The International Adoption Chart and how to use it

On the next three pages you will find our International Adoption Chart which lists program requirements. Most countries and programs have their own policies regarding the age, marital status and background of adoptive applicants. In some countries, requirements may be more flexible for children with known medical and developmental needs and for older children.

If you are uncertain whether you meet the requirements of a specific country, please contact an adoption information specialist at 651-646-7771 or (toll free) 800-952-9302 or email us for information on Children's Home and Lutheran Social Service programs at welcome@chsfs.org.

The information on the chart is subject to change and is updated frequently. The most current version of the chart is available on our website: www.chsfs.org.

Who can adopt?

- All costs, time frames and program requirements are subject to change.
- At least one applicant must be a citizen of the United States.
- Preapproval required for some health and background issues.
- Applicants must be at least 25 years of age; there can be no more than 50 years difference in age between the younger applicant and the child being considered for adoption.
- There must be at least a 15-year age difference between the younger parent and child.
- Exceptions may be made for relative and/or designated adoptions of children ages 10 and older.
- The age ranges listed on the International Adoption Chart may also represent age requirements set by the country, which may be more restrictive than those of Children's Home/Lutheran Social Service.
- Applicants must meet U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services income requirements and demonstrate financial stability.

In accordance with international adoption standards of practice, additional statistical information regarding placements, adoption disruptions, and number of adoptive applicants for the previous three years is available upon request.

Choosing a Program

Because children around the world need families and we work with many countries, choosing a program may be challenging. Consider the following questions:

- What age range will I consider for the child I hope to adopt? Please note that child's age at placement will encompass the child's age at referral plus time from referral to travel.
- Am I interested in a certain culture/country? Is there a country I have lived in, visited, have heritage from, or have studied?
- Am I comfortable parenting a child with known medical needs?
- What medical issues are prevalent in children adopted from a particular country?
- Is there the ability to select gender?
- Are sibling groups available?
- What financial and other resources do I bring to the adoption process?
- How long am I willing to wait for placement of a child?
- How much time can I spend in the child's country of birth for the adoption?
- How much risk am I willing to take in new (pilot) programs or where procedures, requirements, costs and time frames are less predictable?

What is a pilot program?

A pilot program is a new program that has had a limited number of families adopt through it. If you are a flexible, adventurous family willing to work in a program where the process can be unpredictable, please consider a pilot program.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROGRAM CHART

Each program is unique and may have additional flexibility in requirements, depending on your individual circumstances. If you are interested in a particular program, please call to inquire for the most current information, as criteria is subject to change at any time.

WIC = Waiting Identified Children, defined as children for whom we have received referral information, often older children, members of a sibling group, or children with known special needs that range in severity. Program requirements, fees and eligibility may be more flexible for WIC adoptions. Please inquire for specific information - 651-646-7771 or 1-800-952-9302, welcome@chsfs.org.

CH = Children's Home Society of Minnesota programs; LSS = Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota programs

