



# **Post Adoption and Guardianship Services**





# Post Adoption and Guardianship Services

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) realizes the valuable contribution families make in giving a child a permanent family through adoption or guardianship. This undertaking is one that will change lives forever.

By making the lifelong commitment to be there for a child, adoptive and guardianship parents have ended the formal, day-to-day involvement of DCFS. That prospect can raise many emotions and perhaps even some concerns. Your family now makes the important decisions for the children now in your home. You, not a caseworker, are responsible for finding information and programs.

It is important that children and families do more than survive. They should thrive. There are many resources through the department, other government agencies, and in the community that can help you meet your responsibilities.

The Post Adoption and Guardianship Services booklet is designed to present families with an overview of the many services available to meet your child's ongoing needs. The first section outlines services that the department provides or funds for children previously in its care. It also includes resources outside of DCFS that you may contact for services. At the end of the booklet there is a collection of information available to all families that is not specific to adoption but may be of special interest to adoptive and guardianship families. Please keep this booklet as a handy reference.



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# Part 1: Adoption and Guardianship Subsidy and Other Financial Considerations

## The Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy

Families adopting waiting children or becoming guardians of children in the care of DCFS may receive subsidies to assist them after adoption or guardianship.

### Subsidy components

Subsidies for eligible children may include any or all of the following:

- Payment for non-recurring expenses directly related to the adoption is available in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 per child for the adoption and \$2,000 for the guardianship.
- Monthly cash payments are available based on the needs of the child and the family circumstances, not to exceed the amount received in care.
- A Medicaid card is available to cover Medicaid-eligible services.
- Payment or reimbursement payment can be made for physical, emotional and mental health needs that are not covered through insurance or public resources and that resulted from a pre-existing condition.
- Employment-related day care payments are available for children under the age of three years, if day care is required due to the parent or guardian's employment or participation in a training program that will lead to employment.
- Therapeutic day care is available for children who are determined to have a disability that requires special education services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) and is not fundable through another source.
- Respite care for medically-fragile/technology-dependent children may be available for children who meet the medical eligibility guidelines used by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS).



If you have questions about your subsidy, contact your subsidy worker. You will receive the name and phone number of your subsidy worker when you finalize your adoption.

## Mediation and appeals of subsidies

If you believe that your rights under an adoption assistance or subsidized guardianship agreement have been violated in some way, an Administrative Appeal may be available to you. A written appeal must be filed within 45 calendar days of the Department's determination.



### Submit requests for an appeal to:

Administrative Hearings Unit  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
406 East Monroe Street  
Springfield IL 62701

For additional information about the DCFS Administrative Hearing process, call 217-782-6655 if you live outside of Cook county. If you live in Cook county, call 312-814-5540.

### Missing subsidy checks

If you have been receiving subsidy checks regularly and suddenly don't receive your monthly subsidy check, call the DCFS Payment Unit at 800-525-0499 select #2.

## Medical Care Payments

### Medical card

DCFS has arrangements with the Department of Public Aid (DPA) for all foster children to receive health coverage under the Medicaid plan. That arrangement continues after adoption or guardianship of a child formerly under DCFS care as part of the subsidy. When an adoption or guardianship finalizes, a medical card is issued with the first subsidy payment. The medical card will pay for all Medicaid-eligible services provided by an approved Medicaid provider.

Medical cards are issued once a year. If your child's medical card is ever lost, call 800-228-6533 to request a replacement. You will be given a form letter (Notice of Medicaid Coverage for DCFS Clients) which can be used until your card is replaced.

### Dental/Orthodontic services

If you need to find a dental or orthodontia provider in your area who accepts Medicaid, contact Doral Dental and ask for member services at 888-286-2447. When given your zip code, they will locate providers near your home.

# Subsidy and Medical Coverage Payments When Moving Out of Illinois

## Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA)

### ICAMA and adoptive families

Families often worry about what will happen to their child's subsidy if they move out of state. Illinois is a member of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA), which assists adoptive families moving in or out of Illinois.

### Moving prior to adoption finalization

Your subsidy worker will provide you with information about your child's medical coverage prior to the adoption. If you will be moving out of state, there are a number of options for medical care in your new state of residence. Be sure to contact your subsidy worker or contact the Interstate Compact Office at 217-558-7182 to discuss these options before moving out of state.



### Moving after finalization

If you plan an out-of-state move after the adoption is finalized, contact your subsidy worker for information on the steps that will be taken to ensure that the new state has all of the necessary information. **Illinois will continue to process your monthly subsidy payment and you may contact your subsidy worker as needed.** Your subsidy worker will provide information about the options for medical coverage described above.

