

# Adoptive Families

EXPERT Q&A WEBINAR:

## Adoption Costs— What to Expect and How to Meet Them



EXPERTS:  
Denise M. Bierly, Esq.  
and  
Susan D. Orban

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# **Adoption Costs**

**What to expect and how to meet them**

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Presenters:

Denise M. Bierly, Esquire

Susan D. Orban, Children's Home Society and LSS of MN

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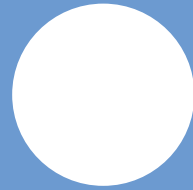
# Presenters

Denise Bierly, Esq.



Susan D. Orban





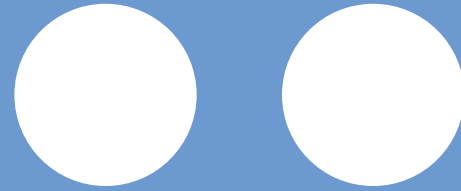
**What we will cover today**

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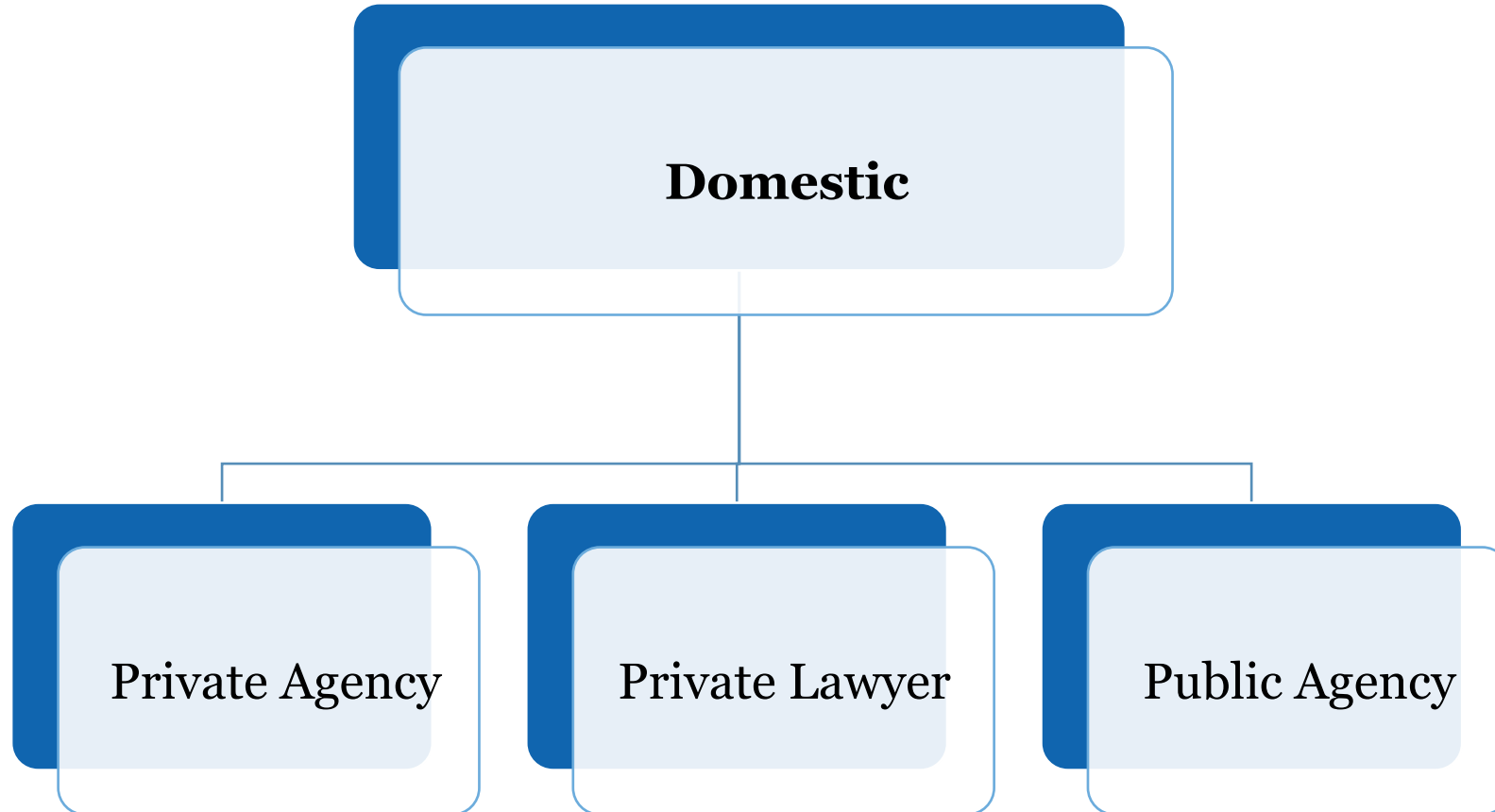
# Agenda

