

# Family Resource Center's Domestic Programs Overview and Fee Structure

Effective October 1, 2011

**All fees paid to FRC are non-refundable unless otherwise noted. All FRC fees are reviewed annually by our Board of Directors and are subject to change. See Refund Policy on page 4.  
There is no guarantee of placement in any adoption program.**

## Application and Home Study Required for entry into FRC Domestic Programs

### Phase I – Services and Fees

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Application Interview</li> <li>• Orientation</li> <li>• Home Study</li> <li>• Adoption Education and Training</li> <li>• 4 Post Placements Visits for one child</li> <li>• Court report</li> <li>• FBFA Application (TAP Only)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fee [due with application] - \$3,500<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>\$3,150 for returning Illinois applicants</p> <p>\$2,500 for applicants with current home study</p>
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## FRC's Family Based Financial Aid (FBFA)

FRC's Board of Directors created the FBFA program to support applicants from a wide range of economic circumstances in pursuing adoption. The FBFA program provides non-cash grants to applicants who demonstrate financial need. This program takes into account a variety of factors including, but not limited to: household income, assets, age, extenuating circumstances, extraordinary medical expenses, and number of dependents. Need is not determined strictly on an income-based sliding scale.

Applicants have the option of applying for FBFA prior to submitting their Phase I fee by submitting \$250 (non-refundable and payable to FRC). Applicants must otherwise apply for FBFA within 60 days of submitting their FRC application and Phase I fee, with no additional FBFA application fee. FBFA award amounts range from \$1,000 to \$13,000. If any amount of FBFA is awarded, \$1000 of the total award amount will be applied to Phase II fees.

*This program is only open to US citizens and US residents.*

## Description of FRC's Domestic Adoption Programs

**Traditional Adoption Program (TAP)** - FRC works with birth parents (BPs) that have approached the agency to explore the option of developing adoption plans for their children. In TAP, FRC pays all pre- and post-placement BP expenses. Applicants pay fees in installments and financial aid may be available based on need. Home Study Workers are assigned to applicants and work with them throughout the adoption process. This process involves working with applicants to clarify their specific adoption expectations and presenting all appropriate TAP applicant profiles to BP(s) with similar expectations.

**Agency-Assisted Program (AAP)** – When an applicant identifies a BP residing in Illinois who is considering placing a child for adoption, they may elect to enter the AAP. Legally allowable BP expenses, approved by applicants, and FRC staff expenses (mileage, time, etc.), are paid by applicants and are not recoverable if placement does not occur. The Placement fee is only paid if the adoption is successful.

**Out-of-State Coordinated Program (OSCP)** – This is applicable when a BP who does not live in Illinois contacts FRC through our website and this contact results in a connection being made between the BP and an applicant. When applicants agree to proceed with this adoption opportunity, they pay FRC the initial OSCP program fee. If an adoption does not result from this match, no additional fee is paid. The final payment is due only if and when an identified BP executes surrenders for adoption or its equivalent in the state where they reside. Applicants are responsible for all expenses, including but not limited to: BP expenses; Out-of-state and Illinois legal expenses; Out-of-state agency expenses; travel and lodging.

<sup>1</sup> Overall Agency costs are lower for out-of-state residents; however costs and expenses related to travel, lodging, food, etc. are at applicants' expense.

## Traditional Adoption Program (TAP)

### Phase II – Services and Fees

- BPs outreach/advertising efforts
- Emergency response service – staff on call 24 hours per day
- Support/feedback in the creation of family profiles
- Presentation of family profiles to Illinois BP's
- Family profile on FRC's website
- BP expenses paid by FRC – no hidden costs<sup>2</sup>
- Access to individualized outreach and marketing program
- Coordination of post-placement communication plan between APs and BPs

**Fee [due after acceptance into program] - \$5,000**  
**\$4,000 Program Participation Fee with FBFA award letter**

### Phase III – Placement

**Fee [due at the time of placement] – \$8,900 to \$20,900\***

\* Range is influenced by the possible provision of up to \$13,000 in Family Based Financial Aid

### Total Fees for TAP

**\$16,400 to \$29,400**

\$16,050 to \$29,050 for returning Illinois families

\$15,400 to \$28,400 for families with current home study

## Agency-Assisted Program (AAP)

### Phase II – Services and Fees

- Emergency response service – staff on call 24 hours per day
- Birth Parent counseling services to identified BP(s)
- Coordination of hospital plan
- Management of BP Expense Fund
- Coordination of post-placement communication plan between APs and BPs

**Fee [due with submission of AAP Agreement] - \$1,500**

\$1,500 for first 15 hours / \$100 per hour thereafter

**Birth Parent Expense Fund - \$2,500**

These are funds deposited with FRC to be used for BP and related expenses.

