

INDIA

India is a growing intercountry adoption program. Lifeline's India adoption program was licensed in 2014. Lifeline's international program leaders frequently travel to meet with CARA to sustain our positive relationship and we have a number of active (un)adopted partners within India.

Adoption Requirements

- Adoptive parents must be 25 years or older but no more than 55 years old.
- Couples married at least 2 year or single women can adopt
- India does not accept expat families

Children Coming Home

- Children 3-5 years or older, with moderate special needs. Most will have developmental delays
- Typical medical needs can include:
 - vision needs, spina bifida, neurological needs, older children, developmental & cognitive delays

Travel

- 1 trip is required
- 12-17 days in country
- Lifeline's in-country team will assist with appointments and guide services in India

During your trip you will stay 2-3 days in the child's SAA city and then a week in Delhi to complete visa paperwork for your child.

Matching Overview

- Families are eligible for matching once they are approved by CARA
 - CARA is the central authority of adoption in India
- Lifeline will present waiting children's files for families to review
- Estimated timeline for matching is a few months to years depending on the family's openness to age and special needs.



Meet the Team



Holli Morgan

Program Manager

Holli is from Birmingham, Alabama and joined Lifeline in February of 2019. She is serving as the Program Manager on our India Team. Hollie attended Auburn University and studied Human Development & Family Studies – Middle Childhood & Adolescence. Previously, Holli worked as a case manager with a local mental health agency for 3 1/2 years.



Olivia Tyler, LMSW

International Social Worker

Olivia serves on the India Team as a program caseworker. Olivia attended Kennesaw State University and received her Bachelors of Psychology. She went on to receive her Masters of Social Work at the University of Georgia. "It is a blessing and complete joy to walk alongside families through their adoption journey."



Susannah Ayers, LMSW

International Social Worker

Susannah joined Lifeline in May 2021. She serves as a program caseworker, walking families through the adoption process in India. Susannah attended Harding University and received her Bachelor of Social Work and Minor in Youth and Family Ministry. She continued her education and received her Masters of Social Work from The University of Alabama.



Chloe Smith, LBSW

International Social Worker

Chloe is a Social Worker on the India International Adoption team. She is originally from Dothan, Alabama, but lives in Birmingham. She received a degree in Social Work from Auburn University, and is a licensed social worker. Chloe joined the Lifeline team in November of 2021. She said "I am so thankful that I am able to walk with families through various parts of their adoption process."



Katie Newton

Administrative Assistant

Katie Newton joined Lifeline in April of 2022. She is a graduate of Samford University and currently pursuing a Master of Social Work at the University of Alabama. Katie loves the National Parks and will never pass up an opportunity to visit them. Her favorite so far is Arches National Park in Utah. Katie's favorite Bible verse is Habakkuk 1:5.



Kayla Adams

International Social Worker

Kayla joined Lifeline in May 2021. She is from Birmingham, Alabama and is the Travel Coordinator on the International Team. Kayla attended Troy University and received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Human Services with a Minor in Case Management.

Our representative in India, [Alex Sam](#), facilitates Lifeline's adoption program in India. Lifeline has a team of greeters on the ground and has seen over 100 children come home from India!



Jana Lombardo
Senior Program Director



Karla Thrasher
Director of International Adoption



Process Timeline

Application

The full application gathers in-depth information from families who wish to adopt from India. Your application is reviewed by our India team to affirm you are eligible for this program.

Immigration

Throughout this 2 step approval process families will complete required paperwork and be fingerprinted for approval to adopt within certain parameters. Families then apply to immigrate a specific child to the US through adoption .

2 to 3 months

Matching

Matching in India occurs after a family's home study is finalized and they have been approved by CARA to adopt. Families receive children's files from Lifeline to review. Once families submit their acceptance paperwork, the match is submitted to CARA for approval, as well as a local court.

Current estimates for matching timeframes are a few months to years after CARA approval.

Post Adoption

Lifeline continues to provide 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. Post adoption reports are due to India at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months post adoption. A Lifeline worker will also call to check-in periodically to provide resources and support.

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 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 trauma backgrounds.

3 to 4 months

Dossier

When all of the information from the home study and immigration has been completed for the dossier, it will be notarized and sent to the central authority in India to be registered. The Indian dossier is compiled of about 30 items and is authenticated for families by Lifeline.

2 weeks

Travel

During families' travel to India, they will experience a family day at their child's SAA. Families then travel to Delhi to complete all necessary appointments for the child's exit permit and visa to the USA. There are opportunities for sight-seeing and cultural experiences during the stay and families are able to bring their entire immediate family to experience India. Lifeline's in-country team will support the family and coordinate transportation and provide guide services during their stay.

8-18 months after matching

Chronological Fee Tool

Application Fee \$300
payable at the time of application

Agency Fee A \$4,425
payable upon program acceptance

Agency Fee B \$4,425
payable at completion of home study

Agency Fee C \$4,425
payable at dossier submission

Agency Fee D \$4,425
payable prior to Adoption Trip

Foreign Program Fees \$7,825
payable in two installments at referral
acceptance and NOC
includes fees for care of child and court costs, guide services and
program management

Third Party Fees \$3,300
due throughout the process including
fees to US governing bodies and third
party evaluations

Travel Fees \$8,060
Estimated for two adults traveling to
adopt one child. Expenses may vary
based on time of year, preferences, and
needs.



Travel Details

12-17 day trip

Families will travel to India for approximately 12-17 days to complete their adoption. The trip consists of a visitation time and bonding period with their child, a court process, and visa paperwork process.



Visitation, Bonding, Court, Visa

The first week the family will travel to their child's SAA where they will have family day. Later, families will travel to Delhi to complete documentation to receive the child's exit permit and US visa.

While in-country

Lifeline's has an amazing in-country team who walks alongside families each step of the way and provides support during their stay in India. There are many opportunities for sightseeing and cultural experiences while in Delhi. India is open to families traveling with children in the home and our team helps to prepare your family if you choose to bring your children on the adoption trip.





“There are no words to describe how grateful we are to Lifeline for the work they did on our family’s behalf. As we pursued the adoption of our daughter from India, the staff at Lifeline equipped us, encouraged us, prayed for us, and ensured that the process went as smoothly as possible. We cannot recommend Lifeline highly enough to families considering adoption and desiring a Gospel centered agency that truly loves and cares for the families they serve.”

– The Mulder Family

"We are so grateful for the vital role Lifeline played in our adoption journey. From education to encouragement and prayer; from answering all of our questions during a global pandemic that shut down our daughter’s country to preparing us to travel during that pandemic; from in country guides who made sure we got to all of our appointments to post adoption support services- thank you will never be enough. Our family is so thankful for the heart of Lifeline and the work they do around the world."

- The Lowery Family



"With love and open arms, we welcomed our son into our family. We could not be where we are today without the incredible and supportive team at Lifeline! From waiting, to matching, to navigating our court process, and then making two trips to India, we cannot thank you enough for holding our hands (quite literally at times) and praying the big prayers alongside us through this process. We are FOREVER grateful!" - The Brown Family

"We had a wonderful experience working with Lifeline during the adoption process and have continued to be supported during the post adoption process. Even with the uncertainty of COVID and even through the cancellation of our first trip to get our son because of the huge COVID surge in India, Lifeline continued to support and encourage us. Big shout out to Olivia Tyler our case worker for being amazing! She has been and continues to be such a blessing to our family in so many ways. Thank you Lifeline India team for helping us bring our son home!" - The Smith Family