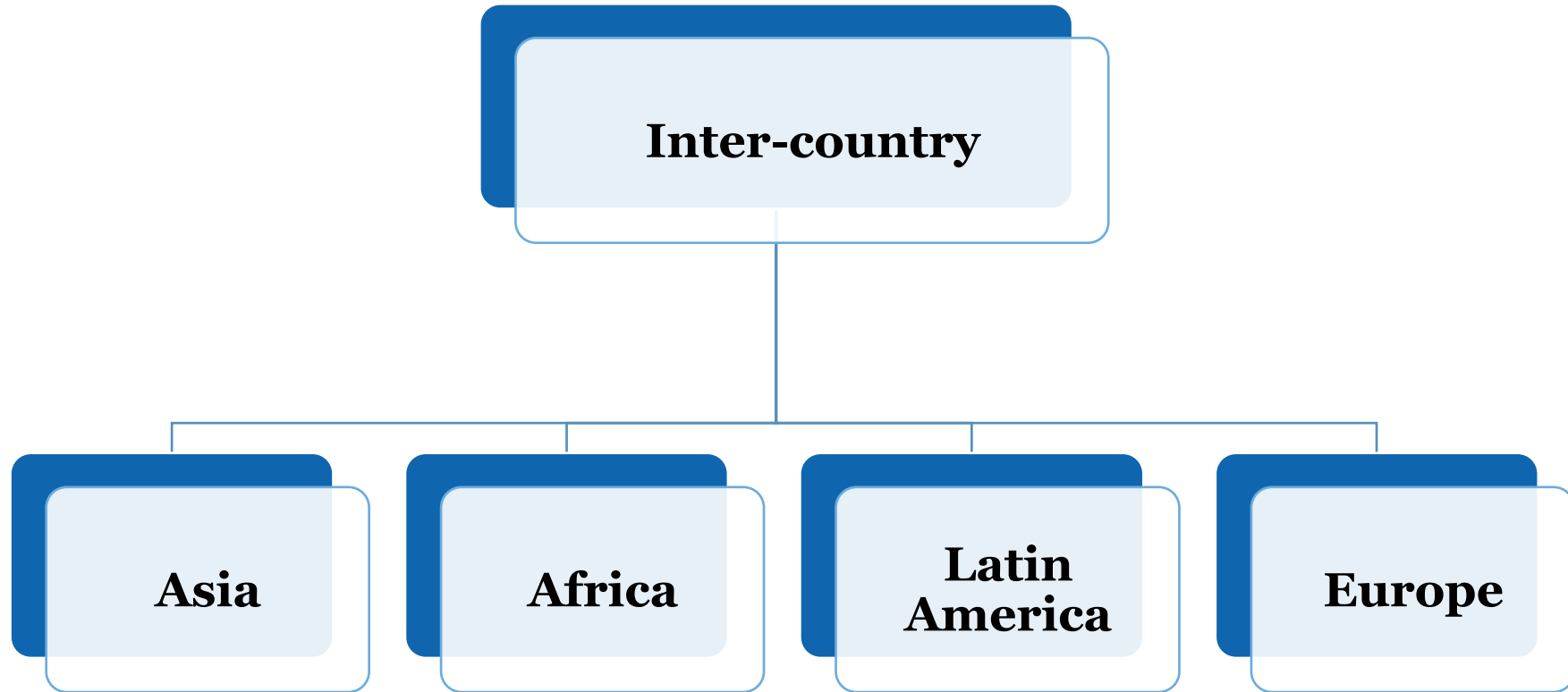


- Types of adoption
- Costs of adoption
- Free money!
- Creative fundraising ideas
- Loan Options
- Travel Costs
- Additional Resources



