



About Our Agency:

Children's House International is a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with a heartfelt mission to provide loving homes for abandoned children in India. Over the years, this mission has extended across the globe, leading to the placement of more than 2,000 children with caring families.

Since earning full COA Hague accreditation in 2009, Children's House has remained dedicated to ethically and compassionately serving children and families worldwide. Beyond adoption, the organization is deeply committed to offering humanitarian aid wherever possible, reflecting the values and vision set forth by its Board of Directors.



- See more at: <http://childrenshouseinternational.com>

Many members of our team are international adoptive parents themselves. This firsthand experience gives them a deep understanding of the emotions involved in adoption and a strong commitment to supporting the children and countries they represent.

At Children's House, our licensed social workers and registered counselors specialize in guiding families through the complexities of the international adoption process. We provide Home Study and Post Adoption or Post Placement Report services to families residing in Utah, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Idaho, and Washington State. For families located in other states, we assist in identifying and securing the services of a licensed, Hague-accredited home study agency in their area, ensuring a smooth and compliant process.

Selecting the right adoption agency is a critical step in your adoption journey. We encourage prospective adoptive parents to thoroughly research their options and make an informed decision based on their specific needs and goals.

For more detailed information on all of our programs, please visit our public document site at:

<https://childrenshouseinternational.com/adoption-documents/>



India Adoption Program

Thank you for your interest in Children's House International's India Program. We are proud to say that in 2025, Children's House is celebrating our 50th anniversary, and it all began in 1975 with India! India was our first program and our International Specialist, Lisa Anderson, has adopted two children from India and has been our India specialist for 26 years. Lisa received a Congressional Angels in Adoption Award in October 2015!

Eligibility:

US immigration law requires that at least one spouse is a US Citizen. If you are single, you must be a US Citizen. Permanent Residents and those on work visas do not qualify to adopt from a foreign country.

The prospective adoptive parents (PAPS) should be financially stable with the ability to comfortably support a child.

Single women are eligible to adopt child of any gender. Single men shall not be eligible to adopt a female child.

Couples must be married for a minimum of 2 years.

Couples with two or more children shall only be considered for special needs children. The minimum age difference between the child and either of the PAPS should not be less than twenty-five years.

The age of prospective adoptive parents as on the date of complete registration shall be counted for deciding the age group of the child you apply for. India counts the years, months and days to reach the combined age limits.



"Loving a Child has no Boundaries"

In addition, if you have not accepted a referral and received NOC in three years, you must revalidate your file with CARA. If this happens, you will then be eligible for the age category at the time of revalidation.

Age Restrictions:

Married Couples:

- The maximum combined age for children, 0-2 is 85 years.
- The maximum combined age for children 2-4 is 90 years.
- The maximum combined age for children 4-8 is 100 years.
- The maximum combined age for children 8+ is 110 years.

Single women:

- The maximum age for children 0-2 is 40 years.
- The maximum age for children 2-4 is 45 years.
- The maximum age for children 4-8 is 50 years.
- The maximum age for children 8+ is 55 years.

Children:

There are over 1,000 children in India's CARING site. Most with moderate to severe special needs. We sometimes see healthy older children or children listed with minor special needs.

Waiting Children are between 6 months and 16 years if age. There are four categories: no known health challenges, physically challenged, mentally challenged, and multiple disabilities. **For a waiting child, the parents' heritage does not matter.

NRI/OCI

Non-Resident Indian (NRI):

- Once spouse is a citizen of India
- Once spouse is a US Citizen

Overseas Citizen of India (OCI):

- Both spouses are US Citizens and have obtained OCI status

Singles:

- Singles must be US Citizens with OCI Status

NRI/OCI families are eligible to adopt a child with no known health problems. NRI/OCI families are treated on par with resident Indians. The current wait times for a child with no known special needs is 4+ years. Most NRI/OCI families are open to a child with minor special needs.

Note: If you have more than two children already in your home, India will not allow you to adopt a healthy child. You must be open to some degree of special needs.

Non-NRI/OCI:

Foreign – Families with no Indian heritage or Indian families that do not qualify as NRI or OCI. The reality of the program requires us to counsel foreign families to be open to considering a child with a minimum of moderate special needs, or a child over the age of 10. Applications from families to adopt only healthy young children (unless they are NRI/OCI) will result in an indefinite wait for referral. The more open you are to both genders and more special needs, the faster a referral will happen.

Travel and Time Frame:

Travel:

- Adopting from India is a one-trip process lasting approximately 12 days. Undua has recently revised its adoption guidelines to where Magistrates will grant adoptions instead of District Courts. We feel that it will speed up your legalization process. However, some Magistrates mandate that the adoptive parents travel to appear in court.

Time Frame:

- NRI and OCI families are currently waiting approximately 58+ months for a referral of a healthy child from CARA. This wait begins after your home study and other documents are approved by India.



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- Foreign families' wait times depend on the special needs and age of the child they are wishing to adopt.

Gender:

- Please consider asking for a child of either gender. If you are open to a little boy, your wait time could be shorter!

Note: Wait times are estimated and based on our current experience. All wait times are subject to change without notice.

Abbreviated India Process:

1. Completed CHI Docusign application
2. Begin your Home Study
3. File I800a and submit CARA
4. Documents
5. Receive US and India Approvals
6. Wait for referral
7. Accept referral
8. Receive NOC and petition is filed
9. Adoption is granted
10. New birth certificate and Indian passports are applied for
11. Schedule VISA Medical and Embassy appointments
12. Travel to India
13. Embassy and exit permit process
14. Travel home

Summary of Costs:

1. Application Fee(\$800): Due with the application.
2. Fees Due:
 - a. Agency Fee1 (\$4,965) Due after the application is approved. (approximately 1 week)

- b. Agency Fee 2 (\$5,250): Due once the home study is ready to review. (approximately 4 months after application)
- c. Agency Fee 3 (\$3,500) Ude at the time of dossier submission. (approximately 1-2 months after home study review)
- d. India Program Fee 1 (\$2,000): Due at dossier submission. (approximately 1-2 months after home study review)
- e. India Program Fee 2 (\$7,000): Due when you accept a child referral

Total cost for 1 child: \$26,015.

3. Addition Expenses Not Included Above (Estimated):

- a. Psychological Evaluation (per parent): \$350-\$1,500
- b. Home Study Services: \$2,000-\$5,000
- c. Post Adoption Reports – please pay to your home study agency at time of referral acceptance. Fees vary
- d. Travel and Accommodation: \$7,600-\$9,500
- e. USCIS/NCB Fee I800A: \$920

Please refer to the complete financial agreement for a more complete explanation.

Next Steps:

Please complete a short, no obligation pre-application.

<https://childrenshouseinternational.com/apply-now/>

Schedule an appointment with Lisa Anderson. Note: the pre-application is required for an appointment.

<https://calendly.com/lisaanderson-chi/india-inquiry?month=2025-06>



Your interest in our India adoption program means the world to us, and we're here to help every step of the way. Thank you for your commitment and your time.

Contact us at Lisa.a@chiadopt.org

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NOTE: DUE TO CHANGES IN ADOPTION REGULATIONS IN INDIA. THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME AND WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.