		Brazil - LSS	Bulgaria - CH	China - CH
Children	Age *(at referral)*	Generally 6 years and older	3-15 years	7 months - 13 years
	Sibling groups	Yes - some in sib group younger than 6	Yes	Rare
	Number of children placed in 2014	0 (Pilot Program)	0 (Pilot Program)	45
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	Age *(at application to CH/LSS)*	Minimum age is 25	25-55	Minimum age is 30. For married couples no more than a 50 year age difference between younger parent and child; for single women no more than a 45 year age difference between parent and child.
	Age difference between parent(s) and child	Adoptive parents must be 16 years older than the child(ren) being adopted	Younger parent must be 15-50 years older than the child(ren) being adopted	
	Singles	Yes - single women and single men can adopt	Yes - single women; single men (WIC only). Cohabitating couples must be married at time of adoption	Yes - single women can adopt through the Jade and Pearl track
	Marriage: minimum length	Minimum 1 year of marriage. Same-sex couples can adopt.	1 year	2 years if 1st marriage 5 years if 2nd or 3rd marriage
	Marriage: maximum divorces	Not specified	Not specified	Maximum 2 divorces per spouse
	WIC Track	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Traditional track	Yes	Yes	N/A
	Heritage track	No	No	N/A
	Choosing gender	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed - Jade/Pearl Track
	Current family size	No restriction	No restriction	Flexible, if financial requirements met
	Health requirements	Chronic/serious issues considered case-by-case	Chronic/serious issues considered case-by-case	Body mass index considered; no serious health issues; please inquire
	Financial requirements	No additional requirements	No additional requirements	Minimum income $30,000 + $10,000 per child living in home. Couples: Minimum net worth of $80,000. Singles: Minimum net worth of $100,000.
	Background requirements	Criminal history considered case-by-case	Criminal history considered case-by-case	Restrictions may apply, please inquire
	Other requirements	None	Home study must be completed by a Hague-accredited agency.	High school diploma or equivalent. Home study must be completed by a non-profit, Hague or COA accredited agency.
Referral/Travel/Fees/Program Status	Estimated wait for referral	6-12 months from approval of dossier by Brazilian Central Authority.	WIC - immediate; Regular program - 12-36 months; depends on openness	Jade Track: 1-9 months from sending dossier; Pearl Track/WIC: 0-6 months from home study
	Estimated wait for travel *(after referral acceptance)*	5-9 weeks	2-3 months after referral acceptance	10-14 weeks after China approves match; Jade Track: 4-6 months from referral; Pearl Track: 4-6 months from sending dossier.
	Travel requirements: *number of trips*	1 trip	2 trips; approx. 4-6 months apart	1 trip
	Travel requirements: *length of trips*	Approximately 35-45 days	Approximately 6-10 days each	2 weeks on average
	Travel requirements: *who travels*	Both parents are required to stay in country the entire time	1st trip: both parents 2nd trip: one or both parents	At least one parent must travel
	Country program fee	$13,500	Traditional program: $12,500; WIC program: $10,500	$11,450-$12,000
	Program status	Open - pilot program	Open - pilot program	Open

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROGRAM CHART

		Colombia - CH/LSS	Ecuador - CH	Honduras - CH
Children	**Age *(at referral)***	3 months - 15 years	2-15 years	Infant - 15 years
	Sibling groups	Yes	Yes	Rare
	Number of children placed in 2014	22	1	2
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	**Age *(at application to CH/LSS)***	25-55	25-50	25-51
	Age difference between parent(s) and child	Please see our website for details, www.chsfs.org.	Younger parent must be at least 14 years older than child to be adopted and no more than 45 years older than child to be adopted. Age requirements apply to the younger parent.	No more than 50 year age difference between younger parent and child
	Singles	Yes - single women (WIC only) and single men (WIC only)	Yes - single women	Yes - single women
	Marriage: minimum length	2 years	3 years	3 years
	Marriage: maximum divorces	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified
	Waiting Identified Child (WIC) Track	Yes	Yes	Yes - parents can identify child or match through WIC
	Traditional track	Yes - must be open to older child and/or child with identified needs	No	Yes
	Heritage track	Yes - at least one parent with Colombian birth certificate, passport and ID card *(cedula)*	No	No
	Choosing gender	WIC: allowed; Heritage: with previous adoption from Colombia	Allowed	Allowed - designated adoption
	Current family size	No restriction	No restriction	No restriction
	Health requirements	No serious health issues; please inquire about specific situations.	Restrictions apply; please inquire	No serious health issues; please inquire about specific situations
	Financial requirements	No additional requirements	No additional requirements	No additional requirements
	Background requirements	Restrictions may apply, please inquire	Restrictions apply; please inquire	No criminal history allowed
	Other requirements	None	None	Designated adoptions where parents identify child and WIC
Referral/Travel/Fees/Program Status	**Estimated wait for referral**	WIC: 6-12 months from dossier approval Heritage: 6-18 months from dossier approval	N/A (WIC Only Program)	WIC: 3-8 months for official match Traditional track: 24-36 months after dossier submission
	Estimated wait for travel *(after referral acceptance)*	5-9 weeks	5-9 weeks	2-4 weeks
	Travel requirements: *number of trips*	1 trip	1 trip	2 trips
	Travel requirements: *length of trips*	Approximately 4-8 weeks	Approximately 8 weeks	Two trips--Trip 1: one week; Trip 2: 5-6 weeks
	Travel requirements: *who travels*	Both parents (if married) for part of trip; 1 parent for entire trip.	Both parents (if married) for at least 4 weeks; one parent must remain for entire trip.	Trips 1 and 2: Both parents (if married). On trip 2 one parent must remain for entire trip.
	Country program fee	$8,000-$10,000	$14,000	$11,000
	Program status	Open; both CH and LSS have programs in Colombia.	Open - pilot program	Open for designated adoptions, WIC and traditional track. Pilot program.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROGRAM CHART