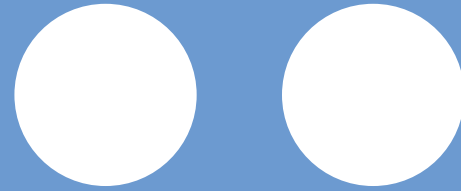
# Types of Adoption





*[www.adoption.state.gov](http://www.adoption.state.gov)*





# **Costs of Adoption**

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# Costs to Consider

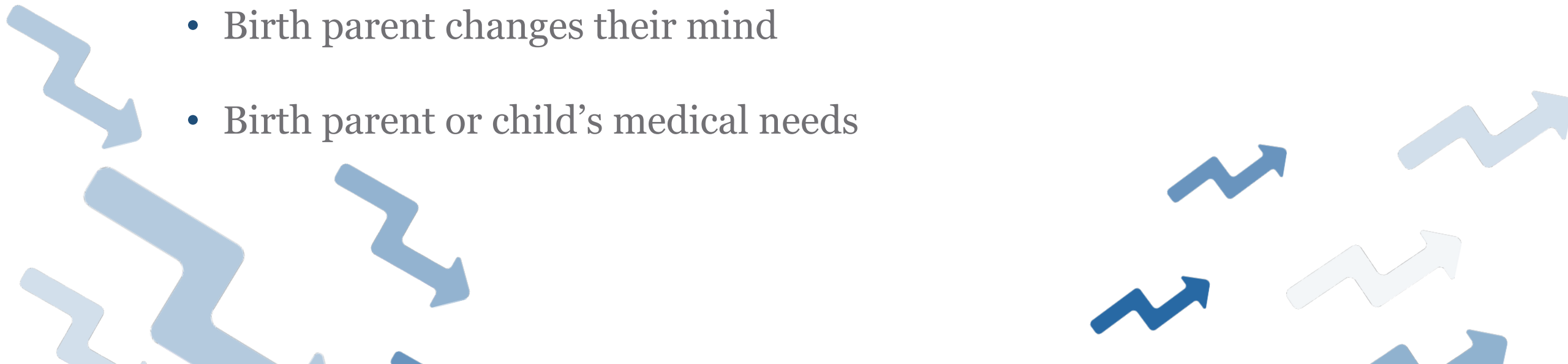
- Medical Expenses
- Advertising Costs
- Document Preparation
- Notaries
- Cradle/Interim Care
- Court Fees
- Finalization Costs
- Birth Parent Expenses
- Dossier/Profile Fees
- Home Study
- Agency Fees
- Lawyer Fees
- Travel Costs



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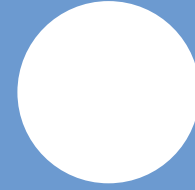
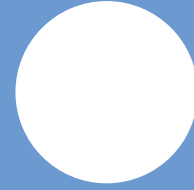
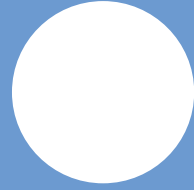
# Costs Can Fluctuate

- Traveling during peak season
- Holidays that slow down process
- Country closes
- Birth parent changes their mind
- Birth parent or child's medical needs

