

AAP: ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

AAP stands for Adoption Assistance Program. It is a program funded by your state in order to help families who have adopted at risk children. When you adopt a child from foster care, you are often eligible to continue receiving a monthly stipend from the state to help with your expenses. In some rare cases, even if you adopt domestically, you can still be eligible for AAP if the child is considered “at risk.” Your social worker will discuss AAP with you during your home study. Visit this website to learn more: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1303.htm>

The following is taken from the AAP website:

Federal subsidies were created by Congress (through Public Law 96-272 - the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980) to encourage the adoption of special needs children and remove the financial disincentives for families to adopt. Recognizing that adoptive parents often experience financial difficulty meeting the special needs of children who formerly were placed in California’s foster care system, the State Legislature created the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP). In creating the program, the Legislature intended to benefit children in foster care by providing the security and stability of a permanent home through adoption. Children may receive a federally funded subsidy under Title IV-E or a state-funded subsidy per state guidelines.

To apply for the AAP, adoptive families must submit a completed Request for Adoption Assistance ([AAP 1](#)) form which is provided by their licensed adoption agency. The responsible public agency will determine the child’s special needs eligibility for participation in the program. If the child is deemed eligible, the responsible public agency will negotiate a signed adoption assistance agreement, or a deferred adoption assistance agreement will be executed with the adoptive parents, prior to the adoption finalization. A reassessment of the child’s needs and family’s circumstances is conducted every two years. The amount of financial assistance is determined based upon the special needs of the child and circumstances of the family. An adopted child who receives AAP benefits from California may move anywhere in the world and still receive monthly subsidy payments until the age of 18 or 21, if the child has a mental or physical disability.