### ICAMA and subsidized guardianship families

At this time there is no formalized Compact Program for guardianship families. However, there are several options available to provide medical coverage. First, if you are a relative to the child/ren under guardianship, you are encouraged to apply for medical coverage through the Medicaid program in your new state. If you are not a relative or are not eligible, there are two alternatives. You could select a medical provider who would choose to enroll in the Illinois Medicaid Program and thus be covered directly through Illinois Medicaid. Lastly, families could pay for the services and be reimbursed by DCFS at the Medicaid rate for Medicaid-eligible services or for other therapeutic services. Additionally, the child may have a pre-existing condition for which therapeutic treatment or services would be covered under the subsidy. Before accessing such services, families should seek prior approval from the subsidy worker in Illinois.

Guardianship families can contact the Interstate Compact Office at 217-558-7182 to discuss these options before moving out of state.

Illinois will continue to process your monthly subsidy payment and you may continue to contact your subsidy worker as needed.

## Tax Information for Foster and Adoptive Families

Since 2003, families who adopt a child with special needs from foster care can claim a federal adoption tax credit without needing to incur or document expenses. [For non-special needs adoptions (except step-parent adoptions, which do not qualify for the credit), parents can claim the credit with the same rules as below, except that they have to document qualified adoption expenses.]



The amount of the credit is based on the year the adoption finalized:

2011: \$13,360	2008: \$11,650	2005: \$10,630
2010: \$13,170	2007: \$11,390	2004: \$10,390
2009: \$12,150	2006: \$10,960	2003: \$10,160

To qualify for the credit without documenting expenses, families must:

- have adopted a child with special needs, and
- have a modified adjusted gross income of a certain level

How much, if any, of the credit you can use is based on your income. Families with a 2010 federal modified adjusted gross income above \$222,520 cannot claim the credit at all; families with 2010 incomes above \$182,520 can claim partial credit.

To claim the credit, complete IRS Form 8839 in addition to filing your usual IRS Form 1040. You can request the form by calling 800-829-1040. As documentation of your adoption of a child with special needs, the IRS requires a copy of your adoption decree and adoption assistance agreement. For more information, visit [www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit.html](http://www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit.html), e-mail [taxcredit@nacac.org](mailto:taxcredit@nacac.org), or call 800-470-6665. NACAC is not a tax professional organization and this information should not be considered to be legal or tax advice.

## Education and Transition Services After Adoption and Guardianship

Youth in a subsidized adoption or subsidized guardianship from DCFS may access the following services as they transition to adulthood:

**Scholarship Program:** Youth may apply to this program through which 48 scholarships are awarded statewide each year. They must be between 16 and 21 years of age at point of application.

**Education Training Vouchers Program:** Youth adopted or moved to guardianship after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday may be eligible for these vouchers that assist in providing for post-secondary school expenses.

**Youth Housing Advocacy Program:** Youth adopted or moved to guardianship after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and are currently between 17½ and their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday may access housing advocacy services. This program does not include any monetary assistance. Call 312-814-5571 for more information.

# Part 2: Services and Supports for Adoptive and Guardianship Families

## Statewide Post Adoption and Guardianship Information

### Post adoption and guardianship subsidy contacts

For most services listed in this booklet you can contact the agencies directly at the numbers listed with the service such as Adoption and Guardianship Preservation, Respite, etc. **For any of the services listed in your subsidy agreement, you must contact your subsidy worker to obtain prior approval.** There are subsidy workers located in each of the regions. The regions, counties covered and general number are listed below.

#### Cook County

855-548-5505

#### Northern Region

Aurora Office: Kane, DuPage, McHenry and Lake

Supervisor: 847-888-7638

847-888-5546

847-888-7636

Joliet Office: Will, Grundy, Kendall and Kankakee

815-730-4086

Rockford Office: Winnebago, Boone, Stephenson, Jo Davies, Whiteside, Ogle, Lee, DeKalb and Carroll

815-987-4954

815-987-5220

#### Central Region

Supervisor: 217-278-5535

Peoria Office: Rock Island, Mercer, Warren, Henderson, McDounough, Fulton, Knox, Henry, Bureau, LaSalle, Putnam, Stark, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, Mason and Logan

309-671-7944

309-671-7945

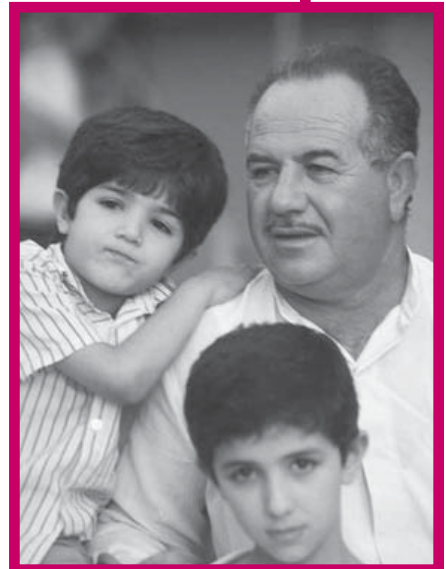
Springfield Office: Hancock, Adams, Schuyler, Brown, Pike, Calhoun, Jersey, Greene, Scott, Morgan, Cass, Menard, Sangamon, Christian, Montgomery and Macoupin