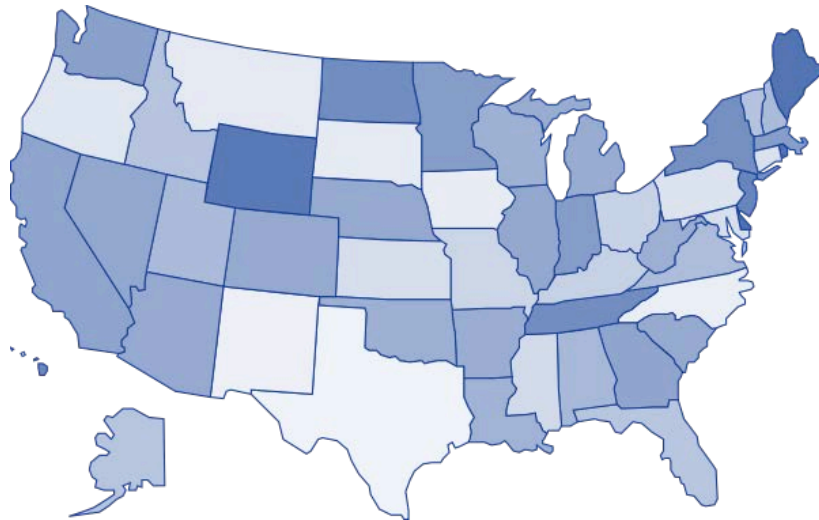


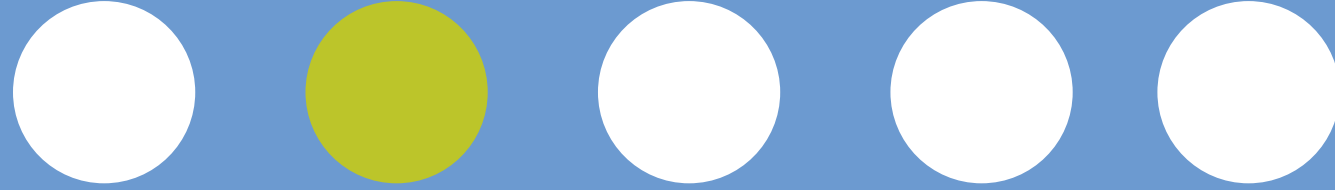


# **Cost by Adoption Type**



**Domestic Agency: \$20-45,000**



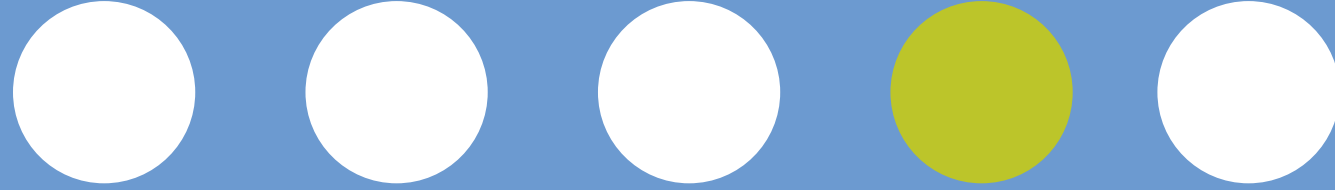


**Domestic Attorney: \$20-40,000**





**International: \$20-50,000**



**Foster Care: \$0-3,500**





# Adoptive Families Magazine Survey 2015

(figures in thousands)

	2004/05	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2011	2012/13	2013/14
<b>U.S. Newborn</b>	\$15	\$22	\$27	\$30	\$32	\$37	\$40	\$37
<b>U.S. Foster</b>	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$2	\$3	\$2	\$3	\$2
<b>China</b>	\$21	\$24	\$28	\$27	\$29	\$32	\$36	\$38
<b>Ethiopia</b>	\$20	\$21	\$24	\$25	\$28*	\$34	\$46	\$57
<b>Ukraine</b>	\$25	\$25	\$27	\$31	\$30	\$42	\$40	\$50+**
<b>Haiti</b>	\$15	\$15	\$25	\$20	\$15†	\$24	\$33	\$35
<b>South Korea</b>	\$23	\$28	\$27	\$33	\$38	\$47	\$44	\$52††
<b>Russia</b>	\$35	\$42	\$48	\$49	\$50	\$63	\$69	NA‡
<b>Guatemala</b>	\$29	\$31	\$33	\$33	\$40	NA ††	NA	NA



