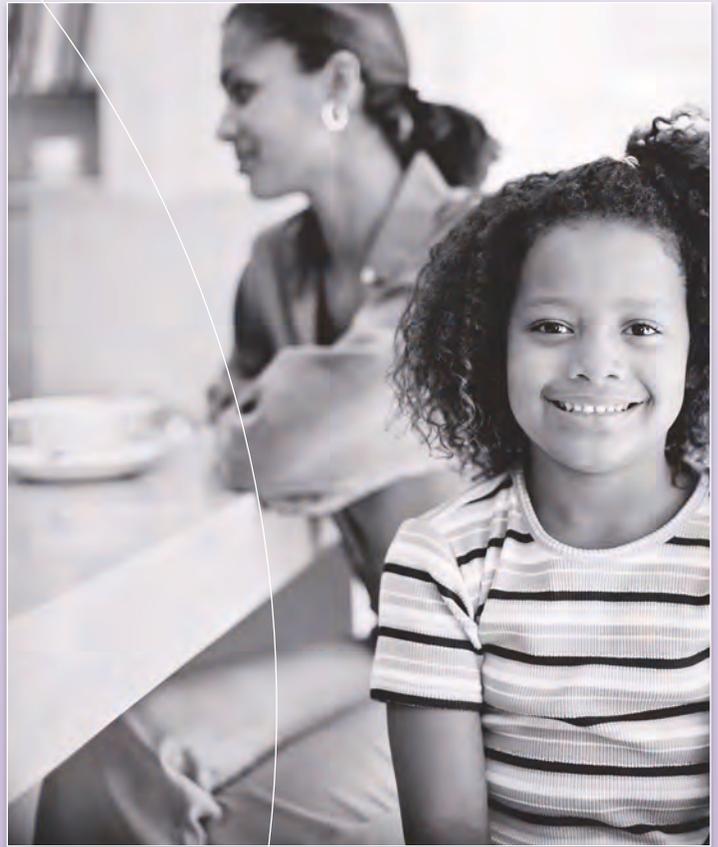


# Post Adoption Questions and Answers

Answers to questions  
about the adoption  
support program, and  
resources that may be  
available to assist you in  
raising your child.





# Introduction



CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to adopt. By adopting, you have established an emotional, social, and legal relationship with your child.

Raising a child can be challenging. In 1971 the Washington State Legislature passed the Adoption Support Demonstration Act, giving the Department of Social and Health Services authority to establish an Adoption Support Program to make adoptions possible for children with special needs. Later in 1980, the federal government passed the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980- PL 96-272, that provides federal funding for the adoption support program.

Children's Administration provides adoption support services by entering into a contract with you prior to finalizing the adoption. This contract allows the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to provide post adoption resources for medical, counseling, selected evidence-based therapeutic interventions, and if agreed upon, a monthly cash payment to assist you in meeting the needs of your child.

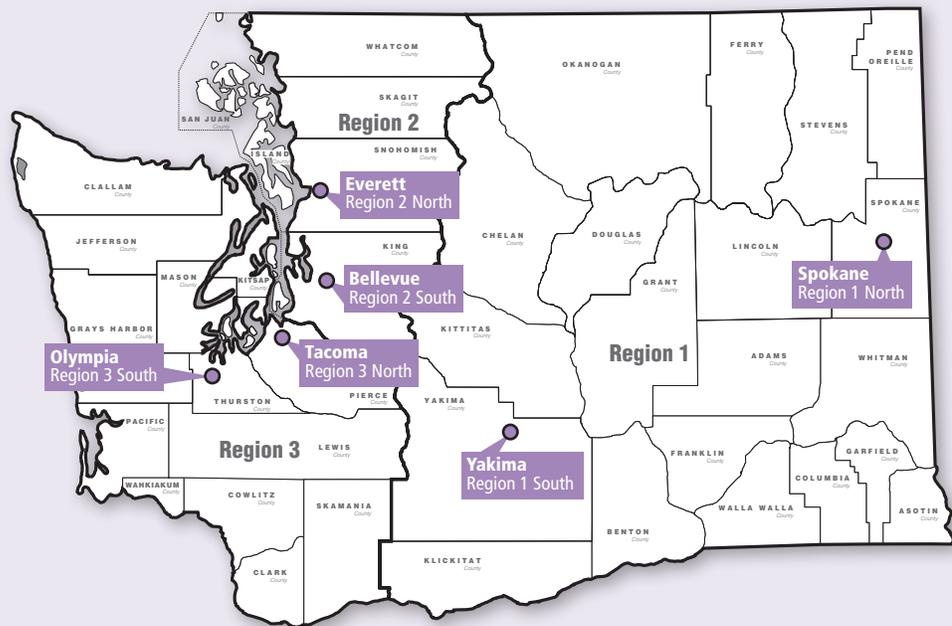
This booklet will help you find answers to questions about the adoption assistance program and identify potential community resources that may be available to assist you in raising your child. Your local adoption support program consultant is also available to answer questions regarding the program's resources.

