

HUNGARY

Hungary is a growing intercountry adoption program. The Hungary adoption program is a great program for families with limited capacities for medical special needs. Lifeline has been blessed with a wonderful facilitator in Hungary!

Adoption Requirements

- Adoptive parents must be 25 years or older, at least 16 years but no more than 45 years older than the child(ren)
- Couples married at least 1 year or single women can adopt
- Hungary accepts expat families on a case by case basis

Children Coming Home

- Children 4-5 years or older, with minor, correctible special needs. Most will have developmental delays
- Sibling groups of 2-3 children are common
- Typical medical needs can include:
 - sibling groups, older children, developmental & cognitive delays, and behavioral needs

Travel

- 1 trip is required
- 45 days in country
- Lifeline's in-country team will assist with appointments in Hungary

During your trip you will have a visitation period, bonding period, court process and complete visa paperwork for your child.

Matching Overview

- Families are eligible for matching once their home study is complete
 - though they will likely not receive a referral until later in their process
- Lifeline will present referrals provided by Hungary for families to review
- Estimated timeline for matching is 2-4 years depending on the families' openness to age and sibling groups.



Meet the Team



Brianna Thomas, MSW

Program Manager- Eurasia

Brianna graduated from the University of Montevallo in 2016 with a Bachelor's in Social Work and received her Master's in Social Work from The University of Alabama in 2018. She has always had a connection to Lifeline and was excited to join the team in January of 2017. Brianna is thankful to be a part of the Eurasia team to serve families throughout their adoption journey!



Caroline Crawford

Administrative Assistant

Caroline graduated from UAB in 2022 with a degree in psychology. She loves to travel to different countries and learn about other cultures! She has always had a heart for the nations and for the Lord's children. Caroline joined the Eurasia team in June 2023 and is so excited to see how the Lord works in and through Lifeline!!



Brooke Ezekiel, BSW

Eurasia Social Worker

Brooke graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor's in Social Work and joined the Lifeline team in January of 2022. Brooke has lived in the greater Birmingham area most of her life. She loves playing board games and her Goldendoodle puppy named Fisher. Brooke's favorite bible verse is Habakkuk 3:18-19 because it reminds her where joy is found as well as the faithfulness of the Father in all circumstances.



Timmi-Ann Kaurudar

Program Caseworker

Timmi-Ann joined Lifeline in February 2021. She is from Fairhope, Alabama and is a program caseworker on the Eurasia team. Timmi-Ann graduated from Samford University where she studied Human Development and Family Science. "My favorite thing about working at Lifeline is the mission they have for serving the Lord by loving and supporting children and families all over the world!"

Our representative in Hungary, [Adam](#), facilitates Lifeline's adoption program in Hungary. Lifeline has relationships with the central authority of adoption in Hungary and over 10 years of Hungary adoptions!



Jana Lombardo

Director of
International
Programs



Karla Thrasher

Senior Director of
International
Adoption



Process Timeline

Application

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

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

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

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 Hungary to be translated and registered. The Hungarian dossier is compiled of about 10 items and is put together during the wait time for your Immigration Approval.

3-6 weeks

Matching

Matching in Hungary happens some time after a family's dossier is registered. Hungary provides referral files to Lifeline and Lifeline shares these with families ready to match. Once a family accepts a referral the central authority processes the request and issues the official referral.

Current estimate for matching timeframes is
1-3 years after dossier registration.

Travel

During families' travel to Hungary, they will experience a week of visitation and 30 days of bonding time with the child. During the bonding time, families will attend a court appointment and **FINALIZE THE ADOPTION!** Families will also complete the child's paperwork and await the child's US visa. There are opportunities for sight-seeing and cultural experiences during the stay and families are able to bring their entire immediate family to experience Hungary. Lifeline's in-country team will support the family and provide transportation to important adoption appointments during their stay.

2-4 months after receiving official
referral

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 Hungary 2 , 6 and 18 months. A Lifeline worker will also call to check-in periodically to provide resources and support.

Chronological Fee Tool

Application Fee \$300
payable at the time of application

Agency Fee A \$4,425
payable at 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 at referral acceptance

Foreign Program Fees \$12,500
Payable in two installments at dossier
submission and referral acceptance
includes fees to US and Hungarian governing bodies and in-
country facilitation fees

Third Party Fees \$1,930
due throughout the process including
fees to US governing bodies and third
party evaluations

Travel Fees \$9,800
Estimated for two adults traveling to
adopt one child. Expenses may vary
based on time of year, preferences, and
needs



Travel Details

45 day trip

Families will travel to Hungary for approximately 45 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 visit the child in their foster home for 7 days. Then the family will have 30 days of bonding where the child will reside with the adopting family. During this time, families will attend a court appointment and complete documentation to receive the child's 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 Hungary. There are many opportunities for sightseeing and cultural experiences while in Budapest. Hungary 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.



"Adoption is hard, but being an orphan is harder. We are so thankful for the encouragement we received through Lifeline and our Social Worker, Brianna Thomas. While in Hungary, we knew that Lifeline along with our family and friends were praying for us through the entire six week stay. We are grateful to be part of the Lifeline family and thankful to be home with our daughter" - The Evans Family



“We will never forget the day our case worker called to tell us about a little boy in Hungary or the first time we saw him face to face. Adoption is hard, the process is complicated, but loving our son is not. It is our privilege to be his mom and dad. We are forever grateful for all that Lifeline has done to bring us together.” – The Posey Family

"We are so thankful for the Lifeline staff and everything they do to help families bring their little ones home! We adopted from Hungary twice and Lifeline was with us every step of the way, preparing us before travel, assisting us in country, and post adoption. The adoption process from Hungary was very smooth and we knew exactly what to expect. Everyone involved, whether here or in country, was extremely professional and helpful. Our favorite thing was our bonding time in Hungary! While six weeks away from home may seem daunting, we treasured the opportunity to spend time alone with our child and getting to know each other before returning to the US. We wouldn't hesitate to do it again!" - The Davis Family



“All our contacts at Lifeline have been supportive and helpful. We changed programs part way through when God placed siblings on our hearts. The challenges during the paperwork process are different from the challenges after, but the people at Lifeline continue to care for us through support and prayer. We are so thankful to God for leading us to our kids through Lifeline. Please ask for my contact information to hear more. I cannot quickly summarize all God has done through Lifeline!”
-The Floeter Family