**SOLUTIONS  
AHEAD**

**Enough about the challenges!**



**Free Money**

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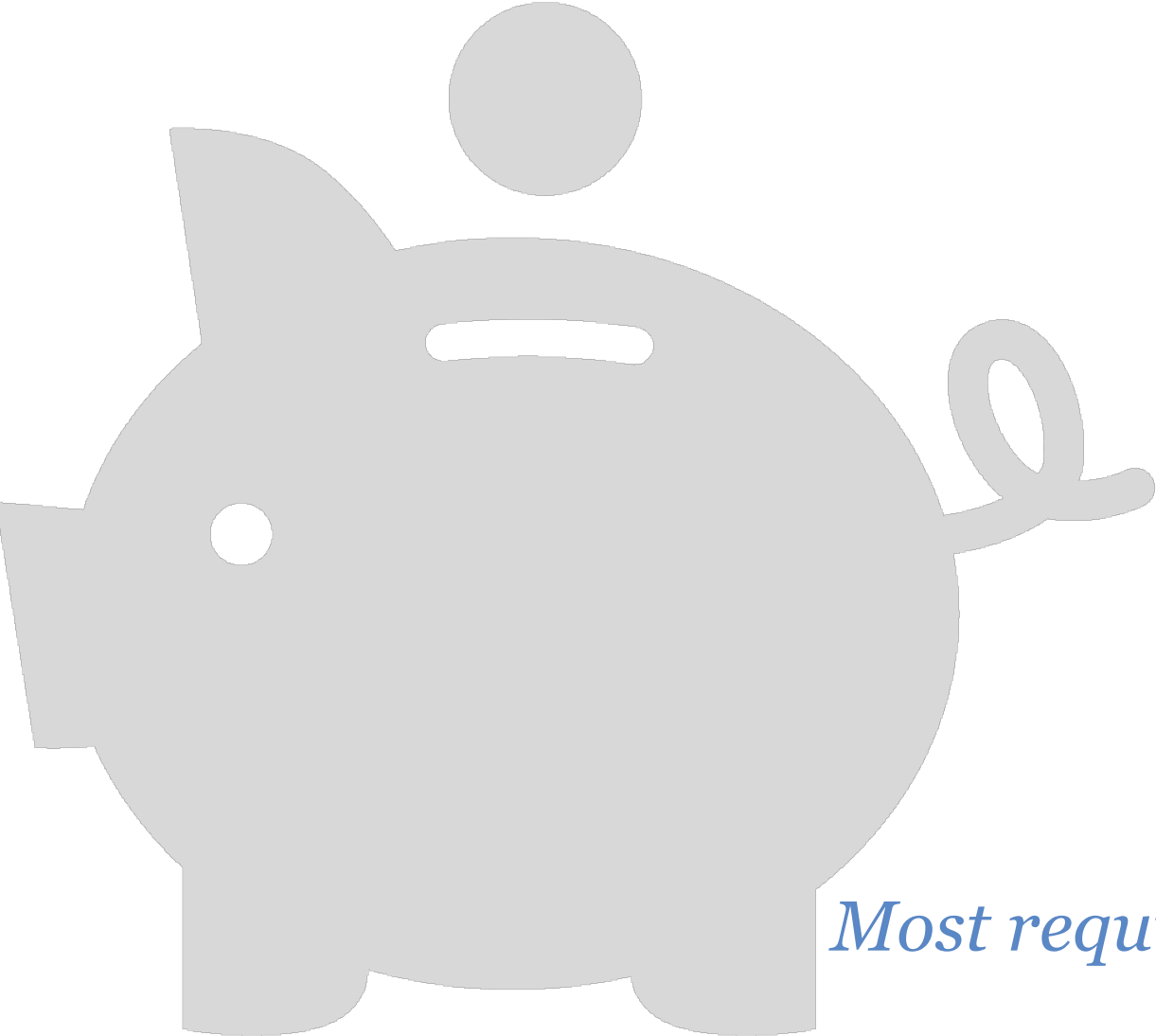
# Faith-based Grants



- Faith-based
  - [showhope.org](http://showhope.org)
  - [riverdaley.org](http://riverdaley.org)
  - [goldendawnaa.org](http://goldendawnaa.org)
  - [katelynsfund.org](http://katelynsfund.org)
  - [ggam.org](http://ggam.org)
  - [lifesongfororphans.org](http://lifesongfororphans.org)
  - Many more!

