



## Introduction to Matching Assistance:

A Family for Every Child's Matching Assistance Program is a **free** program designed to help waiting families in their search for and be matched with foster children. The Matching Assistance Program is most beneficial to families who are seeking to adopt a foster child over the age of six with special needs. We provide families with resources and assistance during their adoption journey, through newsletters, how-to guides, various media recommendations, a Family Search Specialist, and more. We provide families with the tools to submit and advocate for themselves, while offering support and assistance during the matching process.

## How Matching Assistance Benefits Your Family:

Our Matching Assistance Program is unique in the benefits it offers families. We provide a way for families to submit their home studies **directly** to a child's caseworker. This eliminates the need for a family to submit an inquiry on another website, where they may not receive a response. By allowing families to submit their home study directly through our site, we are able to track a family's submissions and **shorten their wait time**. We have the necessary information for a family's adoption worker to get in touch with a child's caseworker on behalf of the family. Essentially we **provide person-to-person contact** that assures a family's home study is truly submitted to a caseworker, and not a general inquiry email.

We also list children on our site that families may directly submit their home study for, **and** we have a form that allows families to submit their home study on children they find on other photo listing sites. This allows the family to submit their home study for as many children as they would like, as often as they would like! It eliminates the need for the family to contact their adoption worker every time they want to submit their home study; their adoption worker is instead notified every time a family makes a submission. In addition, we provide a list of **over 80** state photo listing site links that families may search for children on. If a family finds a child on another site they want to submit for, they can use our off-site submit form to directly submit their home study to a caseworker. Home studies are **automatically** attached; so families only need to fill out a form and click submit!

Our Matching Assistance Program also allows families the opportunity to create their own family biography to send to caseworkers. The family biography is a brief narrative with pictures and information about the family and what they can offer a foster child. It allows the family to really advocate for themselves and show why they are a good match for a child. Home studies tend to be very similar, but the family biography is a way for the family to show off how unique they are and make them stand out. The family biography is sent out with **every** home study submission, and is automatically attached to the submission email with the family's home study.

Finally, a **Family Search Specialist** is assigned to a family to aid them in their search for foster children. The Family Search Specialist conducts one child search for a family based on their child preferences, and is then available to provide **ongoing** support and guidance. The Family Search Specialists are trained to search for children based on a family's child preferences, and to only send children that the family would be a good match for.

A Family for Every Child is dedicated to finding loving, permanent homes for waiting foster children, and our Matching Assistance Program is committed to helping match waiting families with foster children by providing the tools families need to create their forever family.