

**North Carolina Division of Social Services  
Child Welfare Services  
Adoption Assistance Benefits**

Assistance Benefit	Eligibility Criteria	Description	Amount Per Child/Family	Additional Information						
Monthly Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The child is or has been in DSS custody</li><li>The child cannot or should not return home</li><li>Special needs* determination</li><li>Attempt to place child without adoption assistance except when not in the child's best interest</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monthly stipend issued each month following the Decree of Adoption until the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Per child, per month based on age<table><tr><td>\$475</td><td>0-5 years</td></tr><tr><td>\$581</td><td>6-12 years</td></tr><tr><td>\$634</td><td>13-18 years</td></tr></table></li></ul>	\$475	0-5 years	\$581	6-12 years	\$634	13-18 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Additional eligibility requirements are completed in order to determine funding source for adoption assistance</li></ul>
\$475	0-5 years									
\$581	6-12 years									
\$634	13-18 years									
Vendor Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The child is or has been in DSS custody</li><li>The child cannot or should not return home</li><li>Special needs* determination</li><li>Attempt to place child without adoption assistance except when not in the child's best interest</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Available funds to meet the special needs of children following the Decree of Adoption until the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday</li><li>Must relate to physical, emotional, psychological handicapping condition</li><li>Must be reasonable, customary, usual rate</li><li>Must not be covered by private health insurance or Medicaid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>\$2400 per child, per year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Additional eligibility requirements are completed in order to determine funding source for adoption assistance</li><li>Counties review specific services requested to determine eligibility</li><li>Counties make payments directly to the vendor or adoptive family and request reimbursement from the State</li></ul>						
Non-Recurring Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The child cannot or should not return home</li><li>Special needs* determination</li><li>Attempt to place child without adoption assistance except when not in the child's best interest</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reimbursement for costs associated with the legal adoption of a child with special needs.</li><li>Examples are court costs, attorney fees, and transportation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>\$2000 per child, per adoption</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Counties make payments directly to the vendor or adoptive family and request reimbursement from the State</li></ul>						

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Social Services Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The child is or has been in DSS custody</li><li>The child cannot or should not return home</li><li>Special needs* determination</li><li>Attempt to place child without adoption assistance except when not in the child’s best interest</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The opportunity for the adoptive family to seek support from DSS to identify a set of post-adoption services that may be helpful in keeping the new family system intact</li><li>If the family should need support or intervention, the agency is available to work with them or help to identify appropriate outside agencies to provide that support</li></ul>	N/A					
Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The child is or has been in DSS custody</li><li>The child cannot or should not return home</li><li>Special needs* determination</li><li>Attempt to place child without adoption assistance except when not in the child’s best interest</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Medicaid eligibility following the Decree of Adoption until the child’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday</li></ul>	N/A					
HIV Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Physician’s letter that confirms current diagnosis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supplemental, separate payments to support the additional needs of children with an HIV diagnosis</li></ul>	<table><tr><td>Prenatally exposed infant 0-24 mos. Who cannot be classified as definitely infected, but who has antibody to HIV, indicating exposure to an infected mother.</td><td>\$800</td></tr><tr><td>Infant, child or youth</td><td>\$1000</td></tr></table>	Prenatally exposed infant 0-24 mos. Who cannot be classified as definitely infected, but who has antibody to HIV, indicating exposure to an infected mother.	\$800	Infant, child or youth	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must be requested by the county each month</li></ul>
Prenatally exposed infant 0-24 mos. Who cannot be classified as definitely infected, but who has antibody to HIV, indicating exposure to an infected mother.	\$800							
Infant, child or youth	\$1000							

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			who meets one of the CDC definitions for infection but who has no previous signs or symptoms of HIV.		
			Infant, child or youth who shows mild signs or symptoms of HIV.	\$1200	
			Infant, child or youth who shows moderate signs or symptoms of HIV.	\$1200	
			Infant, child or youth who shows severe signs or symptoms of HIV.	\$1200	
			Child aged 0-21 with laboratory evidence of HIV infection who has a resulting terminal diagnosis with a life expectancy of less than six mos.	\$1600	
Special Children Adoption Incentive Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determined on an individual basis through review of required supporting documentation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supplemental, separate payments for the purpose of making adoption a possibility for children with severe special needs who would otherwise remain in the foster care system because of the financial loss to foster parents</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determined on an individual basis</li><li>Capped at \$1,000,000 statewide</li><li>First come, first served</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Established in 2000 by General Assembly</li><li>County DSS must agree to participate (50% cost share)</li><li>Entire amount paid to adoptive parents by state; state charges county for its share</li></ul>	

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**\*For the purposes of determining adoption assistance eligibility, “special needs” are defined as the following:**

1. Six years of age or older
2. Two years of age or older and a member of minority race or ethnic group
3. A member of a sibling group of three or more children who are placed together to be adopted
4. A member of a sibling group of two children who are placed together to be adopted and the sibling meets at least one of the other criteria for special needs
5. A medically diagnosed disability
6. Diagnosis of a psychiatric condition
7. Diagnosis of a behavioral or emotional disorder
8. Diagnosis of Intellectual Disability
9. Meeting the medical and disability requirements of SSI
10. Documented to be at risk of any of the above due to prenatal exposure to toxins, a history of abuse or serious neglect, and genetic history