217-557-2668

Urbana Office: Livingston, McLean, DeWitt, Macon, Shelby, Moultrie, Piatt, Ford, Iroquois, Champaign, Vermilion, Douglas, Edgar, Coles, Cumberland and Clark

217-278-5550

217-278-5564



## Southern Region

Supervisor: 618-583-2184

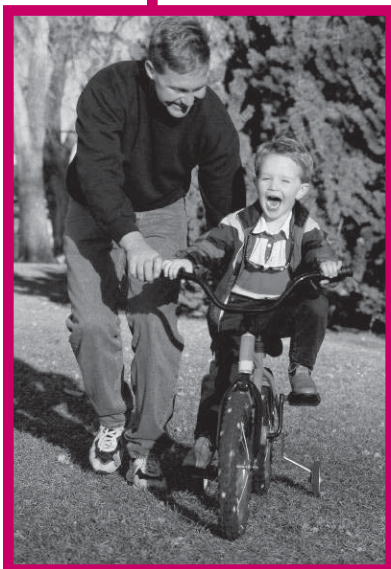
East St. Louis Office: Madison, Bond, Clinton, St. Clair,  
Monroe, Washington and Randolph

618-583-2189

Mt. Vernon Office: Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford,  
Marion, Clay, Richland, Lawrence, Jefferson, Wayne,  
Edwards, Wabash, Perry, Franklin, Hamilton, White,  
Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope,  
Hardin, Massac, Pulaski and Alexander

618-244-8424

618-244-8441



## Preservation Services

Families created through adoption or guardianship may experience problems that require intensive services to help a family gain stability and to reduce the risk of out-of-home placement. The Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Program recognizes that families built through adoption or guardianship may have characteristics significantly different from those created through birth. This can result in unique challenges for the family. The Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Program helps families who often feel they are at the end of their rope, by offering family-centered support and services. Testimonials from families who have used preservation services reveal that these services worked, while other traditional, less intensive services they had tried, did not. DCFS contracts with agencies statewide to provide Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Services.

The goals of all preservation programs are to help parents:

- Feel better about their ability to parent
- Understand adoption and guardianship and its impact on children
- Connect current behavior to past history
- Understand the child's past losses
- Gain skills to help their child

Each adoption preservation agency can provide services to help meet the following needs.

- **Comprehensive assessment/Crisis intervention:** Preservation staff will respond by phone within 24 hours and make an in-home visit within three days. A therapist will help a family identify their own strengths, complete an assessment and develop a family treatment plan within 30 days of the referral to the program.
- **Clinical services:** The therapist will provide the clinical services in the family treatment plan.
- **Support groups:** Support groups are offered for both parents and youth at times and locations that meet the family's needs.

- **Case management/Advocacy services:** The preservation agency will manage the case and the services as outlined in the family treatment plan.
- **Children’s mental health advocacy services:** If a child has significant mental health needs, the program will provide or facilitate the services.
- **Cash assistance:** If a family participating in the program experiences economic hardships or require specialized services that cannot be obtained through other resources, a cash assistance payment (limited to \$500 per family per fiscal year) may be provided.

The key to preservation services is that they serve the whole family to keep the family together. The preservation specialists work with all members of the family, not just the child with problems, to identify ways they can work as a unit. The adoption and guardianship preservation service agencies understand the rhythms of the special families they serve and are able to respond to crisis situations. Preservation services are provided to adoptive and guardianship families by nine private child welfare agencies that serve a specific geographic area. Families that find they need intensive intervention to keep their family together can call the appropriate agency from the list on the following pages.

## DCFS Cook County Regions

**Catholic Charities/Chicago**  
**Metropolitan Family Services/Chicago**  
 (Families in Cook County can contact either agency for service)

**312-655-8357**  
**708-974-5815**

## DCFS Northern Region

**Children’s Home & Aid Society/Rockford**  
 Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle,  
 Stephenson, Winnebago and Whiteside

**815-962-1043**

**Metropolitan Family Services/Wheaton**  
 Counties: DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall,  
 Lake, McHenry and Will

**630-784-4800**

**Lutheran Social Services/Bradley**  
 Counties: Kankakee

**815-936-9166**





## DCFS Central Region

**Cornerstone/Quincy** 217-222-8254

Counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun\*, Hancock, Pike and Schuyler

\* Families in this county are served by two agencies, according to address. Call to be referred to the appropriate agency.

**Family Service Center/Springfield** 217-528-8406

Counties: Cass, Christian, Greene, Macoupin, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon and Scott

**Lutheran Social Services/Peoria** 309-671-0300

Counties: Bureau, Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Knox, LaSalle, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, Warren and Woodford

**Lutheran Social Services/Danville** 217-477-0256

Counties: Iroquois and Vermilion

**The Baby Fold** 309-454-1770

Counties: Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Edgar, Douglas, Ford, Livingston, Logan, Macon, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt and Shelby

**Children's Home & Aid Society/ Granite City** 618-452-8900

Counties: Calhoun\*, Jersey, and Macoupin\*

\*Families in this county are served by two agencies, according to address.

