

# China Adoption Program

Dear Prospective Families:

Thank you for your interest in the MAPS China program. Our commitment is to improve the quality of life for children all over the world through adoption programs, humanitarian aid, and support services.

Due to various socio-economic factors, there are thousands of children in China available for international adoption – most are female. There is an urgent need for the children waiting in orphanages for loving families to take them home. All are legally available for adoption as a result of abandonment. Due to the wonderful relationships MAPS has built throughout the years, the process is streamlined and dependable.

When you choose MAPS, you will be working with a knowledgeable program coordinator who will walk you through the sometimes-complex adoption process. This person will coordinate the U.S. aspects of the program and will work closely with our in-country representatives who guide you while you travel. Together, these teams ensure a positive experience for your family and your new child, both before and during your trip.

When choosing to adopt a child internationally, an extra measure of patience and flexibility is required. In dealing with foreign governments, program and policy changes can occur during your adoption process. While these factors are out of any agency's control, our experienced staff will keep you informed of such changes and will help you navigate any challenges that arise during your adoption. MAPS provides you with the support and guidance you need throughout this journey, as we strive to bring you and your child together as quickly as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Betsy Bewsey  
China Program Coordinator

## THE CHILDREN

The available children are approximately eight months to 13 years of age. The vast majority are infants and toddlers. Virtually all of the children are female. Healthy infant male children are available, but the timeframe for referral may be longer.

The health care and stimulation in the orphanages are adequate, although lack of resources limit what can be done. Healing from neglect and poor nutrition is a reality for some children who enter the orphanage from inadequate home conditions. The children in this program are almost all abandoned and do not have any social or medical history prior to arrival in the orphanage. Social histories consist of a statement as to where the child was found in a public place. Medical records consist of brief examinations, laboratory test results and a developmental report. The children offered for foreign adoption are considered to be healthy. But as with any country, there are always some children with special needs, correctable or otherwise.

Families who will be adopting older children must be aware that these children have suffered some institutional and/or emotional deprivation during their early years of life. The children we have worked with appear to be well cared for by warm, concerned caretakers. However, characteristics of these children may be similar to those of any child with special needs stemming from lack of proper parenting; a loss of personal history and genetic connection; multiple caregivers; and the developmental delays that often result from institutional care.

MAPS recommends that adoptive families make every effort to understand the issues of adoption from their child's point of view. Since adoption issues do not end with placement, it is suggested that adoptive families remain open to support from a variety of resources as their child grows into adulthood. These resources include adoptive parent groups, the home study agency, professional counseling, and an ever expanding body of literature on adoptive parenting. MAPS

is always available to help parents with such resources.

## FAMILY REQUIREMENTS

**Age** - applicants must be at least 30 years old but no older than 50 at the time of dossier submission to the China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA).

The CCAA generally assigns children approximately 10-12 months of age to applicants where the younger parent is under 45. If the applicants are 46-49, they will be assigned a child of 1-3 years. Applicants cannot be older than 50. Couples who are 50-55 may adopt a waiting child only. Exceptions to these requirements may be granted by the CCAA when adopting special-needs children or children over age 6.

Applicants can only adopt one child at a time from China. The adoption of twins is extremely rare and involves a long wait with no guarantee. Applicants who have already adopted a child from China, and would like to adopt a subsequent child, must wait until their 12 month post-placement report has been submitted to the CCAA before submitting their dossier for a subsequent child.

**Family Size** - families may have no more than 4 children under age 18 living in the home, and the youngest must be at least 1 year old. This requirement does not apply to families adopting a waiting child.

**Marital Status** - single applicants are no longer eligible. Couples must be married at least 2 years. If either spouse has been divorced, they must be married at least 5 years. No more than 2 divorces per spouse permitted.

**Health** – both applicants must be in excellent health mentally and physically, including a BMI (body mass index) of 40 or less. All health issues will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Please consult with MAPS regarding health requirements.

**Income** – one applicant must hold a stable occupation, \$10K minimum income per family member (including child to be adopted). Family’s net worth should be at least \$80,000 (assets vs. liabilities).

**Education** – both spouses must have at least a high school degree.

**Criminal Record** – any criminal charges will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

**Religion** - couples with religious beliefs that prevent any sort of medical treatment, including blood transfusions, for the child, will not be eligible to adopt from China. This also includes religions that use alternatives to blood transfusions, as this is not available in every country

## **TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS**

One or both parents must travel. MAPS coordinates all travel and accommodations to and within China. Length of stay is approximately 2 weeks (possibly 3 weeks if child is from Guangdong Province).

When possible MAPS submits a minimum of four dossiers at a time to the CCAA in order to form a travel group. This will ensure that a MAPS group leader will accompany each group to China. However, if there are fewer than four families at time of travel, a MAPS group leader will not accompany the group. In either case you will be accompanied by our bilingual Chinese representative for your entire stay in China and be in the best of hands. If your child is from Guangdong Province the MAPS group leader (if accompanying the group) will stay with you for the first two weeks of your trip only and our Chinese bilingual representative will remain with you for the full extent of your trip.

## **TIMEFRAME & PROCESS**

Once your family has applied to the China program, a MAPS program coordinator will advise and work with you to complete a dossier

(an authenticated set of documents), according to the rules of the CCAA. Chinese officials will then identify an appropriate child based on your dossier. Referrals of children are primarily from southeastern provinces in China including some orphanages that offer foster care. Referrals currently take 32+ months from time of dossier registration by the CCAA in China (please note, it is now taking up to a month for the CCAA to register a dossier from the time it is received). The wait for referral quite possibly could increase. Parents typically travel 5-6 weeks following the referral and child acceptance.