# Questions and Answers

## Contacting Adoption Staff

**Q: Who should I contact when I have a question about my agreement or services?**

**A:** Contact persons are available within the three regions of the state. The map below indicates the cities where the offices are located in each of the three regions. You may reach the office responsible for your adoption support agreement by calling 1-800-562-5682. Listen carefully to the recorded message. When it asks if you would like to speak to your local adoption support program consultant, enter the number corresponding to the area where you currently reside. If you live outside the state of Washington, contact the consultant who assisted you with your initial agreement.





## The Adoption Support Agreement

### **Q: What is the adoption support agreement?**

**A:** The adoption support agreement is a legal contract between you and the Department of Social and Health Services. The agreement identifies the terms and conditions that both you and the department must follow for participation in the adoption support program.

### **Q: When does the agreement become effective?**

**A:** Unless otherwise stated in the agreement, the contract takes effect the date the adoption is finalized.

### **Q: What if the child I adopt is over 13 years, does that make a difference in support?**

**A:** If you adopt a child 13 years through 17 years, the child will be considered an independent person for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). If you adopt a child over 16 years through 17 years, the child may be able to continue in the extended adoption support program until age 21 if they meet the following criteria:

- Participation in High School or High School Equivalency Certificate Program/ GED.
- Attending College or Vocational School Program, or has applied for and can demonstrate intention of timely enrollment in secondary education.
- Participating in a job training or activity that assists in removing barriers to employment.
- Engaged in employment for eighty hours or more per month.
- A youth is not able to engage in the above eligibility categories due to a documented medical condition.

In addition, youth in the extended adoption support program may be eligible for the Educational Training Voucher Program (ETV). More information on this topic is found in the Education Section.

**Q: When does the agreement end?**

**A:** The agreement ends when:

- The adoptive child reaches age 18 (unless the child is attending a full time education program working toward a high school diploma or High School Equivalency Certificate/GED).
- Upon the death of parents or the child.
- You are no longer legally or financially responsible for the child.
- A child who was adopted between ages 16 through 17 no longer meets the requirements set forth in the extended adoption support agreement after age 18.

**Q: Will I receive a notice regarding termination of the program before my child turns 18?**

**A:** You may receive a notice advising you that the agreement will end on the child's 18th birthday. It is your responsibility to contact the adoption support program at least 90 days before your child's 18th birthday. Adoption support benefits will automatically stop on your child's 18th birthday unless the program hears from you.

**Q: What if my child is 18 and is still a full time high school student or working full-time toward the completion of a High School Equivalency certificate?**

**A:** If this is the case, your child may remain on the program if, before the child turns 18, the parent requests that adoption support continue and a letter is received on school letterhead that states that the child is a full time student and provides an expected date of graduation.

**Q: May I ask for a revision of my agreement?**

**A:** Any time, there is a change in family circumstances or the child's condition, you may ask to revise the agreement by writing to your adoption support program consultant. Your consultant will advise you on what pertinent documentation you will need to be submit regarding your child's special needs and the current circumstances of your family.

It may be helpful to create a family budget and document what resources are going directly to the special needs of the child. However, the department cannot require receipts from adoptive parents. A monthly subsidy will not cover all the child's needs, but going through the process of determining the expenses associated with the child's special needs will help when talking with agency personnel during the modification meeting. (Excerpt from *North American Council on Adoptable Children*).