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# Non-sectarian Grants



- [achildwaits.org](http://achildwaits.org)
- [giftofadoption.org](http://giftofadoption.org)
  - Averages eight grants/month
  - For Hague-accredited
  - For Private Adoptions

*Most require home study*

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# Military Subsidy

- Grant given by government
- Active Duty
- Up to \$2000/child with a max of \$5000/year
- Exceptional Family Member Program
- Additional funds for therapy
- More info?
  - [www.militaryfamily.org](http://www.militaryfamily.org)



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# Special Needs Grants

- [Brittanyshope.org](http://Brittanyshope.org)
- [Reecesrainbow.org](http://Reecesrainbow.org)
- [Sparrow-fund.org](http://Sparrow-fund.org)



*Often funds go directly to the agency*

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# Agency Resources



**DONATE**



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# Employee Benefits

- Growing trend
- Financial reimbursement
- Parental leave policies
- Information resources
- Avon – 10K/8weeks
- NYU – 5K/6 weeks
- Wendy’s – 25K/6 weeks
- Comcast/IBM/Verizon



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# Dave Thomas Foundation



- Adoption Benefits Toolkit
  - for Employees
  - for Employers
- Workplace Adoption Benefits Handout Card

[www.davethomasfoundation.org](http://www.davethomasfoundation.org)

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# Financial Gifts



- Annual exclusion
  - \$14,000/person/year
- If more, donor must file gift tax return
- Lifetime Gift Tax Exemption
  - \$5,430,000
- Check with tax accountant!

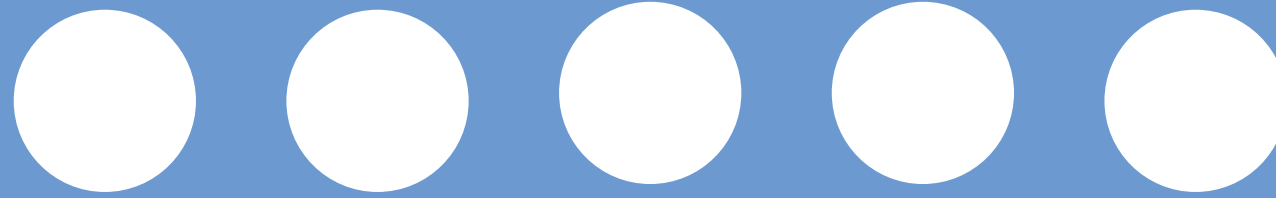
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# Tax Credit



- \$13,400/child
- Phases out
  - \$201,010 to \$241,010
- Permanent
- Not Refundable

*[www.adoptiontaxcredit.org](http://www.adoptiontaxcredit.org)*



# Creative Fundraising Ideas

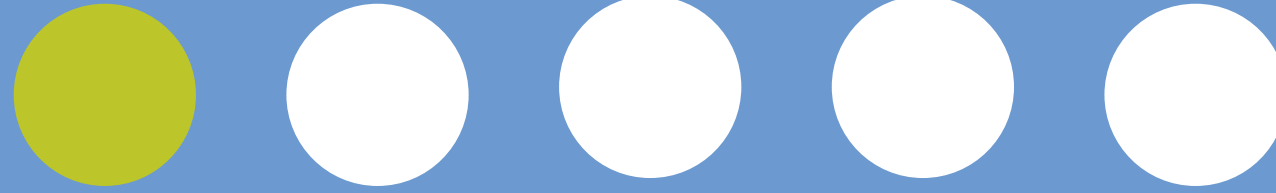
**WARNING:** Some countries are sensitive to raising money or blogging on the internet!