Call to be referred to the appropriate agency.

## DCFS Southern Region

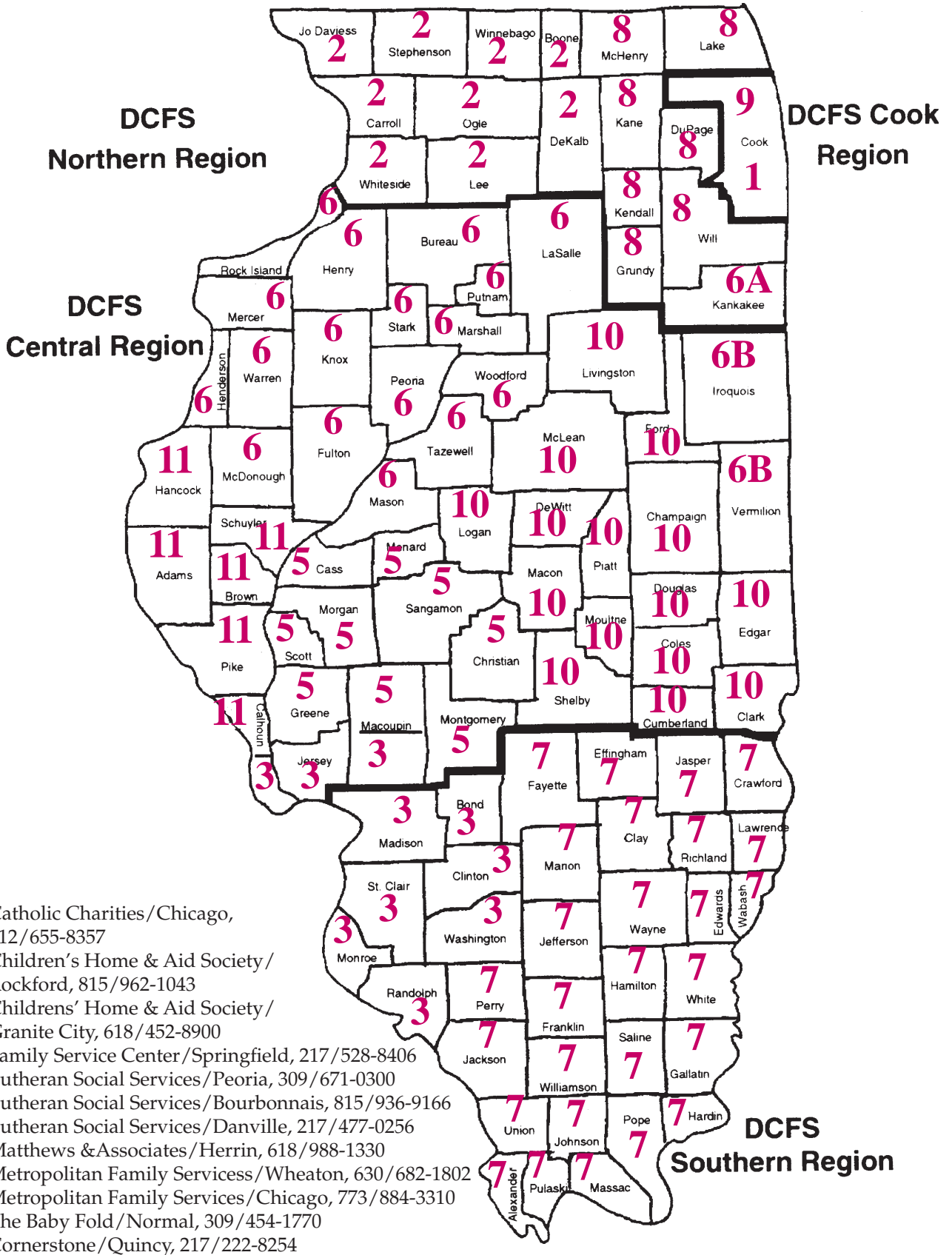
**Children's Home & Aid Society/Granite City** 618-452-8900

Counties: Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington

**Matthews & Associates/Herrin** 618-988-1330

Counties: Alexander, Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White and Williamson

# Illinois Sites: Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Providers



1. Catholic Charities/Chicago, 312/655-8357
2. Children's Home & Aid Society/ Rockford, 815/962-1043
3. Children's Home & Aid Society/ Granite City, 618/452-8900
5. Family Service Center/Springfield, 217/528-8406
6. Lutheran Social Services/Peoria, 309/671-0300
- 6A. Lutheran Social Services/Bourbonnais, 815/936-9166
- 6B. Lutheran Social Services/Danville, 217/477-0256
7. Matthews & Associates/Herrin, 618/988-1330
8. Metropolitan Family Services/Wheaton, 630/682-1802
9. Metropolitan Family Services/Chicago, 773/884-3310
10. The Baby Fold/Normal, 309/454-1770
11. Cornerstone/Quincy, 217/222-8254

## **Adoption and Guardianship Respite Program**

Respite Services are available through purchase of service contracts between DCFS and licensed child welfare agencies in Illinois. These services are available to children who were former wards of DCFS who were adopted or who were in a subsidized guardianship placement.