**Q: What changes in circumstance require that I immediately notify the regional adoption support program consultant?**

**A:** Notify the regional adoption support program consultant immediately when:

- The child is no longer living in your home
- You are no longer legally responsible for the child
- There is a change in your permanent address
- The child or parent dies
- There is a change in marital status of the parents
- There is a change in legal or physical custody of the child
- The child becomes eligible for another federal program, i.e. Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, Veteran’s Administration benefits, or Temporary Aid to Need Families (TANF)

## **Program Benefits**

### **Monthly Cash Payment**

**Q: Does the adoption support program cover all the costs of raising my child?**

**A:** As the parent (s), you are financially responsible for the needs of your child. The adoption support program should combine with your resources to assist you in meeting the ordinary and special needs of your child. The extent of support needed by you to help meet the needs of your child is determined through discussion and negotiation between you and the adoption support program consultant.

**Q: What should I consider when negotiating the monthly cash payment?**

**A:** When you begin to negotiate your child’s support agreement, there are three factors that can be considered:

- The expenses that address the special needs of the child
- The circumstances of the family
- The legislative maximums allowed by RCW

The needs of your child pertain to his or her special medical, physical, or emotional needs. “Family circumstances” have been defined by the federal





Children's Bureau as meaning a family's ability to incorporate a child's needs into the family circumstances. Income, debt, housing, transportation, space, family size, parental occupations, parental health needs, the needs of other family members, and any number of other factors are considered. There is no set formula in determining monthly cash payments.

It is important to remember that the monthly cash payment may be changed through revision of the agreement, if your child's needs or family's circumstances change. The monthly cash payment is not negotiated based on anticipated problems.

In 2012, the Washington State legislature limited the amount of the monthly cash payment to 80% of the foster care maintenance expense that a child would receive if the child were in foster care. As a result, the negotiated amount may start at \$0 and cannot exceed the 80% maximum.

## Monthly Cash Payment

### **Q: How is the adoption support monthly cash payment determined?**

**A:** The monthly cash payment is determined through a negotiation between the adoptive parents and the adoption support consultant for the State of Washington, DSHS. The payment combines with the parents' resources to cover the ordinary and special needs of the child projected over an extended period of time and should cover anticipated needs.

The agreement considers a variety of family specific factors:

- Size of the family
- Usual living expenses
- Special needs of any family member

- Family income
- Family resources and savings plans
- Medical and hospitalization needs
- Families ability to purchase or receive care
- Any other expenses needed by the child to be adopted

It should be noted that consistency among families in the adoption support monthly cash payment is not the goal of the program. Families with the same income and similar circumstances will not necessarily agree on identical types or amounts of assistance and that it is the uniqueness of each child/family situation that determines the monthly cash payment.

*Information found: 42 U.S.C. § 673 (a), 42 U.S.C. § 673 (a) (3), Child Welfare Policy Manual 8.2D.4 (Q.1), WAC 388-27-0130, WAC 388-27-0230, and RCW 74.13a.025.*

**Q: What benefits other than a monthly cash payment is provided through the adoption support program for each adopted child?**

- Medical and Dental benefits through Medicaid
- Pre-authorized counseling assistance
- Evidenced based therapeutic interventions
- Reimbursement up to \$1500 per child for adoption expenses

**Medical**

**Q: What types of services does Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) cover?**

**A:** Washington Apple Health Core Connections is the Medicaid program that covers the services listed below for adoption support families:

- Community Mental Health Centers
- Dental
- Doctors/Providers
- Emergency Room
- EPSDT (checkups and preventative care for children up to age 21)
- Eyeglasses and eye exams
- Home health services
- Interpreter services for medical care
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Prescriptions
- Psychiatric services
- Surgery
- Transportation

Program Benefits Continued...



Some services have limitations. For more information, check with your medical provider or contact the Health Care Authority Customer Service center 1-800-562-3022, extension 15480.

**Q: How do I get medical services through Washington Apple Health/Medic-aid?**

**A:** Once the adoption has been finalized and you have updated your child's name with the Social Security Administration, you can contact the Foster Care Medical Team (FCMT) at 1-800-562-3022 ext. 15480 to request your child's updated ProviderOne coverage and card, or contact your adoption support consultant.

