

Adoption Connection

DCFS Quarterly Newsletter for Adoptive Families



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Adoption Q&A

Can I receive both Supplemental Social Security (SSI) and the adoption subsidy?

Yes. However, if you receive both SSI and the subsidy, the SSI benefit amount may decrease due to receiving the subsidy.

Is there a limit to the number of children I can adopt?

No. DCFS certification requirements does not allow a foster/adoptive parent to have more than six dependents at one time. This includes foster children and the foster/adoptive parents' biological children.

Am I eligible for an adoption tax credit?

Yes. Adoptive parents may qualify for a tax credit on their federal tax return as well as a state deduction. See the attached flyer.

Send your questions to dcfs.adoptions@la.gov for future issues, or speak to a DCFS Adoption staff member for more immediate needs.

Read more about it:
[Adoption Tax Credit Questions](#)

Let's Talk About Adoption

About 2.1 million children living in the United States were adopted into their families. Adopted children have unique needs and their life story may be much different than their friends. Read on to learn how you and others around adopted children can talk with them about adoption, help them overcome challenges, and develop a positive life story.

Adoption Has Changed

Stories about adoption told on TV and in movies do not always reflect how it is in real life. Some infants and parents are brought together through private adoption. A small number of international adoptions involve children born in another country and adopted by American parents.

Other children are adopted by relatives or non-relatives from foster care. Children enter foster care for many reasons. Most often, it is because of a difficult living situation for the child such as neglect, a parent struggling with substance use like opioid addiction, physical abuse, or housing problems. About 81% of children adopted from the foster care system have special needs.

Continue reading at:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/family-dynamics/adoption-and-foster-care/Pages/Respectful-Ways-to-Talk-about-Adoption-A-List-of-Dos-Donts.aspx>

DCFS News Corner

LA 211, Louisiana's Statewide Network, connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community. Support is available 24/7, and it's FREE and confidential. Visit louisiana211.org or text your Zip Code to 898-211.

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Parenting a Child with ADHD

While ADHD is believed to be hereditary, effectively managing your child's symptoms can affect both the severity of the disorder and development of more serious problems over time. Early intervention holds the key to positive outcomes for your child. The earlier you address your child's problems, the more likely you will be able to prevent school and social failure and associated problems such as underachievement and poor self-esteem that may lead to delinquency or drug and alcohol abuse. Although life with your child may at times seem challenging, as a parent you can help create home and school environments that improve your child's chances for success.

[Continue reading](#) to learn how to get started.

DCFS Adoption Highlight

Aaron is a sweet, caring, lovable teenager with an amazing smile. He enjoys playing football, basketball, and soccer. Aaron is very helpful around the house. He spends the majority of his time working on puzzles or building



with his hands. Aaron is searching for a forever family that will provide him with the unconditional love and support he will need to be successful in life. For more information, contact Stephanie Willis at (985) 900-4257 or Stephanie.Willis.dcf@la.gov.

Resources for Adoptive Families

- [DCFS's Adoption Page](#)
- [Center for Adoption Support and Education](#)
- [Louisiana 211](#)
- [National Training and Development Curriculum \(NTDC\) for foster and adoptive parents](#)



988 Helpline Provides Free, Confidential Support

The 988 Helpline provides emergency emotional support to Louisiana residents. Anyone who reaches out to 988 will be immediately connected to specialists at local call centers who will listen, provide support, and connect you with local resources. **The helpline is free, confidential, and available 24/7.**

Contact 988 for various issues for yourself or a loved one, including:

- Feeling overwhelmed
- Having a tough day
- Having thoughts of suicide
- Substance use emergencies
- Figuring out your identity

You can call, text or chat online with 988. To chat, visit 988lifeline.org/chat. If you prefer to speak to a 988 specialist who focuses on helping LGBTQ+ youth under 25, call 988, then press 3. Find out more about 988 at louisiana988.org/FAQ.