



AAICAMA FAQs Series

Adoption Assistance Basic Information

2. Do all states offer adoption assistance?

Answer: Yes, all states and the District of Columbia have adoption assistance programs. In fact, all United States jurisdictions have two types of adoption assistance programs.

Legislative background: *The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980* required all states to create an adoption assistance program. The Federal government gave funding to the states to be used for children previously eligible for the foster care program to help these children move from foster care into permanent homes.

There are two types of adoption assistance:

- 1.) Title IV-E Adoption Assistance and
- 2.) State Adoption Assistance.

Title IV-E is a Federal program and State Adoption Assistance is a state program. The benefits available under both programs generally fall into three categories: 1) monthly financial assistance 2) medical services and 3) adoption support services- often referred to as post adoption services. The benefits a child will receive will depend on whether s/he receives title IV-E Adoption Assistance or State Adoption Assistance and in which state your family resides.

Note: In addition to adoption assistance payments, funding exists to provide reimbursement to adoptive families of adoption-related expenses up to a state-determined amount (the state from which the child is being adopted). Known as *non-recurring adoption expenses*, states may reimburse families up to a maximum of \$2,000 for certain one-time expenses considered reasonable and necessary incurred in the adoption of a child with special needs. Allowable expenses can include attorney fees, court costs, the cost of a home study, physical and psychological examinations, and other expenses related to a legal adoption.

Legal note: The Federal law on the title IV-E Adoption Assistance program is found at 42 U.S.C. §673.

Link: http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode42/usc_sec_42_0000673----000-.html (United States Code, Title IV-E)

U.S.C. refers to the United States Code
C.F.R. refers to the Code of Federal Regulations