# Garage and bake sales



Rummage Sale



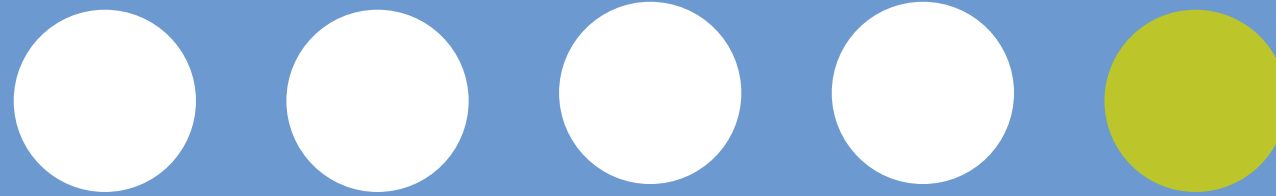
# Family, faith community, and friends!

Teach a Trade • Spaghetti Dinner



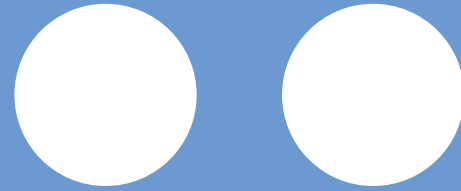
# Karaoke Night





# Puzzles, Eggrolls, and Martinis, oh my!





# Fundraising Websites

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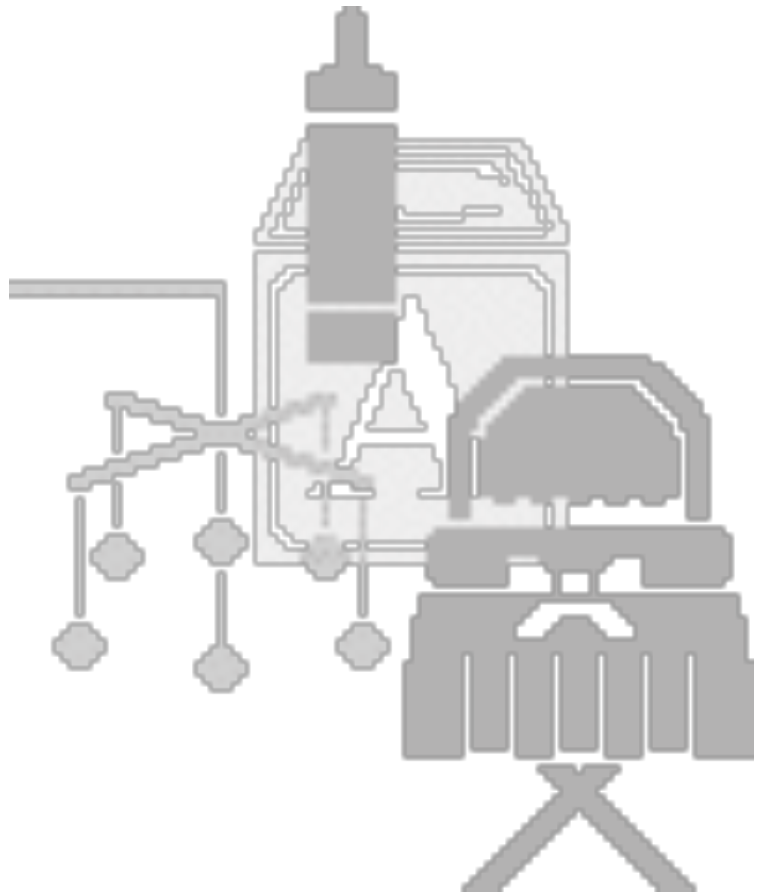
# Crowd Funding