In Washington, adoption support families may receive their coverage through the managed care plan through Coordinated Care of Washington- Apple Health Coordinated Care (CCW-AHCC). You will receive information from that provider if this is how the medical service will be provided to your family.

**Q: Why do I need a Provider One Services card?**

**A:** This is your child's medical ID card that confirms that your child is on medical assistance thru Medicaid. It tells doctors and other medical providers what medical services the child is eligible for, and it tells them Health Care Authority (HCA) Medical Assistance will pay for these services. You will need to show the card every time you obtain medical care or mental health services and when you pick up prescription medicines for your child.

**Q: Does the card have an expiration date?**

**A:** The ProviderOne card does not have an expiration date. It is not a guarantee of coverage, but is useful for keeping track of your child's ProviderOne number.

**Q: What if there are mistakes on the Provider One Services card?**

**A:** Check your child's card carefully to make sure everything on the card is correct. If anything on the card is wrong or needs to be changed, call your Adoption Support Program Consultant.

**Q: What if I lose my child's Provider One Services card?**

**A:** If you lose your card, call the Foster Care Medical Team at 1-800-562-3022, Ext. 15480 or the Adoption Support Program Consultant.

**Q: Can my child receive private insurance and Washington Apple Health/Medicaid?**

**A:** You are encouraged to enroll your child on your personal insurance. Your personal insurance is primary and Washington Apple Health/Medicaid is secondary. Please let the FCMT know if you have other health insurance. Call 1-800-562-3022, Ext. 15134. HCA will verify your primary insurance.

**More Information about Medicaid:**

**Dental Care**

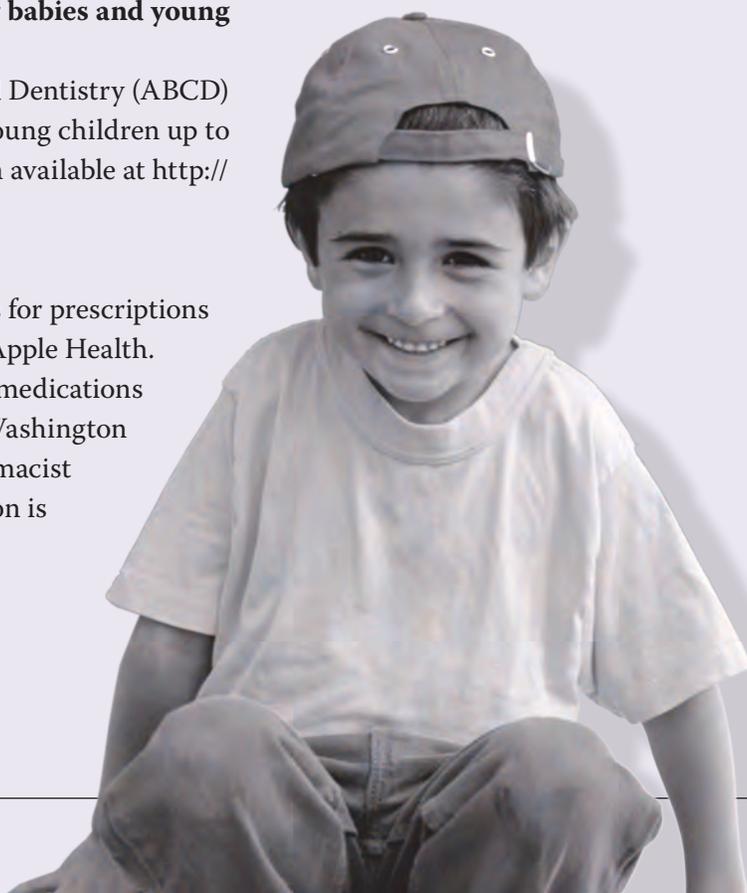
In some counties finding a dentist can be difficult. If you need help finding a dentist or transportation to the dentist, call the Medical Assistance helpline for a list of dentists in your area who take Washington Apple Health. If you are receiving services through CCW-AHCC, the program will assist you in locating a dentist.

**ABCD – Dental care for babies and young children**

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) is a dental program for young children up to six years old. Information available at <http://abcd-dental-org>.

