

# COLOMBIA

Colombia is a stable and growing intercountry adoption program. The country of Colombia is child-focused and the government and institutions care deeply for children and work hard to provide the best care possible. Lifeline has been blessed with strong relationships benefiting adoption and orphan care ministry in Colombia.

## Adoption Requirements

- Adoptive parents must be 25 years or older
- Couples married at least 2 years or single women can adopt
- If you're an expat, Colombia accepts diplomat families living in Colombia

## Children Coming Home

- 0-8 years old with moderate to significant special needs or children over 9 years with minor needs
- Sibling groups are common with or without medical needs
- Typical medical needs can include:
  - developmental, cognitive, speech and language delays, Down syndrome, Cerebral palsy, autism, emotional and behavioral needs

## Travel

- 1 trip is required
- 3-5 weeks in country
- Lifeline's in-country team provides guide services in Colombia

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

## Matching Overview

- Families are eligible for matching once their dossier is approved by ICBF/IAPA
- Families can pursue children on the waiting child list or wait to be presented a file at any point in the process. Minimum requirement for approval:
  - single child - up to 5 years old
  - siblings groups- up to 6 years old
- Estimated timeline for the process is 1 to 3 years depending on the families openness to age, medical needs and sibling groups.





# 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.

## 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 .

3 months

## Matching

Matching happens in Colombia after a family's dossier has been approved by ICBF/IAPA. After dossier approval families will either be assessed for the match with a child they previously submitted letter of intent for or wait to be directly match based on their openness to specific factors such as age, gender, and level of special need. Matching occurs directly from ICBF after a dossier is approved.

Current estimate is up to 24+ months after dossier approval waiting for a match

## 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 Colombia 6 , 12 , 18 and 24 months. Additional reports may be required if adopting older children or larger sibling groups. 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 sent to ICBF/IAPA for their official files and review. The Colombia dossier is compiled of about 25 items and is put together during the wait time for your Immigration Approval.

2 to 3 months

## Travel

During families' travel to Colombia, they will experience a bonding time with the child for the first 1-1 1/2 weeks. After the bonding period there will be a court process to **FINALIZE YOUR ADOPTION!** After the adoption decree is issued, families update 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 Colombia. Lifeline's in-country team will support the family, provide translation and guide services during the stay.

2-4 months after matching

# Chronological Fee Tool

Application Fee \$300  
due at the time of application

Agency Fee A \$4,425.00  
due upon program acceptance, 2 weeks  
after application

Agency Fee B \$4,425.00  
due at completion of home study,  
roughly 3 to 4 months after application

Agency Fee C \$4,425.00  
due at dossier submission, 6 to  
9 months after application

Agency Fee D \$4,425.00  
due prior to Adoption Trip, as early as 12  
months after application

Third Party Fees \$5,430.00  
third party fees are estimated and  
include home study fees, dossier fees,  
and US governing body required fees

Foreign Program Fees \$10,100.00  
representative, in-country facilitation,  
and translation fees - these are paid to  
Lifeline but used for foreign program  
services

Travel Fees \$11,125.00  
Estimated for two adults traveling to  
adopt one child. Expenses may vary  
based on time of year, preferences, and  
needs.



# Travel Details

## 3-5 week trip

Families will travel to Colombia for approximately three to five weeks to complete their adoption. The trip consists of a bonding period, court process, and visa paperwork.



## Bonding, Court, Visa

The first week and a half is considered bonding period where the child resides with the adopting family and they spend time getting to know one another. After this step families proceed to the court process and wait for their adoption decree to be finalized. After adoption decree is issued, travel documentation is updated to process 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 your stay in Colombia. Most of the teammates are bilingual and provide translation and guide services during your stay. Colombia is open to families traveling with current children in the home and our team helps to prepare your family if you choose to bring your children on the adoption trip.



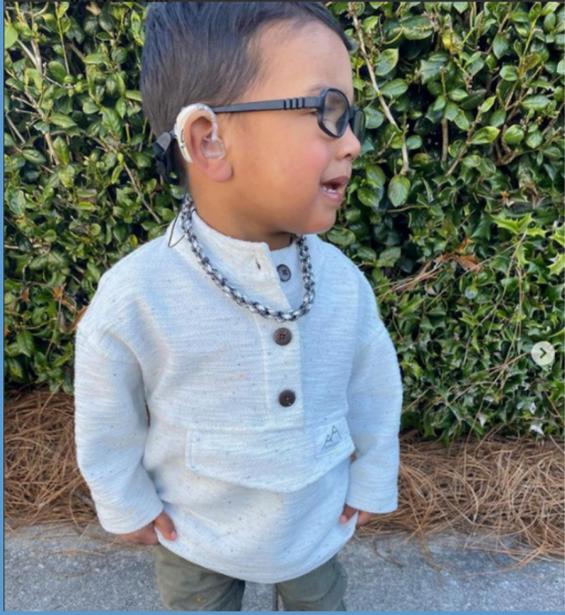
# Meet the Team



Lifeline's Colombia adoption team enjoys preparing families for inter-country adoption and advocating for waiting children. Our team are experts in adoption from Colombia and are prepared to walk alongside families each step of the journey.



Our representative in Colombia, [Soraya Diaz](#), facilitates Lifeline's adoption program in Colombia. Lifeline has relationships with IAPAS in Colombia such as: FANA, La Casa, La Madre y El Nino, CRAN, Casita de Nicolas and Chiquitines and also advocates for children assigned from ICBF.



““We entered the adoption process with the commitment to always say “Yes” moving forward until God closed doors. When we matched with Luis and reviewed his extensive medical history, we were anxious, but tossed our fear aside and said “yes” as we had planned. We are forever grateful that God called us to adoption and thankful for how He continues to equip us with the confidence and strength we need.” – The Beck Family

"When you adopt a child with special needs, you surrender any previous thoughts and notions about what the Lord can do in your child's life and your family! God works miracles in these children - that had we not adopted them, we would be missing out on HIS glorious works!" - The Burns Family



"In every respect, it has been a joy to work with Lifeline! We were cared for and prayed for every step of the process. We were blessed by a Lifeline grant called the Hope Adoption Fund. This was a great encouragement to our family, confirming that God was in this and provide all that we needed." - The Allen Family

Through Lifeline's Rooted In Love conference, along with her own research, Karen felt more equipped to care for Tatiana and to understand the circumstances her daughter had experienced prior to adoption. She and Hugo also urged adoptive parents to learn about the culture of their child's home country. They know that regardless of sharing cultural heritage, the Lord can break cultural barriers to bring families together. - The Lopez Family

