



FOSTER CARE ADOPTION

ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

- Couples married for at least three years, or a single woman.
- At least one spouse must be a US citizen.
- Physically and emotionally able to provide full time care to a child.
- Safe, adequate housing.
- Financially able to provide for the needs of the child.

CHILDREN WAITING FOR ADOPTION

- Children waiting may be a single child or a part of a sibling group.
- The average age of a waiting child is 8 years old.
- All have experienced trauma as part of their journey.
- Some may also have minor to severe physical special needs.

TRAVEL

While you are approved on a state level, you are able to be matched with children across the nation. Each state varies greatly in their requirements regarding visits and travel. You will be informed of travel needs during the matching process but can expect multiple visits to the state of your child.

MATCHING OVERVIEW

- Families are eligible for matching with children currently in foster care that are legally available for adoption once the home study is completed.
- You will register with local and national programs to inquire about waiting children. Your worker will assist you in reviewing child profiles and communicating with the child's agency worker.
- The child's state agency team is responsible for selecting the adoptive family and assists with transition planning.
- Lifeline will provide ongoing support during and after the child is placed in your home.

MEET THE TEAM



Katie Yim
Case Worker

Katie Yim joined Lifeline in August 2021. She is originally from Southern California but now lives in Wyoming. Katie serves as a Home Study Social Worker and Pregnancy Counselor. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from Azusa Pacific University. Katie and her husband, Nate, have been married for almost a decade and enjoy a life of adventures including the journey of fostering their son!



Melissa Steltz, LCSW
Case Work Supervisor

Melissa Steltz serves as a Case Work Supervisor in South Dakota. She has been a licensed social worker since 1999 and has been working with adoptive families since 2008. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from Augustana College and her Masters in Social Work from University of South Dakota. She married her high school sweetheart over twenty years ago and has three children through birth and adoption.



Jennifer Travis, LICSW
Program Director

Jennifer Travis serves as the Program Director for Foster Care. She joined the Lifeline team in December 2014 and became a TBRI Practitioner in 2017. In 2021, Jennifer earned her TIPS Trainer certification through the Alabama State Department of Human Resources. She holds a Bachelors in Social Work from the University of Alabama and a Masters in Social Work from Tulane University. She and her husband John live in Birmingham, Alabama with their son, Isaac.



Christie Mac Segars, LICSW
Vice President of Domestic Programs

Christie Mac Segars has been the VP of Domestic Services at Lifeline since March of 2013. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Samford University and a Masters in Social Work from The University of Alabama. She lives in Alabama with her husband, Croft, and their three daughters, Ila, Elizabeth, and Harris.

PROCESS TIMELINE

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

This meeting is to equip you with a beginning understanding of what foster care adoption is, what type of needs are in the US, and steps that we take with you on this journey.

HOME STUDY

During this part of the process, social workers and families will talk extensively about various aspects of a family's life such as marriage, finances, health, home life, capacity for care, and overall well-being. In addition, families will be part of specific training for how to parent children from traumatic backgrounds. You will also submit verifications and paperwork to meet state and agency standards. (3-4 months)

MATCHING

Matching is dependent on many factors including the family's openness to age and need, the number of inquiries made about a child(ren), and the needs and desires of the children. You will register with national programs after home study completion that allow for your family to inquire about children in need. (1-4 years)

APPLICATION

The full application gathers in-depth information from families who wish to adopt through foster care adoption. Your application is reviewed by our team to affirm if you are eligible for this program. (2 weeks)

FAMILY PROFILE

When your home study is completed, you will compile a family profile that is shared with the state and children considering your family. (1-2 months)

POST ADOPTION

Lifeline provides post-adoption support to families long-term. In addition to a family's social worker, Lifeline's Counseling Team and educational services are helpful resources for families. Check-in calls and post-placement visits are required until the adoption is finalized. Post-adoption visits are offered to support your family's transition.

CHRONOLOGICAL FEE TOOL

\$300

Application Fee

Due at the time of application.

\$300

Administrative Fee

Due before orientation interview.

\$1,000

Home study payment #1

Due at orientation interview.

\$1,000

Home study payment #2

Due at last home study visit.

\$3,500

Program Fee A

Due at completion of home study/profile submission.

\$1,500

Placement Fee

Due at placement.

\$3,900

Post Placement Fee

Due at placement and includes 6 post-placement visits.