



# Making Adoption More Affordable

## Dillon Grant

Dillon International's **Building Families Fund** was established by caring adoptive families who wanted to share their joy of adoption with other families who might not have the financial resources to realize their dream of building a family. The fund was also created to help older children and children with special needs find loving, permanent families. The funds are possible through the ongoing generosity of donors, adoptive families, grandparents and friends. The funds are only available to families who are adopting through Dillon International. Grant amounts awarded range from \$750 to \$3,000. The amount of each grant depends on an individual family's or child's need and funds available. Families may be considered for a grant after their home study has been approved and they have officially accepted a child's assignment. To receive an application and grant guidelines, please contact Dillon's office: 918-749-4600 or [info@dillonadopt.com](mailto:info@dillonadopt.com).

## Additional adoption grant, loan and fundraising programs:

**Resources4Adoption** ([www.resources4adoption.com](http://www.resources4adoption.com)) is an excellent online resource for adoptive families seeking comprehensive and up-to-date information on adoption grants and loans and how to qualify for them with lots of additional tips to assist families in removing the financial barriers associated with adoption.

**\*Note:** Many grant and loan programs require an approved home study prior to considering your application. Some may also have an application fee.

**Affording Adoption Foundation** ([www.affordingadoption.com](http://www.affordingadoption.com)) is a grant program that offers financial assistance to adoptive families who have been matched with a child. Grants vary in amount depending upon the number of current applicants and the financial need of the applicants.

**Gift of Adoption Fund** ([www.giftofadoption.org](http://www.giftofadoption.org)) is a national adoption grant program created by an adoptive family. The fund helps families who could not otherwise afford to adopt turn their dream of adoption into reality. Grants range from \$500 to \$7,500.

**God's Grace Adoption Ministry** ([www.ggam.org](http://www.ggam.org)) is dedicated to helping place orphaned children around the world into forever families. The organization helps Christian families overcome the financial obstacles of adoption through adoption grants and assistance with adoption fundraising.

**HelpUsAdopt.org** ([www.helpusadopt.org](http://www.helpusadopt.org)) is a national financial assistance grant program founded by an adoptive family and dedicated to helping other families afford adoption. Grants range from \$500 to \$15,000 depending upon need. Priority is given to applicants without children and those with failed or disrupted first time adoption placements.

**LifeSong for Orphans** ([www.lifesongfororphans.org](http://www.lifesongfororphans.org)), offers assistance to Christian couples who wish to adopt a child by providing adoption matching grants from \$1,000-\$4,000 and interest-free loans up to \$10,000. Lifesong also gives the family's supporters a way to make their donations to the family tax-deductible.

**Show Hope** ([www.showhope.org](http://www.showhope.org)), formerly known as Shaohannah's Hope, is a ministry dedicated to helping individuals and communities change the world for orphans by reducing the financial barriers to adoption. The foundation, established by Steven and Mary Beth Chapman, provides adoption grants and information about how to adopt for families interested in adopting.

**A Child Waits Foundation** ([www.achildwaits.org](http://www.achildwaits.org)) provides adoption grants and low interest adoption loans up to \$10,000 for families who have exhausted other financial options and are still unable to proceed with their adoption without additional help.

**JSC Foundation** ([www.jsfoundation.org](http://www.jsfoundation.org)) Assists Christian couples for whom the cost of adoption is a hardship.

**Adopt Together** ([www.adopttogether.org](http://www.adopttogether.org)) Nonprofit crowdfunding platform helps families raise money for adoption costs. Donations typically are tax-deductible.

**Pure Charity** ([www.purecharity.com](http://www.purecharity.com)) Crowdfunding site that allows families to fundraise for their adoption. Donations made through the system are tax-deductible .

**Chosen and Dearly Loved** ([www.chosenanddearlyloved.org](http://www.chosenanddearlyloved.org)) Matching grants up to \$5,000 to help families who are adopting children with special needs.

**Both Hands** ([www.bothhands.org](http://www.bothhands.org)) Helps families fundraise for their adoptions. A family gathers



a team of volunteers and Both Hands coaches them to coordinate a service project fixing up a widow's home. The family and their team send letters to raise sponsorship for their day of service. The funds raised help an orphan be adopted into a forever family.

### **Federal Adoption Tax Credit**

The U.S. federal government offers an **Adoption Tax Credit of more than \$13,000** to all adoptive families on qualifying expenses paid for a child's adoption. The available adoption credit begins to phase out for families with modified adjusted gross income in excess of \$200,000 and is completely phased out for families with modified adjusted gross income of around \$240,000 or more. For more information on the federal Adoption Tax Credit, download Form 8839 and the instructions from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). We recommend that you check with a local tax accountant if you have questions on how this federal tax benefit may apply to your adoption.

### **Military Benefits**

Active-duty military families are eligible for reimbursement of adoption expenses of up to \$2,000 for a single child or up to \$5,000 per family per year. Please contact your specific branch of the military for more information or download the free NMFA Guide on Adoption Services from the National Military Family Association website at [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org) — click on “Your Benefits” and select “Adoption.”

### **Employer Benefits**

Many companies offer adoption benefits to their employees which may range from financial assistance to paid or unpaid parental leave. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has compiled a list of companies who provide adoption benefits at [www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org](http://www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org). If your employer does not currently offer adoption benefits, the Dave Thomas Foundation also offers a free “Adoption-Friendly Workplace Toolkit” on its website, which offers helpful suggestions on how you might approach your employer to have this benefit added to your employee benefit plan. Contact your company's human resources department for more information on potential adoption benefits available to you.

### **Bank Loans**

Some adoptive families have utilized a bank loan or a line of credit to assist them with their adoption expenses. While borrowing money for an adoption may not be an adoptive family's first choice, families may find a loan helpful in covering the large and immediate adoption expenses, especially if they will be able to repay the loan quickly with a tax credit or an employer's adoption benefit reimbursement.



## **Lifestyle Adjustments**

Our adoptive families offer the following suggestions that they used to cover their adoption expenses:

- Begin subtracting “known baby expenses” from your paycheck to help save money for adoption expenses, and to learn how to live on a smaller income
- Skip your vacation
- Eat out less
- Shop for bargains
- Have a garage sale, use e-bay or Craig’s List to sell unneeded items for extra cash
- Refinance your house and/or autos
- Obtain a second job to help with adoption expenses
- Hold a fundraiser through your church
- Pray for God’s guidance to meet adoption expenses