**Getting Medications**

You will not have co-pays for prescriptions covered by Washington Apple Health. You may incur a cost for medications that are not covered by Washington Apple Health. Your pharmacist can tell you if a medication is covered.



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Program Benefits Continued...

### **Eye Exams and Eyeglasses**

Yearly eye exams are included in the coverage as are eyeglasses and replacement glasses. If there is a medical issue, your child between 6 and 20 years may be able to get exams more often.

### **Mental Health Services**

It is important to note that services for your child's mental health needs are covered through both ProviderOne and Coordinated Care of Washington- Apple Health Coordinated Care. Please contact your primary coverage provider to assist with this need.

#### **Q: Is it common for a child to need mental health services?**

**A:** Statistics from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention show that up to 1 out of 5 children in the U. S. experience a mental disorder in a given year, and the number seems to be growing.

#### **Q: What if your child needs to see a mental health professional after adoption?**

**A:** When you open your heart and your home by adopting a child, you will experience unique joys and challenges as you raise your child. Although mental health services may not be needed until years after the adoption has taken place, at some point your child may need to see a mental health professional due to emotional, behavioral or developmental challenges. You may notice that issues surface as your child grows up, especially during the teen years. It is often helpful to sort out which issues are common to all children, and which issues are related more specifically to children who were adopted. Often, post-adoption mental health services are covered by your primary insurance, Medicaid (ProviderOne in Washington), or as a preauthorized service through the adoption support program.

#### **Q: When should you find a mental health provider for your child?**

**A:** Talk to your child's health care professional if you have concerns about the way your child behaves at home, in school, or with friends. Timely help from a skilled counselor or therapist can address an initial problem before it becomes more serious. For example, you may seek mental health services because your child has:

- a marked drop in grades at school
- been worried and anxious about things
- trouble falling asleep, is waking up frequently, or is having frequent nightmares
- been sad, moody or angry
- poor self-esteem
- been unable to cope with daily problems
- started abusing drugs or alcohol
- started hurting himself /herself
- strange thoughts or unusual behaviors

**Q: How can you find a mental health professional for your child?**

**A:** Discuss your concerns with your child’s doctor, who can offer perspective and evaluate your child to rule out any medical conditions. Most doctors have working relationships with mental health specialists such as child psychologists or clinical social workers, so they may be able to refer you to a mental health provider in your area for the help your child needs. Also, you can ask friends, family, or clergy about qualified professionals they recommend. If needed, your health insurance company can give you a list of the mental health providers in their network.

**Q: How should you choose a mental health professional for your child?**

**A:** There are many different types of treatment approaches and professionals offering mental health services, but it is important to choose a professional who knows the unique issues facing adoptive families, works well with your child, and involves you in therapy. Typically, such a professional will fall into one of several professional categories:

- Psychiatrist – A medical doctor with special training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional illnesses. A psychiatrist can prescribe medication, but often they do not counsel patients.
- Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist – A medical doctor with special training in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and behavioral problems in children. Child and Adolescent psychiatrists can also prescribe medication; however, they may not provide psychotherapy.
- Psychiatric or Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – A registered nurse practitioner with a graduate degree and specialized training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional illness.



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Program Benefits Continued...

In addition, your Primary Care Physician, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner (depending on your state) are often qualified to provide medication.

The following mental health professionals can provide psychological assessments and therapy; however, cannot generally prescribe medications (although some states will allow it):

- **Clinical Psychologist** – A psychologist with a doctoral degree in psychology from an accredited/designated program in psychology. Psychologists are trained to make diagnoses and provide individual and group therapy.

The following mental health professionals can provide counseling; however, cannot prescribe medication:

- **Clinical Social Worker** – A counselor with a master's degree in social work from an accredited graduate program. Trained to make diagnoses, provide individual and group counseling, and provide case management and advocacy; usually found in the hospital setting.
- **Licensed Professional Counselor** – A counselor with a master's degree in psychology, counseling or a related field. Trained to diagnose and provide individual and group counseling.
- **Mental Health Counselor** – A counselor with a master's degree and several years of supervised clinical work experience. Trained to diagnose and provide individual and group counseling.