Respite Services are defined as short-term, temporary care provided for children accepted for service to give some relief to the adoption or guardianship family. Respite components may include any or all of the following: hourly in-home, out-of-home and overnight respite care; and specialized camp experiences. The respite care may be regularly scheduled or may be requested on an emergency basis.

An initial assessment is completed on the family and child to develop a service plan which will offer the appropriate type of respite for that family. Services may be provided up to one year. There is no cost for participation in this respite program.

### **Agency Respite Service Providers**

#### **DCFS Cook County Regions**

**Catholic Charities Chicago**  
651 West Lake Street  
Chicago, IL 60661  
Serves Cook County

**312-655-8430**

**Chicago Family Health**  
9204 S. Commercial  
Chicago, IL 60617  
Serves Cook County

**773-768-5000, ext. 1065**

**Healthy Families Chicago**  
2100 S. Marshall, 2nd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60623  
Serves Cook County

**773-257-0111**

**Metropolitan Family Services**  
13136 South Western Avenue  
Blue Island, IL 60406  
Serves Cook County

**708-974-5815**

## **DCFS Northern Region**

### **CHASI, Rockford**

910 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Rockford, IL 61104

Serves Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Winnebago and Whiteside counties

815-962-1043

### **McHenry County Mental Health Board**

532 W. Elm Street

McHenry, IL 60050

Serves McHenry County

815-788-4371

### **Metropolitan Family Services**

222 E. Willow

Wheaton, IL 60187-5276

Serves DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties

630-784-4800

### **Lutheran Social Services/Bradley**

Serves Kankakee county

815-936-9166

## **DCFS Central Region**

### **Baby Fold**

612 Oglesby

Normal, IL 61761

Serves Champaign, Clark, Cumberland, Coles, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Livingston, Logan, Macon, McLean Moultrie, Piatt and Shelby counties

309-454-1770

### **Catholic Charities**

815 2nd Street

LaSalle, IL 61301

Serves LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam, Marshall and Stark counties

815-223-4007

### **Cornerstone**

915 Vermont

Quincy, IL 62301

Serves Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Hancock, Pike and Schuyler counties

217-222-8254

### **Family Core**

706 E. Forrest Hill Avenue

Peoria, IL 61603

Serves Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties

309-682-4621



**Family Service Center**

1308 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Springfield, IL 62703

Serves: Cass, Christian, Greene, Northern Macoupin, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon and Scott counties

217-528-8406



**One Hope United - Hudelson**

701 Monroe Avenue

Charleston, IL 61920

Serves Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Douglas, Edgar, Shelby and Moultrie counties

217-345-6554

**Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

3000 Rohmann

Peoria, IL 61604

Serves Bureau, Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Knox, LaSalle, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Tazewell, Warren and Woodford counties

309-671-0300

**Project Success of Vermillion County, Inc.**

15019 Catlin-Tilton Road

Danville, IL 61834

Serves: Iroquois and Vermilion counties

217-446-3200

**DCFS Southern Region**

**CHASI, Granite City**

2133 Johnson Road

Granite City, IL 62040

Serves Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington counties

618-452-8900, Ext. 147

**Matthews and Associates**

109 Lou Ann Drive

Herrin, IL 62948

Serves Alexander, Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White and Williamson counties

618-988-1330

## Search and Reunion Services

Some adopted people feel a strong need for more information about their family of origin or eventually may decide to search for them. The decision to search is a complicated one, and the search itself can be a roller coaster of feelings, fears and hopes. Adoptees and birth family members whose adoption was handled by DCFS can request search and reunion service. Midwest Adoption Center (MAC) delivers this service for the Department throughout the state of Illinois. There is no fee for search service through the DCFS program. For information on search and reunion services contact MAC using the information below. Individuals who were not adopted but had been under the guardianship of DCFS may also request information from closed files and/or search services through this program.

Midwest Adoption Center  
DCFS Post-Adoption Program  
3158 Des Plaines River Road, Suite 120  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
847-298-9096  
Web site: [www.MACadopt.org](http://www.MACadopt.org)

## Adoption Registry

The Illinois Adoption Registry provides a way for certain individuals involved in an adoption in Illinois to locate other people involved in the adoption. Persons who were adopted or surrendered for adoption, their birth parents, birth siblings, adoptive parents and legal guardians of an adopted person may file their consent to exchange information with others involved in the adoption. If done in compliance with the law, information may be exchanged without the need for a court order.

Confidential facts may be released to registrants only after at least two parties to the adoption have filed their consent to exchange the specified information.

