

CHINA

China has historically been a stable and streamlined adoption program. Lifeline has had an adoption program in China since 2000. Lifeline has developed a wonderful network of guides and working relationship with the CCCWA .

Adoption Requirements

- Adoptive parents must be 30 at time of dossier submission and no more than 50 years older than the adopted child.
- Couples married at least 2 years or single women can adopt
- China accepts families living in some countries as expats
- No more than 5 minors currently in the home

Children Coming Home

- Children 18 months to 4 years with moderate to significant medical needs
- Children older than 4 with minor to moderate needs
- **Typical medical needs can include:**
 - Older children, Down syndrome, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, hearing and vision loss, blood disorders, heart conditions, cleft lip and palate, genetic conditions, developmental delay

Travel

- 1 two week trip is required
- First week: In your child's province
- Second week: In Guangzhou

Travel to China is currently suspended and travel protocols may change or include quarantines and extended time frames when reopened.

Matching Overview

- Families are eligible for matching with older children or children with significant medical special needs once their home study is completed
- Families waiting for young or minor to moderate needs children are eligible after their dossier is registered with the CCCWA
- Estimated timeline for the process is currently unknown due to the impact of COVID-19 on adoption process and travel.



Meet the Team



Sara Wilson, LMSW

China Program Manager

Sara joined Lifeline in May of 2019 and is originally from Florence, Alabama. She currently serves as the Program Manager for our China Team. Sara attended the University of North Alabama and received her Bachelor's in social work. She also has a Master of Arts in Church and Community Ministries from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Social Work from the University of Alabama.



Claire Suddarth, MSW

International Social Worker

Claire joined Lifeline in December 2021 and works as a caseworker on the Asia adoption team! She attended Auburn University for undergraduate education and gained a degree in Social Work. She then earned her Master's in Social Work from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Claire's favorite bible verse is "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13



Sarah Johnson

Administrative Assistant

Sarah was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. She has been on staff since August of 2022 as an Administrative Assistant for the Asia team. She is currently pursuing on her Psychology degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Sarah's favorite bible verse is Psalm 18:30-31.



Libby Daugherty, MSW

International Social Worker

Libby joined Lifeline in June of 2014 as an International Social Worker and serves on the China Team. Libby received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Liberty University and went on to get her Masters in Social Work at Valdosta State University. Her heart for orphan care and adoption began by having adopted siblings and was deepened through visiting an orphanage in South Africa.



Emily Hatcher, LMSW

International Social Worker

Emily joined Lifeline in May 2021 and serves in the Birmingham office as a Social Worker on the Asia International Team. Emily attended Mississippi State University and received her BA in Human Development and Family Science. After graduation, she attended Auburn University and received her Masters of Social Work.



Allie Wall, LMSW

International Social Worker

Allie has been with Lifeline since January 2020. She first served as an intern for 3 semesters before coming onboard as a staff member in May 2021. Allie works in the Birmingham office on the International team as a caseworker and administrative assistant for China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Allie attended Samford University and received her BA in Human Development and Family Science and her Masters of Social Work from UAB.



Kayla Adams

Travel Coordinator

Kayla joined Lifeline in May 2021 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. “My favorite thing about working at Lifeline is the joy I am able to bring to families when they are able to travel and meet their child for the first time. There is nothing more rewarding than helping bring a family together!”

Our China In-Country Facilitator, [Lily](#), sees the value of all children and strives to advocate for waiting children. Lily has worked with Lifeline since 2000 and is a tremendous asset to Lifeline's program in China.



Karla Thrasher

Director of
International
Adoption



Jana Lombardo

Senior Program Director



Process Timeline

Application

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

2 weeks

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.

2-3 months

Matching

Matching is dependent on the family's openness to age and need. Families can receive pre-approval for an older child with more significant needs earlier in the process. If waiting to match with a younger child, a family will receive files for review after submitting their dossier. LOA is the matching document issued by the CCCWA. Typically families travel 2-3 months after receiving LOA.

varies based on openness to age gender and sibling groups (can range from months to years)

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 China at 6 months and then annually for 1-5 years post adoption. Families will provide brief self-reports annually directly to the CCWA until the child is 18. Check-in calls and additional resources will also offered to support your family transition.

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 step one of immigration has been completed for the dossier, it will be sent to the program country for review. The China dossier is compiled of 13 items and is put together during the wait time for your Immigration Approval. Lifeline will notarize and authenticate the dossier documents for you.

2-3 months

Travel

During your trip to China, Lifeline will assign you an English-speaking guide to assist in your adoption process, sight-seeing, and navigation around China. The first week will be spent in your child's province. You will have family day, your ADOPTION IS FINALIZED the day after family day and you will tour your child's orphanage. The second week will be spent in Guangzhou and you will complete important appointments and complete paperwork. There is some time for site-seeing and cultural experience during this trip.

45 days

Chronological Fee Tool

Application Fee \$300
due at the time of application

Agency Fee A \$3,562.50
due upon program acceptance, 2 weeks
after application

Agency Fee B \$3,562.50
due at completion of home study,
roughly 3 to 4 months after application

Agency Fee C \$3,562.50
due at dossier submission, 6 to
9 months after application

Agency Fee D \$3,562.50
due prior to Trip 1, as early as 9
months after application

Third Party Fees \$13,298.00
due throughout the process including
fees to US and Chinese governing bodies
and in-country facilitation fees

Travel Fees \$7022
Estimation for two adults traveling to
adopt one child. Expenses may vary
based on time of year, preferences, and
needs.