

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### *National Adoption Month*

## **Ohio Adoption Grant Program removes cost barrier for many families**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Earlier this year, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed the Ohio Adoption Grant Program into law. During November’s National Adoption Month, he is reminding potential adoptive families about this helpful resource.

“Every child deserves a safe, permanent, loving home,” said Governor DeWine. “Whether you’re adopting from the foster care system or through private adoption, the Ohio Adoption Grant will help offset the cost of growing your family.”

The Ohio Adoption Grant Program provides up to \$20,000 in a one-time payment to parents who adopt children under the age of 18, including privately arranged adoptions. This also applies to adoptions made through a public children’s services agency, including by foster and kinship caregivers. However, this does not include adoptions made by a stepparent. If parents have finalized an adoption since January 1, 2023, they can begin applying for the grant today.

This program replaces the existing state adoption tax credit. Instead, it offers three levels of one-time payments:

- \$10,000 to anyone (except a stepparent) adopting a youth.
- \$15,000 if the parent was a foster caregiver who cared for the child before adoption.
- A \$20,000 grant to families that adopt a child with special needs, as determined by a qualified professional.

“It is vital that we eliminate as many barriers as possible so that more Ohioans feel adoption is an option for them,” said Kara Wentz, Director of the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. “This financial assistance can make all the difference to adoptive parents and to youth waiting for families.”

Ohioans who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for the Ohio Adoption Grant Program.

- You adopted a child under the age of 18 on or after January 1, 2023.
- You are applying less than one year after the adoption became final.
- You live in Ohio at the time of the application.
- You are not a stepparent seeking to adopt a stepchild.





Mike DeWine, Governor | Jon Husted, Lt. Governor | Kara Wentz, Director

To start the application process, an eligible adoptive parent will need to visit [FosterAndAdopt.ohio.gov](https://FosterAndAdopt.ohio.gov) click on Adoption, then Ohio Adoption Grant Program. Clicking on the blue launch button will require the creation of an account with MyOhio (OH|ID) before the application can be completed.

For more detailed information can be found within the [Ohio Adoption Grant Community User Guide](#), which walks the adoptive parent through the application process.

“In addition to the Adoption Grant, Ohio also launched an online process individuals can use to begin the adoption process,” said Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Matt Damschroder.

“Families looking to grow through adoption can complete the Foster and Adoptive Parent Inquiry Form by going to [FosterAndAdopt.ohio.gov](https://FosterAndAdopt.ohio.gov),”

The inquiry form, housed within the Ohio Certification for Agencies & Families, allows prospective adoptive parents to select an agency or speak to a specialist. The information submitted through the form will be sent directly to the agency selected or to the Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association for follow up, if an agency is not identified.

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*The Ohio Department of Children and Youth's mission is to promote positive, lifelong outcomes for Ohio youth through early intervention, quality education, and family support programs.*