The following individuals may register:

- Birth parents
- Adopted or surrendered person, 21 years of age or older
- Siblings, only if the common birth parent(s) is deceased, 21 years of age and older
- Adoptive parents of adopted individuals under age 21
- Legal guardians of adopted or surrendered persons



The Adoption Registry also includes a Medical Exchange. The Medical Information Exchange Questionnaire asks questions about diseases or conditions that medical professionals believe may be inherited or have a genetic link, this is, illnesses that “run in families.” These diseases and conditions are of interest to other biological family members and their physicians because knowing about them may alert the family members and physicians to watch more carefully for certain signs and symptoms and to take preventive action. Medical History can be exchanged confidentially without revealing identities. No identity will be exchanged unless all parties agree.



For more information about the Adoption Registry, contact: Illinois Department of Public Health Division of Vital Records, 605 W. Jefferson St., Springfield IL 62702-5097, 217-557-5159 or 877-323-5299 (toll-free).

## **Arranging Future Plans for Your Child**

Families are often concerned about planning for an adopted or guardianship child in their care in the event something unforeseen occurs. There are a number of options available to assist you in future planning for your child. **Your attorney can assist you with the legal requirements for the options listed below.**

### **Standby Adoption**

Standby adoption is a court-approved arrangement that provides for a future adoption of your child if needed. Standby adoption allows you to ask the court to appoint a person or persons as standby adoptive parent(s) of your child, and that person “stands by” until needed. The standby adoptive parent doesn’t take custody of your child until the adoption becomes final, when a) you decide that you want the adoption to be final or b) upon your death. In the meantime, you retain all of your rights as a parent, and custody of your child.

## Standby Guardianship

A standby guardianship is a legal arrangement approved by a judge that provides for future care for your child, but only if it is needed. It allows you to appoint someone as legal guardian of your child, but that person “stands by” until needed. In other words, the standby guardian does not take custody of your children immediately, but only at some point in the future when you are no longer able to take care of your children yourself.

## Short-Term Guardianship

A short-term guardianship is a private legal arrangement between you and the person you want to take care of your child. **A short-term guardian is not a permanent arrangement.** The person that you appoint as short-term guardian will only have authority to act as guardian **for as long as sixty days.** It is very useful if you are going to be hospitalized, or are entering a residential program or facility where you will need to be without your children.

## Notifying Post Adoption Staff

\*Please note that you will need to advise your regional post adoption staff of any standby or short-term arrangements that you are contemplating. Eligibility for a subsidy in a subsequent adoption or guardianship must be determined by post adoption staff and a new subsidy document must be signed prior to the finalization of a new adoption or guardianship.



## Part 3: Resources for Training and Advocacy after Adoption and Guardianship



### DCFS Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Information

All Statewide DCFS Foster and Adoptive Parent Training is scheduled and coordinated by the DCFS Office of Training in Springfield. Contact the Office of Training's Registration Unit at 877-800-3393 to register to attend the Caregivers Institutes, to register for classes, track training credit and have questions answered.

### Office of Training Information

Foster, adoptive and guardianship families can take the six-hour Educational Advocacy in-service training. This training is available to everyone who would like to register. The training includes a variety of topics including:

- How to be an effective advocate for your child
- Be informed of services available in your district
- Know your and your child's rights
- Participate in meetings to determine eligibility and in IEP meetings
- Special Education of Children in Foster Care
- Understanding Childhood Trauma & the Implications for Education

### DCFS Lending Library

The DCFS Foster and Adoptive Parent Lending Library can be used as a convenient alternative for obtaining approved training credit for license renewal.

The Lending Library catalog highlights **books**, **audio cassettes** and **videos** in many categories for further education on specific topics for self-directed training in parenting and family life.

The Foster/ Adoptive Parent Lending Library Catalog is available through the Office of Training in Springfield. You may contact DCFS at 217-785-5689 or 877-800-3393 to request a copy of the Lending Library Catalog. Titles and descriptions by topic are also given on the DCFS web site: [www.state.il.us/dcfs/lendlib.htm](http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/lendlib.htm).

All items are available to borrow for free and are mailed to the requesting family with a postage paid return envelope enclosed. Any resource available to be borrowed has been previewed by foster, adoptive or guardianship families and recommended by them to be included in the library.

## Annual Caregivers Institutes

Each year the Department sponsors Institutes for foster, adoptive and guardianship families. The Caregivers Institutes are an excellent way to stay updated in Department practice, learn about parenting techniques and network with other families. Contact the Office of Foster Parent Support Services at 217-524-2422 for more information.

## Education Advisors

The Education Advisors Program is available for foster, adoptive and guardianship families. This program provides access to an Educational Advisor to assist you in working with the schools. The Educational Advisor is an individual who has expertise and experience in educational and early intervention matters, and will determine, along with you, who should be assigned to address your needs. To obtain additional information or assistance with any educational issue, contact the Regional Educational Advisor's Office serving the Region where your child attends school.

