

Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Program

America World Adoption

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If you are serious about adopting internationally, you have probably dreamt about what it will be like when you travel abroad to pick up your bundle of joy. You may have even shared this dream with a few family members and close friends. You have most likely thought about the commitment adoption requires . . . and how your life will change in so many ways when you finally hold that long-awaited child in your arms.

Certainly, you have considered the financial aspect of the decision to adopt. Couples who find they are unable to start a family are often discouraged by the reality of adoption expenses. Other couples, who already have children, also feel God's call to reach out to an orphan and take another child into their family, but may be restricted for financial reasons. Regardless of the reason for choosing adoption, the financial costs associated with the decision often prevent people from being able to realistically consider this option.

If you have prayed about your decision to adopt and believe it is a step you are being led to take, the Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Program can be of help to you. It is a partnership between you and your church, business, friends or family.

If you meet the America World grant guidelines (see p.4), the Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Program provides a way for your church, business, family member, or friend, to sponsor part of your adoption expenses. By making tax-deductible donations, individuals or groups can provide funds toward your adoption. The limit of donations that can be put toward your adoption is determined by your household income. Any amount above the limit will not be refundable to the donor or to the family but will be used for other families.

Our reason for offering a support program option for families is based on the Bible. America World's mission verse, Romans 8:15, says "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father." What a wonderful way to demonstrate Christ's unconditional love. As your child grows up, he or she will possess a very special bond with the members of your church, family and others. They will essentially become part of her "extended" family . . . sprung by the common love of Christ, and by their involvement in bringing her to your family. That, indeed, is an "Eternal Family."

In order to fully comply with the law, America World retains discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Contributions become part of a fund used to assist families with their adoption expenses. While we cannot guarantee that all funds raised by you will be made available to you, America World does work to honor the wishes of donors. For a complete list of the criteria used by America World in making grant decisions see "Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Guidelines" on page 5.

Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Program

How Do I Begin?

- Pray about your decision to adopt.
- Consult the Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Guidelines (p.4) to see if you qualify. If you think you do, apply online for acceptance into the program at <http://www.awaa.org/programs/eternalfamily.aspx>. If your application is approved you may begin soliciting contributions. *Please note, If your application is rejected (or you discontinue your adoption) and you have already raised contributions, these funds will **not** be refunded to the donor.* They will be used to assist other America World families with their adoption expenses. It makes sense, therefore, to wait for America World approval before soliciting contributions.
- Make an appointment with your pastor, a business, family member or friend. Share with them your desire to adopt. Present the Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Program and explain how the process works for you, as well as them. Attached is a sample letter you may use as an outline to send to friends and family.
- Pray about this partnership both individually and together. Plan to meet again in a week or two, so that each side can have the opportunity to seek God's will in this situation.
- If you and your church, business, family member, or friends feel positive about this partnership, discuss the details regarding how to begin.
- Use the following form to record contributions. Make copies as needed. Some contributions may be given by individuals, or by groups of people, such as a Sunday school class, youth group, business or organization.
- Be sure to involve those sponsoring you in the adoption experience, and keep them updated on the progress of your adoption. They can even stay involved while you wait for your referral by assisting you in collecting donations for travel, or helping you prepare for your new child.
- Have a party with your support team when you return from your trip with your newly adopted little one. They will no doubt be as excited as you to meet the precious child they helped you adopt.
- Remember that this is a partnership: your church, a business, family member or friend has assisted America World in helping you adopt your child, and now you are the official "Adoption Mission Liaison."
- Keep in contact with us regarding mission needs, prayer requests, and ideas for continued outreach. We also are partners with you in this process and we desire to serve you, and share in the joy of your adoption.

Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Guidelines

Eligibility Requirements for Eternal Family grants:

- Must be a registered America World family
- must reside in USA
- must have completed a satisfactory home study

America World gives preference to:

- families adopting special needs children
- members of the "clergy (church staff)"
- families adopting sibling children
- families adopting for the first time
- families getting support from their church

America World will NOT consider for funding:

- refundable post placement deposit
- if child placement has already occurred

Grant Awards:

<u>Income Level</u>	<u>Potential Grant Award</u>
\$20,000- \$39,999	Up to \$10,000
\$40,000- \$49,999	Up to \$9,000
\$50,000- \$59,999	Up to \$8,000
\$60,000- \$69,999	Up to \$7,000
\$70,000- \$79,999	Up to \$6,000
over \$80,000	Up to \$5,000

Eternal Family FAQs

Q: What do I have to do to be eligible?

1. Check guidelines to see if you qualify.
2. Apply online at <http://www.awaa.org/programs/eternalfamily.aspx>
3. America World accepts or rejects application based on criteria set forth on p.5. If your application is rejected (or you discontinue your adoption) and you have already raised contributions, these funds will **not** be refunded to donor. They will be used to assist other America World families with their adoption expenses.
4. If accepted into program, you may begin soliciting donations (checks made payable to America World).
5. Donations are logged into the Eternal Family fund account at America World.
6. You may request an update of the funds available by emailing candice.chung@awaa.org.
7. Funds are available to pay all payments that are made directly to AWAA.
8. No funds will be granted after travel date.

Q: What happens to the contributions I raise?

A: All Eternal Family contributions are deposited into a designated Eternal Family account at America World, which retains control over all funds.

Q: Will all the money I raise go to my adoption expenses?

In order to fully comply with the law, America World retains discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Contributions become part of a fund used to assist families with their adoption expenses. While we cannot guarantee that all funds raised by you will be made available to you, America World does work to honor the wishes of donors.

Q: What if I raise more money than I am eligible for?

A: This money will not be refunded to the donor or family. It will be used to assist other America World families with their adoption expenses.

Q: Are donations tax deductible?

A: Yes. America World is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all contributions to the Eternal Family Fund are considered tax deductible in the year they're given.

Q: When will I be notified of how much money I qualify for?

A: You will be notified upon acceptance into the program the amount that you are eligible to receive.

Q: Which expenses can I apply my Eternal Family grant to?

A: Funds from the Eternal Family program may be used to pay all remaining AWAA program fees, as well as travel related expenses that are paid directly to AWAA.