**Q: What should you look for when you talk to a mental health professional?**

**A:** Ask questions related to what you are looking for from a therapist. You may want to know how they approach working with patients, their philosophy, if they provide reports to you, and who covers for them if they are not available. You may ask if they have a specialty, such as family or child counseling, training in trauma, grief and loss, attachment, or experience working with adoptive families. You may want to give the therapist a brief description of your concerns, and explain your family's situation such as an open adoption, if your child experienced abuse, institutionalization, attachment issues, developmental delays, and so on.

While experience and education are important, it's also important to find a counselor your child feels comfortable talking to. Look for one who has the right qualifications and experience, the best approach to help your child in the current circumstances, and values your involvement and support.

**Q: How will fees be paid when you choose a mental health provider for your child?**

**A:** Find out if the mental health professional you choose accepts your primary insurance or Medicaid coverage, and ask about their fees. If you do not have private insurance, your coverage is limited, or if the therapist does not accept your insurance or Medicaid, check to see if your adoption support agreement provides

for outpatient psychiatric and other counseling. If so, contact your adoption support program consultant before you start the service and request a Preauthorization for Services.

**Q: What is the Adoption Support Program’s Preauthorization for Services process?**

**A:** When you call the adoption support program consultant and request a preauthorization, you will be advised of the state rates, covered services and you will be sent the pre-authorization form. You must complete the first section of the form, the provider you choose must complete the second section, and the form is returned to the adoption support program consultant for review and approval. A copy of the approved form will be sent to you and the provider. Adoption support will pay the provider directly. Preauthorization for services includes in-home evidenced based practices and individual counseling.

For the evidenced based practices, you will be sent information regarding the therapeutic interventions available for your children according to their age. The information will include descriptions of the services, and how to choose a provider. The current services being offered to adoption support families include: Promoting First Relationships, Incredible Years, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, and Triple P, SafeCare, and Family Preservation Services.

After completing the evidence based practice service, it may be recommended that your family continue with individual counseling. Both processes involve following the pre-authorization request process.

**Q: What if your child needs a residential treatment program after adoption?**

**A:** Under state law, WAC 388-27-0260, the adoption support program cannot pay for residential treatment placements. If you request residential treatment services due to:

- Your child’s mental illness, please call your local Regional Support Network (RSN);
- Your child’s diagnosis of physical, mental, developmental, cognitive or emotional disability, please call the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to determine if your child is eligible for services; or
- A need other than treatment of mental illness or developmental disabilities, please call child welfare services intake at the local office of the Children’s Administration (CA).
- During a crisis or severe situation, you can self-refer to the Wrap Around Intensive Service (WISe) program operated by the RSN in your area.

## Education

### **Q: Are there any educational programs specifically available for my child after high school?**

**A:** The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program is available for youth who were in foster care and adopted on or after their 16th birthday. ETV offers financial assistance to eligible foster youth to attend an accredited college, university, vocational or technical college. The ETV program helps students with their own efforts to secure financial aid to enroll in college. The maximum ETV award is \$5,000 per academic year.

Awards are unique to each student and are based on the cost of attendance formula established by their college of choice and any unmet need they may have within their financial aid award.

- ETV can be used nationwide.
- Youth who participate and receive an ETV payment prior to age 21 can continue to receive ETV until age 23.

## Application Process

ETV applications are located on the adolescent website [www.independence.wa.gov](http://www.independence.wa.gov) or you may request a hard copy by contacting program staff:

- The online application is for first time applicants only.
- The renewal application is for eligible returning applicants.
- The running start/dual credit application is for students who are in high school, and have been approved to be in the running start program and are taking college level courses.
- The priority application cycle begins January 1 and ends April 30 of each year. All applications received after April 30 will be placed on a waiting list and will be awarded on a funds available basis. The application cycle will close July 31. No applications will be accepted after this date.
- Youth must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year on or shortly after January 1. Per federal guidelines, youth who were adopted on or after their 13th birthday are considered independent for the purposes of applying for federal financial aid. However, colleges may require additional verification and request confirmation of when the adoption occurred.
- Youth must reapply to the program each year.