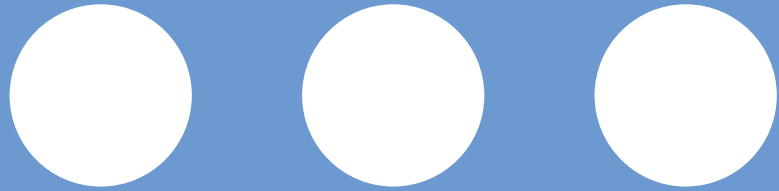
- [Youcaring.com](http://Youcaring.com)
- [Gofundme.com](http://Gofundme.com)
- [Razoo.com](http://Razoo.com)

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# Every Little Bit Helps



- [Freecycle.org](https://www.freecycle.org)
- Tot swaps



# Loans

**a.k.a. Money before the adoption tax credit**

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# Weigh Your Choices

- Better
  - Home Equity
  - Insurance
  - Religious Organizations
  - Family
- Worse
  - Credit cards
  - 401(k)
    - Penalties if you change jobs and cannot repay



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# Interest Free Loans



- Hebrew Free Loan
- Abba Fund
- Pathways for Little Feet

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# Traditional Loan Programs

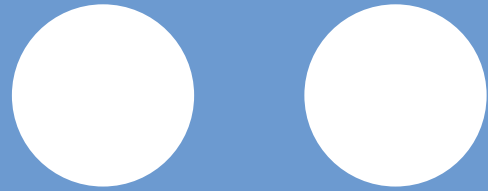
- National Adoption Foundation
  - Unsecured Loans
  - Peer-to-Peer Marketplace
  - [fundyouradoption.org](http://fundyouradoption.org)
- America's Christian Credit Union
  - Rates as low as 8.40% APR\*
  - Loans up to \$50,000
  - Terms up to 84 months
  - Refinance existing loans
  - Home of auto equity loans
  - [americaschristiancu.com](http://americaschristiancu.com)





The background of the image features a collection of airplane silhouettes in various shades of blue, scattered across the left and bottom portions of the frame. The silhouettes vary in size and orientation, creating a sense of movement and travel. The text "Save on Travel Costs" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

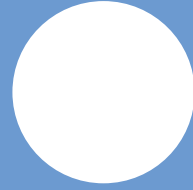
**Save on Travel Costs**



# Other Resources



- Dol.gov
  - Family and Medical Leave
- Google
- Agency Websites
- Resources4adoption.com



SPECIAL REPORT

# Adoption Cost & Timing

How much does adoption really cost?  
How long does it take?



Data from the 2015 Adoption Cost & Timing Survey,  
gathered by

**AdoptiveFamilies**



# True Stories

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# Smith Family

**Domestic Agency – Total cost \$38,000**

- Adoption Tax Credit
  - \$13,200.00
- Community Garage Sale
  - \$5,000
- Show Hope Grant
  - \$3,000
- Total: \$21,200



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# Baker Family

## Domestic Private – Total cost \$31,000

- Adoption Tax Credit
  - \$13,400.00
- Employee Benefit Hyatt Legal Plan
  - \$600
- GoFundMe Page
  - \$6,000
- Martini Night
  - \$7,000
- Walk-a-thon Fundraiser
  - \$4,200
- Total: \$31,000

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# Gillespie Family

## Adopts a 3 year old – repairable heart condition - China

- Adoption Tax Credit
  - \$13,200.00
- Grant from Adoption Agency
  - \$5,000.00
- Brittany's Hope Matching Grant
  - \$3,000.00
- Friends donated airline miles and hotel points
  - \$2,800.00
- Spaghetti Dinner
  - \$10,000.00
- ABBA Fund No Interest Loan
  - \$10,000.00
- TOTAL: \$34,000 plus a \$10,000 Loan





**Love recognizes no barriers.  
It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls  
to arrive at its destination full of hope.  
- Maya Angelou -**

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# Thank you!

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# Questions?

Please enter your questions for Denise M. Bierly, Esq., and Susan Orban in the box to your right.



Please note: Attendance and all questions are confidential.  
Only the moderator of the webinar will see the questions and the names of the attendees.

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The material in this webinar is provided for educational purposes only.

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