### COOK COUNTY

**Cook North/Chicago**  
312-328-2607

**Cook North/Suburbs**  
708-338-6637

**Cook Central/Chicago**  
773-292-7732

**Cook Central/Suburbs**  
708-338-6637

**Cook South/Chicago**  
773-371-6029

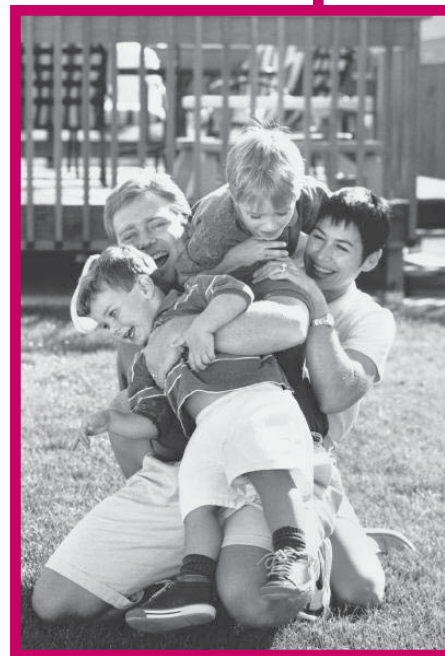
**Cook South/Suburbs**  
708-210-3051

### OUTSIDE COOK COUNTY

**Northern Region**  
815-967-3750 (Rockford)  
815-730-4342 (Joliet)

**Central Region**  
217-875-6568 (Decatur)  
217-557-0075 (Springfield)

**Southern Region**  
618-583-2125 (East St. Louis)  
618-993-7100 (Murphysboro)



## The Illinois Adoption Advisory Council

The Council began in November 2000 and was created to guide the Department in several areas: assisting the Department with finding new homes for waiting children, supporting families and children in the adoption process, and supporting these families after they adopt. The Adoption Council's membership includes adoptive parents, adoptees, and other experts that are from all parts of Illinois.



## Advocacy Office for Children and Families

DCFS established The Advocacy Office for Children and Families to receive and respond to concerns presented to DCFS regarding the child welfare system in Illinois. Advocacy Office staff function as advocates on behalf of the best interest of the child, providing assistance in seeking resolution to a problem when the caller has not been able, or does not know how, to find a satisfactory resolution.

The Advocacy Office accepts concerns by phone, electronic mail, letters, or in person. Anyone can call the Advocacy Office and speak with an Advocate. The Advocacy Office has a statewide toll-free number (1-800-232-3798) that may be used to present issues or obtain information about child welfare services from DCFS or its agents.

## National and Internet Resources

The Internet has become an important source of information for busy families with computer access at home or through their local public library. You will find a wealth of state and national information about adoption and guardianship on the Internet.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Web site: [www.state.il.us/dcfs](http://www.state.il.us/dcfs) is one place to obtain information regarding post-adoption and guardianship resources. Other Web sites are as follows:

**Adopt America Network**  
800-246-1731  
[www.adoptamericanetwork.org](http://www.adoptamericanetwork.org)

**Adoptive Families of America (AFA) Magazine**  
800-372-3300  
[www.adoptivefamilies.com](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com)  
E-mail:  
[info@adoptivefamilies.com](mailto:info@adoptivefamilies.com)

**Child Welfare Information Gateway Children's Bureau/ACYF**  
1250 Maryland Ave., SW  
8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20024  
800-394-3366  
[www.childwelfare.gov/index.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/index.cfm)

**Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)**  
440 First Street, NW, Ste. 310  
Washington, DC 20001-2085  
202-638-2952  
Fax: 202-638-4004  
[www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)  
E-mail: [webweaver@cwla.org](mailto:webweaver@cwla.org)

**Children Awaiting Parents, Inc. (CAP)**  
595 Blossom Rd., Suite 306  
Rochester, NY 14610  
Toll-free: 888-835-8802  
[www.capbook.org](http://www.capbook.org)  
E-mail: [info@capbook.org](mailto:info@capbook.org)

**Collaboration to Adopt US Kids**  
Adoption Exchange Association  
8015 Corporate Drive, Suite  
Baltimore, MD 21236  
888-200-4005  
[www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org)  
[info@adoptuskids](mailto:info@adoptuskids)

**National Adoption Center (NAC)**  
1500 Walnut Street, 7th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
215-735-9988  
800-TO ADOPT  
Fax: 215-735-9410  
[www.adopt.org](http://www.adopt.org)  
E-mail: [nac@adopt.org](mailto:nac@adopt.org)

**National Child Welfare Resource Center for Adoption**  
16250 Northland Dr., Ste 100  
Southfield, MI 48075  
248-443-7080  
Fax: 248-443-7099  
[www.nrcadoption.org/ask/index.htm](http://www.nrcadoption.org/ask/index.htm)

**North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)**  
970 Raymond Ave., Ste 106  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1149  
651-644-3036  
Fax: 651-644-9848  
[www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org)  
E-mail: [info@nacac.org](mailto:info@nacac.org)

**PACT, An Adoption Alliance**  
4179 Piedmont, Suite 330  
Oakland, CA 94611  
510-243-9460  
Fax: 510-243-9970  
[www.pactadopt.org](http://www.pactadopt.org)  
E-mail: [info@pactadopt.org](mailto:info@pactadopt.org)