## Eligible Expenses

Once students have received their ETV award they may request assistance with the following:

- Tuition: All other forms of financial aid must first be applied toward the tuition
- Books and Supplies

- Housing: Rent deposits, monthly rent payments, and utilities
- Grocery and personal hygiene items
- Transportation: Bus pass, assistance with car insurance, gas, maintenance and repairs
- Child Care

### **Requirements and Continued Participation in the Program**

Youth are required to complete the ETV Participation Agreement which outlines their responsibilities as an ETV participant. The main requirements include:

- Youth will need to meet their institutions Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy by maintaining a 2.0 GPA or better and show they are making progress towards a degree or certificate.
- Youth must be enrolled at least half time or more, meaning 6 or more credits.
- Youth must be enrolled in at least one 100 level college course and eligible to receive financial aid.
- Youth must submit their class schedule at the beginning of each term and a copy of their unofficial transcripts at the end of each term.

For more information, visit our website at: [www.independence.wa.gov](http://www.independence.wa.gov) or contact program staff at 1-877-433-8388 or [etvwash@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:etvwash@dshs.wa.gov).

### **Adoption Finalization Costs**

#### **Q: How may I receive assistance with adoption finalization costs?**

**A:** Adoption finalization costs are one-time expenses incurred in order to finalize the adoption. They include attorney fees, court filing fees, cost of physicals, and home studies fees. To receive reimbursement for these expenses, you must apply prior to the adoption being finalized. Maximum reimbursable costs are \$1,500 per child. Payment is made once the adoption has finalized and is based upon actual costs up to the amount specified in the agreement.





**Q: What is required for proof of payment?**

**A:** Reimbursement will be made after your adoption support program consultant receives the following:

- Signed copy of the adoption decree, and
- Proof that bills listed in the agreement were paid. Verification may include a copy of a canceled check or invoice marked “paid” from your attorney, physician, and/or homestudy provider.

## **Training**

**Q: May I participate in trainings to better understand my child’s special needs?**

**A:** Your family is entitled to participate in all training opportunities available that are provided by the Foster Parent Training Unit, Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence. Contact your adoption support program consultant for details. CCW-AHCC has a number of on-line trainings available for parents.

## **Additional Information**

**Q: Do I have the right to a hearing if I disagree with a decision made by the program?**

**A:** You may request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) if the following decisions were made by the program:

- Your child’s initial eligibility for the adoption support program was denied;
- The program consultant failed to respond with reasonable promptness to a written application or request for services;
- A request to change the level of payment or service in the agreement was denied;

- Decision to increase or decrease the level of monthly cash payment was made without your consent;
- A request for adoption finalization costs was denied; or
- Your child was terminated from the program and you did not agree.

**Q: How do I request a hearing?**

**A:** You will be notified in writing regarding program decisions and informed of your right to a hearing, the deadline for requesting a hearing, whether your request for hearing must be in writing, where to send the request, and whether you may make the request orally. You may also write to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) at:

Office of Administrative Hearings  
PO Box 42489  
Olympia, WA 98504-2489

All OAH offices have toll-free numbers. It is best to call the office closest to your location. Please review the website, [www.oah.wa.gov](http://www.oah.wa.gov), for the Administrative Hearings office closest to your location.

**Q: What happens after I request a hearing?**

**A:** The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) schedules a hearing and sends out a Notice of Hearing with the date, time, and place of the hearing. Enclosed with the notice is important information about the hearing. Pay special attention to the enclosed brochure. **Read it all. Read it carefully.**

Next, the hearing representative from DSHS will contact the person who requested the hearing and any other interested party to discuss the case and try to resolve the disagreement. The DSHS representative's phone number is written on the Notice of Hearing. You may initiate contact as well.

If you wish to review your file and make copies of documents that you believe are relevant to the hearing, you should call the DSHS representative to arrange a time to do this.

Sometimes the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will schedule a pre-hearing conference. These are usually held by phone. If the ALJ schedules a pre-hearing conference, instructions about what can be expected will be included in the scheduling notice.

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Additional Information Continued...

**Q: What if I want someone to represent me?**

**A:** You may hire an attorney at your own expense or you may represent yourself. The Northwest Justice Project offers free legal advice to low income people at 1-888-201-1014 and TTY 1-888-201-9737 (Excerpts from Washington State Office of Administrative Hearing website – [www.oah.wa.gov](http://www.oah.wa.gov)). If you wish to be represented, your representative must be at the hearing.

