



Adoption

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA

Colombia

WAITING CHILD PROGRAM

COLOMBIA WAITING CHILD PROGRAM

The children who wait in Colombia for families may be waiting solely due to their age or because they are part of a large sibling group. Some children wait due to correctable medical issues or issues that may affect the child/ren for their lifetime. The waiting children most in need of families include:

- Single child of any age with mild or correctable medical special needs (i.e. scoliosis, cleft lip/palate, orthopedic issues)
- Single child of any age with moderate or severe special needs (i.e. HIV, Down Syndrome, neurological delays, Cerebral Palsy, Syphilis)
- Single child 7 years old or older
- Sibling groups of 2 or more in which at least one child is more than 8 years of age
- Sibling groups of 3 or more children (all ages)
- Sibling groups in which at least one child has special needs

Children are generally cared for in an orphanage or foster care family. Children may have been relinquished at birth or later in life or may have been taken under protection by the Colombian Child Welfare Institute (ICBF) due to abuse or neglect in their birth families. Because there are more than 8,000 children awaiting their forever families in Colombia, families open to waiting children will be given administrative priority in Colombia in order to unite the children with their families as soon as possible.

LSSMN has a list of waiting children – though this does not include all children waiting for families from Colombia. Once you have been matched with a child, your dossier will be sent to the institution in charge of his/her care for final approval. Typically, families may expect to travel to Colombia approximately 4-6 weeks after receiving and accepting a referral.

LSSMN also provides humanitarian aid to both private and public organizations to support the care of children under state protection, provide medical care for special needs children and rehabilitation programs for vulnerable families, and support requests for the individual needs of children and the organizations who support them. We strive to assist well-established organizations affecting change in the lives of vulnerable women, children, and families.

If you feel that you could provide a loving home for these orphaned children, please contact us.

PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

AGE REQUIREMENTS: Families must be open to children of either gender within the following age ranges (or older):

Parents 25-38 yrs old

One child 0-35 months or two siblings 0-59 months;

Parents 39-41 yrs old

One child 36-59 months or two siblings 0-60 months;

Parents 42-44 yrs old

One child 60-83 months or 2 siblings 0-83 months;

Parents 45-47 yrs old

One child 84-107 months or two siblings 0-107 months;

Parents 48+ yrs old

One child 108+ months or two siblings 0-108 months.

LENGTH OF MARRIAGE: 1 year minimum

CHILDREN IN FAMILY: families open to children 3 or younger must have no more than 1-2 children in the home; larger families welcome for special needs and waiting children of any age

SINGLE APPLICANT: Single men and women accepted for children age 8 and older or for children with special needs

TRAVEL: One trip, approximately 5-8 weeks; both parents expected to travel; one parent may depart after 2 weeks, if necessary

TIMELINE: Varies; dossier to referral 2-6 months (when child/ren not previously identified); travel generally 4-6 weeks after accepting referral

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES

LSSMN offers comprehensive services to prepare, facilitate and support families through all aspects of adopting a child — from the initial education to the finalization of your child's adoption. We recommend you begin your adoption process by attending an agency Information Meeting. It is free and without obligation. Our goal is to provide prospective parents with information about all our adoption programs and to answer any questions you may have regarding adoption, the process, the costs, anticipated timelines, and more.

Please call us at 612.879.5230 or toll-free at 1.888.205.3769 for the schedule and location of an Information Meeting near you, or visit us online at www.minnesotaadoption.org.

FEES PAID TO LSSMN	DESCRIPTION	FEE	PAYMENT TIMELINE
Home Study Includes pre-adoption education, home study preparation and approval. <i>* This fee covers the annual maintenance required by the State of Minnesota to keep an adoption study current and is required ONLY if an adoption is not completed within one year of home study approval.</i>	Registration	\$50	Due with completed registration
	Application	\$500	Due with completed application
	Pre-Adoption Education	\$250/person	Due prior to training
	Adoption Study	\$2,000	Due upon start of adoption study
	Adoption Study Annual Update*	\$500*	Due upon start of annual update
Adoption Program Expenses in the United States Includes personnel costs, administrative overhead, operational costs, training and education, communications and publication costs, assistance with USCIS process and country specific application and dossier, and any other costs related to providing adoption services in the United States.	Intercountry Program Fee	\$5,000	Due upon completion of adoption study
Post-placement / Post-adoption Expenses Includes preparation of any agency-generated post-placement or post-adoption reports required to comply with MN state regulations and the laws of the country from which you choose to adopt.	Post-placement / Post-adoption Supervision and Reports (includes up to 4 post-placement reports; additional reports \$300/report)	\$1,500	Due upon physical placement of child
Total Fees Paid to LSSMN.....			\$9,550

FEES PAID TO LSSMN & PASSED THROUGH TO COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION	FEE	PAYMENT TIMELINE
Foreign Country Program Expenses Includes coordination with overseas partners, country-specific education, case management and support, management of overseas office and staff, translation and document expenses, travel support and post-placement report processing. Sibling Fee (applies to those adopting more than one child)	This fee is determined by current conditions in Colombia and is subject to change. You will be billed for the fee current when you submit your dossier.	\$7,000 \$4,000	Due with submission of dossier; non-refundable
	This fee (charged per sibling) covers the costs associated with adopting more than one child	\$250/sibling	Due with acceptance of referral; non-refundable
Humanitarian Aid and Project Support	Supports LSSMN humanitarian projects worldwide	\$8,000 \$3,000	Due with acceptance of referral
Total Foreign Country Program Expenses Paid to LSSMN and Passed Through to Country.....			\$7,000 \$15,000

FEES PAID TO THIRD PARTIES	DESCRIPTION	FEE	PAYMENT TIMELINE
Estimated Third Party Fees Includes fees to Third Party Providers for services required in order to complete the adoption process. Naturalization/Citizenship fees vary.	MN Criminal Background Check	\$70/person	All Third Party fees are paid directly to provider at time of service
	USCIS-I-800A	\$670	
	USCIS Biometrics (fingerprinting)	\$80/person	
	Misc. Documentation Fees	\$400	
	Legal Services	\$2,500	
	Additional Translation	\$10/page	
	Child's Medical Exam	\$70	
	Child's Passport	\$100	
	Child's U.S. Visa	\$400	
Estimated Travel Expenses Round trip airfare to Colombia for two adults and flight to U.S. for child under two years. Actual fares vary depending on travel season and departure city. In-country travel includes local transportation and miscellaneous expenses. Food and lodging estimate is calculated based upon a 6 week stay at \$150 per day per family.	Airfare	\$2,400	All Third Party fees are paid directly to provider at time of service
	In-country Travel	\$600	
	Food and Lodging	\$6,300	
Total Estimated Third Party Expenses			\$13,740

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR COLOMBIA WAITING CHILD ADOPTION PROGRAM..... \$30,290 \$38,290

This is a good faith estimate of charges deemed reliable as of **JUNE 1, 2010**. Fees are charged for services provided, not for children. The payment of fees for services rendered does not guarantee the placement of a child. All fees, timelines and program requirements are subject to change. Fees are non-refundable once the service has been provided. LSSMN fees will be honored at the rate that is current when the service contract is received by LSSMN. Clients are responsible for non-LSSMN fees billed at the rate current when the service is provided.