MAPS staff, here and in China, work with the Chinese central and local governments on pre-adoption steps that must be completed prior to travel. In addition, MAPS will assist you in obtaining visas to enter the country.

The administrative processing of the actual adoption occurs while the family is in China. Child and family travel can take place as soon as U.S. immigration and visa procedures are completed in Guangzhou.

Before you return home, China will issue your family a final decree of adoption of your child. After your child arrives home, there is a post-placement supervisory period and finalization in the court of the family’s state of residence. Families are required to send periodic reports and photographs, through MAPS, until one year from the date of placement.

Please be aware that programs of international adoption are always evolving on the foreign side. During the course of your adoption, you may encounter some policy and procedural changes, delays, administrative backlog, and restrictions or moratoriums placed on the program by the foreign government. We will keep you advised of any changes and will work diligently to bring you and your child together as soon as possible.

## **EXPEDITED APPLICATIONS**

In certain circumstances adoptive applicants can request that their adoption process be expedited. Those who qualify include:

~ One or both applicants were born in China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan.

~ Both parents of either applicant were born in China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan.

Although an expedited referral presumably happens faster than the normal wait of 32+ months, there is no estimation of how long the process would take. Expedited referrals are done on a case-by-case basis and may vary with each circumstance and client.

## **COSTS**

The initial fee submitted to MAPS, with your application, is the application fee of \$600 and is not country-specific. MAPS Agency fee for China is \$6,300 (payable upon acceptance into program) and the Foreign Program fee for China is \$3,650 (payable within 10 days of child acceptance). This includes MAPS costs both in the U.S. and China and is due upon child assignment. Additionally there is a \$1,640 dossier submission fee which covers the costs of translation and the CCAA service fee. The above fees do not include the mandatory orphanage donation of \$3,000 (up to \$5,000 in some provinces). For more information, please refer to the fee schedule for possible additional costs.

## **GETTING STARTED**

The adoption process begins with the application packet. In this information we walk you through the materials needed to open your file. Your application to MAPS should be submitted as soon as possible, whether or not your home study is completed. Your home study must be done by a licensed adoption agency in your state. We cannot accept studies done by licensed independent social workers and probate courts. We will formally accept your completed file after full review of your home study and related application materials.

Your home study is valid for approximately one year (varies by state). If placement has not

occurred within that time, you will need your home study agency to provide MAPS with an original, notarized update. We recommend that you determine the fee for this service up front so that you may be prepared if the process takes longer than expected.

MAPS will also need one photocopy of your CIS I-800A approval/cable notice. If not yet received, file your I-800A immediately and state that you would like the approval notice cabled to the American Consulate in Guangzhou, China. You should file your I-800A with CIS early in your home study process. The FBI fingerprint clearance takes 2-4 months and could delay your travel.

## **HUMANITARIAN AID**

An important component of our China adoption program is humanitarian aid. Placed families are encouraged to participate at whatever level they can offer to help support the children who remain behind. We are proud that our families continue to care and put forth efforts on behalf of the children and orphanages of China. Their selfless efforts have made a difference to these children. Please review the enclosed material and let us know if you have any questions. We would be delighted to speak with you about the many children who are waiting for homes and your plans to build your family through adoption.

Sincerely,

**Betsy Bewsey**  
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<b>FEE SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTIONS FROM CHINA</b>
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MAPS application fee (due with application)	\$600
MAPS agency fee (payable at program acceptance)	\$6,300
MAPS foreign program fee	\$3,650
Additional fee for twin adopted at the same time \$2,000 (\$1,000 for stateside adoption program expenses/services, \$1,000 for in-country adoption program expenses/services).	

**ADDITIONAL COSTS**

These are some of the possible additional expenses that you can anticipate. They may vary on a case-by-case basis.

**Other expenses to plan for:**

Immigration application (I800A)	\$670
USCIS fingerprints (per adult in home)	\$80
Dossier submission/translation	\$1,640
Mandatory orphanage donation	\$3,000 (may be up to \$5,000 in some provinces)
Travel to and from China	Approx. \$900-\$1,400 per person
Travel within China	Approx. \$250-\$600 per person
Travel for child/ren	Approx. \$150-\$1,300 per child
Visa medical exam	Approx. \$65 per child + any lab work
Child's U.S. visa (per child)	\$400
Lodging, food, necessities (parents, child/ren)	Approx. \$1,500-\$2,000 depending on accommodation
Miscellaneous fee for orphanage banquet, ground transport (incl most sightseeing)	Approx. \$500

***Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:***

<i>Physical exams for parents for dossier</i>	<i>Approx. \$25-\$150 per person</i>
<i>Certification /Authentication of Dossier</i>	<i>Approx. \$350-\$500</i>
<i>Family passports &amp; visas</i>	<i>Approx. \$100-\$200 per person</i>
<i>Possible add'l. Chinese official fees</i>	<i>Approx. \$100-\$400</i>
<i>Miscellaneous personal expenses</i>	

\*\$5,050 for twins (additional \$1,000 for US program expenses/services, \$1000 for in-country expenses)

THE ABOVE COSTS AND FEES PAYABLE TO MAPS AND THE FOREIGN PROGRAM FEE ARE ESTIMATED AND, DUE TO THE NATURE OF INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION, SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

12/30/08