**Q: Once the adoption is finalized should I contact the Social Security Administration?**

**A:** Yes, when your child is adopted, you must contact the Social Security Administration to notify them that the adoption has finalized. The administration will update the child's record with the new identifying information and issue an updated card.

Once you have updated the information with the Social Security Administration for your child, please notify Medicaid and your adoption support consultant.

**Q: What is an adoption tax credit?**

**A:** You may be able to take a tax credit for expenses paid to adopt a special needs child. Consult with the IRS or your tax adviser to get more in-depth and individualized information.

**Q: Am I required to notify Adoption Support if I move?**

**A:** Yes, you must notify your adoption support program consultant in writing to maintain program services like medical and the monthly cash payment. The US Postal Service will not forward your monthly cash payments. If you have direct deposit and move without notifying your consultant your monthly cash payment may be held until your updated address is received.

## **When Moving Out of State**

**Q: When does coverage for Medicaid begin in my new state?**

**A:** All children who participate in the adoption support program are eligible for medical assistance through Medicaid. If the family resides outside of Washington State and is receiving Federal IV-E Adoption Assistance benefits, Medicaid is paid by the state of residence. The Federal IV-E determination is noted on your adoption support agreement. If you have questions about this status, please ask your consultant when you contact them about the move.

If the child is not eligible for Federal IV-E Adoption Assistance benefits Medicaid benefits will be provided directly from Washington State or the state of residence if that state has reciprocal Medicaid coverage. Medicaid benefits included in

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Washington's Medicaid Plan but excluded or limited by the resident state's Medicaid Plan remain available through Washington State's Medicaid program. Upon request, Washington State Adoption Support Program staff will facilitate contact with the resident state to assist in obtaining Medicaid coverage. Medicaid coverage from Washington State will continue until coverage is extended by the resident state.

*TIP: If your child requires monthly medication, make sure that you get enough to last through the end of the month.*

### **Community Services/Supports**

**Q: How do I find support groups?**

**A:** Support groups are being developed around the state that serve adoptive, guardianship, foster, and kinship caretakers. For information about these groups, contact your local Children's Administration office or the Foster Parent and Caregiver Support line at **1-800-301-1868**.

**Things to remember:**

When changing addresses, whether within the state or moving to another state, it is important to notify your Adoption Support Program Consultant. *If your child is turning 18 and is still in school, they may be eligible for an extension. Call your Adoption Support Program Consultant for details.*

## Online Resources



**Website for the Center for Adoption Medicine** at the University of Washington, our resource for medical and developmental issues in adoption and pediatrics.

[www.adoptmed.org/home](http://www.adoptmed.org/home)

**Mental Health Services and Information:**

The DSHS Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery contracts with 11 Regional Support Networks (RSNs) to administer community mental health programs. Services are provided for people who are Medicaid-eligible.

[www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/mh\\_information.shtml](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/mh_information.shtml)

**A website for parents and children** providing activities and information for adopted children, giving them a sense of belonging to a wider adoption community.

[www.adoptionclubhouse.org/](http://www.adoptionclubhouse.org/)

**North American Council on Adoptable Children:**

Provides adoption information and services for children in the United States foster care system.

[www.nacac.org/](http://www.nacac.org/)

**National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**

– **Washington State:** NOFAS Washington State is a source for support and resources for individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, their caregivers, and community providers.

[www.nofaswa.org](http://www.nofaswa.org)

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**Child Welfare Information Gateway:** Resources on all aspects of domestic and intercountry adoption, including adoption from foster care. Includes information for prospective and adoptive parents; information about searching for birth relatives; and resources for professionals on recruiting adoptive families, preparing children and youth, supporting birth parents, and providing post adoption services.

[www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/index.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/index.cfm)

**Kinship Care in Washington State** offers information on social service resources.

[www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare)

**Washington State Medicaid**, a resource to locate ProviderOne Medicaid providers in Washington State.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/hca/p1findaprovider/>



Washington State  
Department of Social  
& Health Services

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*Transforming lives*

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