BP expenses may exceed this amount.

### Phase III – Placement

**Fee [due at the time of placement] – \$4,000**

### Total Minimum Fees for AAP (excluding expenses)

**Fees [AAP Only] - \$5,500**

<sup>2</sup> In all FRC programs, Applicants are responsible for obtaining their own legal counsel at their own expense.

## Phase III - Sibling Placements

**TAP Phase III Fee will not exceed \$31,350**

When two or more children from the same birth mother are placed at the same time through TAP program, Placement fees will be determined on the following basis; applicants will either pay 1.5 full placement fees or two full placement fees less Family Based Financial Aid (whichever is less).

*FBFA award eligibility may be reassessed for the placement of siblings.*

**Agency Assisted Phase III Fee \$6,000**

## Out-of-State Coordinated Program (OSCP)

### OSCP Services and Fees

- Preliminary counseling to BP(s)
- Support to potential AP(s)
- Identify agency/attorney resources in state where BP(s) resides
- Assist applicants in understanding the process
- Emergency response service – staff on call 24 hours per day

**Initial Fee [Due when matched with BP] - \$1,500**

**Final Fee [Due at time of placement] – \$2,000**

**Total Fees for OSCP (excluding Out-of-State expenses)**

**Fees [OSCP Only] - \$3,500**

## Placement of Children with Complex Medical or Special Needs

Partial or full Phase III fee waivers may be provided to Adoptive Parents adopting children with known complex medical needs. These waivers are considered on a case-by-case basis and are determined by FRC's Executive Director in consultation with FRC's Board of Directors.

When Illinois residents adopt a child with special needs, FRC can assist with the application process for a Non-Ward Subsidy for children who may meet the eligibility criteria.

## Family Resource Center's Refund Policies

In the spirit of transparency, and in order to avoid any confusion, FRC wants applicants to know what fees are refundable and under what circumstances. Unless otherwise stated below, all fees paid to FRC are non-refundable. In three of the following four situations outlined below, FRC fees or "expenses" are refundable provided that those fees or expenses meet the criteria set forth in each applicable section.

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### I. Phase I or Home Study Fee

A portion of the Phase I or Home Study Fee is refundable under the following circumstances:

A] If an applicant submits an application to FRC and withdraws<sup>3</sup> it within 72 hours of the time it has been received by FRC, all but \$250 of the Phase I or Home Study Fee is refundable.

B] If an applicant submits an application to FRC and withdraws<sup>3</sup> it within 21 days of the time it has been received by FRC, all but \$1,000 of the Phase I or Home Study Fee is refundable.

C] There shall be no refund of the Phase I or the Home Study Fee once an FRC worker enters an applicant's home and begins an in-home visit and interview even if this interview and visit begins prior to the 21 day period referenced above in section [B].

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### II. FRC's TAP Program Placement Fee

FRC's TAP Program Placement Fee is refundable under the following circumstances:

In legal risk situations involving unknown putative fathers, the actual amount of the placement fee paid by an adoptive parent(s) will be fully refunded by Family Resource Center in the event that the adoptive placement of the child is reversed prior to the finalization of the adoption, due to (1) a successful legal challenge brought by a putative/biological father and (2) loss of custody of the child by the adoptive parent(s). This refund will be made by FRC to the adoptive parent(s) within 60 days after **both** the entry of the final court order and the return or surrender of the child to FRC or the putative/biological father. The 60 day period will begin after the second of the aforementioned events occurs.

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### III. Agency Assisted Program "Expense Fund"

This section only applies to participants in FRC's Agency Assisted Adoption Program. The unused portion of an applicant's "Expense Fund" in FRC's Agency Assisted Adoption Program is refundable as per the terms set forth in FRC's Agency Assisted Adoption Program Agreement entered into between FRC and program participants/applicants and signed by the applicants.

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### IV. No other FRC fees are refundable

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<sup>3</sup> An applicant's application shall be considered "withdrawn" by FRC when a) the applicant(s) sends a timed and dated email concurrently to FRC's Executive Director and Associate Director indicating their desire to withdraw their application, and, b) when this email is followed by a "withdrawal notice" letter to FRC's office, sent via certified mail and postmarked within one business day of the date the "withdrawal notice" email was sent.