		India - CH	Korea - CH	Marshall Islands - LSS
Children	Age *(at referral)*	8 months - 12 years	6 months - 5 years (average 1-2 yrs.)	2-12 months
	Sibling groups	Rare	Rare	Rare
	Number of children placed in 2014	6	40	20
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	Age *(at application to CH/LSS)*	Married couples - 25-53 Single women - 30-50	General guideline: 25-44 at application. Up to age 50 for families in which both spouses are Korean, families who have adopted from Korea and couples in which one spouse was adopted (not restricted to Korean adoptees).	Minimum age 25; no more than 50 year age difference between younger parent & child.
	Age difference between parent(s) and child	No more than 50 year age difference between younger parent and child	No more than 50 year age difference between younger parent and child	No more than 50 year age difference between younger parent and child
	Singles	Yes - single women can adopt boys or girls; single men can adopt boys only.	No	Yes - single women
	Marriage: minimum length	2 years	3 years	1 year
	Marriage: maximum divorces	Not specified	Two per couple	Not specified
	Waiting Identified Child (WIC) Track	Yes	Yes - open to families nationwide	No
	Traditional track	Yes - must be open to older child and/or child with identified needs	Yes	Yes
	Heritage track	Yes - Families where one parent is NRI/one is U.S. citizen; or one or both parents are OCI cardholders.	Yes - One or both parents of Korean heritage.	No
	Choosing gender	Allowed	Traditional - not allowed Heritage - discouraged	Openness required
	Current family size	No more than 3 children	No more than 4 children	No restrictions
	Health requirements	No serious or chronic health issues; please inquire.	No serious physical or mental health issues including overweight	No serious health issues, including depression; please inquire.
	Financial requirements	No additional requirements	Minimum income of $35,000 + $10,000 per child in home	No additional requirements
	Background requirements	Restrictions apply; please inquire	Medical and criminal history considered case-by-case	Criminal history considered case-by-case
	Other requirements	No current use of of medication for mental health (including depression or anxiety)	High school and some post-secondary education required. Home study must be completed by a Hague accredited agency.	Familes must be open to maintaining ongoing relationship with child's birth family. Each applicant must carry life insurance in the amount of $250,000
Referral/Travel/Fees/Program Status	Estimated wait for referral	Heritage: 6-12 months Traditional: 10-18 months Depends on family's openness to health conditions	Up to 12 months; varies by openness to special needs. Inquire about Heritage Track.	6-12 months after dossier submission
	Estimated wait for travel *(after referral acceptance)*	8-12 months	Up to 18 months	2-6 weeks
	Travel requirements: *number of trips*	1 or 2 trips; varies by Indian state	2 trips	1 trip
	Travel requirements: *length of trips*	Minimum 10 days per trip	Each trip approx. 5-6 days in length	4-6 weeks
	Travel requirements: *who travels*	Varies by Indian state	Both parents must travel for 1st trip; one parent can travel on 2nd trip	Parents must travel for first 2 weeks along with any children currently in home; 1 parent must stay entire trip
	Country program fee	$10,500	Traditional & Heritage Tracks: $26,500 WIC: $24,800	$19,900
	Program status	Open	Open	Notification list for eligible families