**Spaulding for Children / National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption**  
16250 Northland Dr., Ste 100  
Southfield, MI 48075  
248-443-7080  
Fax: 248-443-7099  
[www.spaulding.org](http://www.spaulding.org)  
E-mail: [SFC@ic.net](mailto:SFC@ic.net)

**The Learning Center, by National Adoption Center**  
Sponsored by DHHS and Conectiv  
[www.adoptnet.org](http://www.adoptnet.org)  
[www.adopting.com](http://www.adopting.com)

*Web sites listed in this booklet are solely for the convenience of the reader. Inclusion in this listing does not imply an endorsement of that organization, Web site or individual by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS is not responsible for the maintenance of any Web site shown other than its own.*

## Part 4: Additional Family Resources

### Income-based Services and Resources



#### Day care for children over three

Adoptive or guardianship families of children three and older who do not qualify for therapeutic day care may still be eligible for day care assistance through the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS). Parents applying for day care assistance must be employed full-time with child/ren under the age of 13, and meet income eligibility criteria. Full-time high school students who are parenting are eligible for assistance. Students in undergraduate college programs may be eligible for assistance with a work requirement. Graduate students are not eligible for assistance. Day care assistance from DHS is on a

sliding fee scale with parent/s responsible for a co-payment. Call the DHS toll-free day care referral line, 877-20-CHILD or visit the Web site: [www.state.il.us/agency/child.htm](http://www.state.il.us/agency/child.htm) for more details.

#### Need help finding child care?

Call *Cook County Child Care Resources and Referral* at 773-769-8000. If you are located outside of Cook County, ask for a Parent Referral Line that serves your county. Families from around the state can also call the DHS toll-free referral line (877-20-CHILD). By entering a zip code, the call will be connected to the referral agency serving that area.

#### KidCare health services

KidCare is a state program offering health care coverage or help in paying premiums of employer-sponsored or private insurance plans for children through age 18, pregnant women who are Illinois residents, and U.S. citizens or qualified legal immigrants who meet income requirements. For eligibility requirements or more information, call 800-226-0768.

## Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Credit (EIC) is a special tax benefit for people who work full or part-time. Families that qualify may owe less in taxes or even get cash back. Even working families who don't owe any taxes may be able to receive a tax credit. Benefits and eligibility may change each year. To obtain this benefit, families only need to complete their tax form (1040 or 1040A) and attach Schedule EIC. More information on EIC can be obtained by calling the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040.

## Resources For Older Parents

Are you over 50 and raising children or grandchildren? The Illinois Department of Aging's Senior Helpline at **800-252-8966** (Voice and TTY) refers callers to programs or services related to any health or aging issue. Web site: [www.state.il.us/aging/](http://www.state.il.us/aging/). *Starting Points for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*, a free booklet with many resources and tips for grandparents, is also available through the Senior Helpline.

Anyone over age 50 will also find a wealth of information through AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) **800-424-3410** or the Midwest Regional Office **773-714-9800**. AARP also maintains a separate Grandparent Information Center for grandparents raising grandchildren and offers a free grandparent newsletter. Call **202-434-2299**.

## Resources for Individuals with Disabilities

### Home services

The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) offers Home Services to qualifying Illinois residents aimed at enabling individuals with disabilities to remain at home. Available services include: Personal Assistant, Homemaker Services, Maintenance Home Health, Electronic Home Response, Home Delivered Meals, Adult Day Care, Assistive Equipment, Environmental Modification and Respite Care. To find your local DHS counselor to see if you, your child, or your family qualifies, call **800-843-6154** (Voice and TTY). Select option four from the voicemail menu.



All DHS rules and services are also given on the Web site: [www.state.il.us/agency/dhs](http://www.state.il.us/agency/dhs).

## Advocacy services

Equip for Equality, Inc. is the corporation designated in Illinois as the protection and advocacy system for people with physical disabilities, mental illness and developmental disabilities.



Equip for Equality, Inc. offers

- Professional advocates and attorneys who provide technical assistance and advice in self-advocacy and direct legal services
- Monitoring of agencies responsible for delivering services to people with disabilities to ensure compliance with individual rights
- Lobbying for laws to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities
- A quarterly publication, *The Equalizer*

For further information about services, contact your nearest regional office.

### **Northeastern Region**

11 East Adams St., Suite 1200

Chicago, IL 60603

800-537-2632

800-610-2779 (TTY line)

### **Central Region**

427 E. Monroe

P.O. Box 276

Springfield, IL 62705

800-758-0464

### **Northwestern Region**

1612 Second Ave.

P.O. Box 3753

Rock Island, IL 61204

800-758-6869

## Training funds for family members of persons with a disability

Each year Illinois allocates training funds to families of persons with a disability to attend training related to the family member's disability. Only individuals — not agencies or organizations — may apply. Amount of funds available and eligibility guidelines may change each state fiscal year.

Call the Early Childhood Intervention Clearinghouse at 800-852-4302 for information or for an application.



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