

A Family For Every Child
Matching Assistance

*"We should not be asking who this child belongs to,
but who belongs to this child."*

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Matching Assistance Program?

A: The Matching Assistance Program (MAP) is a free program available to families who are seeking to adopt a child from the foster care system. We assist families during the “matching” phase of the adoption process.

Q: What are some of the benefits of your program?

A: We provide families with a way to submit their home studies and family profiles for over 2,000 waiting children listed on our site. Their home study and profile will be sent directly to a child’s caseworker, assuring that their documents are sent to a real person and not a general inquiry account. Families are sent recruitment updates as we receive them about any children they have submitted on.

In addition, we provide families with many resources about foster children’s special needs, the adoption process, and post-adoption support. We also offer families with free recruitment options to connect them with caseworkers.

Q: What is required of families before they join MAP?

A: All families must be home study approved to **adopt** a child from foster care. We ask that all home study documents be signed and dated. It helps if the family is approved to adopt children out-of-state, but this is not a requirement. In addition, families are asked to create a family profile on our site. These family profiles are sent out every time a family submits through our site, and are used by the Matching Assistance Coordinator to recruit on the behalf of the family. We serve families from all over the country.

Q: Who has access to a family’s information (home study, profile, etc.)?

A: The only people who have access to a family’s confidential information are you, the Matching Assistance team, and a child’s caseworker. We take a family’s privacy very seriously, and their confidential information will never be submitted without their consent or prior knowledge.

Q: What is my role as the family’s adoption worker during this whole process?

A: You are still a very important part of the adoption process! We are here to work alongside you, and not take your place. We ask that adoption workers follow up with

the children's caseworkers on the behalf of their families to find out if the family is being considered as a potential match. A caseworker's contact information is provided to you every time your family submits for a child. You may also access a caseworker's contact information from our Directory page [here](#).

Q: What is MAP's role during the adoption process?

A: MAP is here to provide families with additional support and resources during the matching phase of the adoption process. We connect families, adoption workers, and caseworkers to help families and children become matched. Once a family is potentially matched or matched with a child, we step out of the process and you take over completely.

Q: Are there any fees associated with your program?

A: No! All of our services are free.

Q: Who are the children listed on your site?

A: All of the children on our site are in foster care and are seeking permanent, adoptive families. Some are legally free, and others are legal risk. The average age of a child on our site is 9 years old. They are often Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, or a mixed race, and may be part of a sibling group. All of the children on our site have some level of special needs. We serve children from all over the country.

Q: Is it possible for me to see the child profiles my family has submitted for?

A: Yes. To see a child's profile, select the Family Tasks tab, and then click on the [Submissions](#) link next to the family's name. On the following page, click the [View Listing Profile](#) link to read the child/sibling group's biography, see any recruitment update notes about the child, and access the caseworker's contact information.

Q: How can I become more involved during the matching phase of the adoption process?

A: To start, you can follow up on your family's submissions to find out if they are being considered as a potential match. You may also encourage your families to attend our [Matching Events](#) or attend on the behalf of your families. Our Matching Events are also free, and connect caseworkers and families via a live webinar. You can also encourage families to participate in our other free recruitment options, and to attend any local matching events.

Q: I have other adoptive families that I think would really benefit from your program. Do you have a flyer that I may give to them to provide more information about your program?

A: Yes! You may download our "Benefits of MAP" guide [here](#).