

WAT! Adoption Grant & WAT! Home Study Grant Application Instructions

Grant Rules and Information

1. **Frequency:** Applicants may apply at any time the application period is open. Grants are awarded as funds are available for qualified applicants.
2. **Award Amounts:**
 - **WAT! Adoption Grant:** Our goal is to provide a minimum of \$5,000 per WAT! Adoption Grant, but the amount may vary at the board's sole discretion and/or availability of funds.
 - **WAT! Home Study Grant:** The amount is \$1,500, but may vary at the board's sole discretion and/or availability of funds.
3. **Applicant Qualifications:**
 - **WAT! Adoption Grant:**
 - Applicant must be Home Study Approved; AND
 1. Applicant(s) have signed with an adoption agency and can show proof of fees to be collected by such agency. For example: The Agency provides a fixed fee schedule via contract: X amount due for Home Study, X amount due for birth mother costs, X amount due for matching, X amount due at placement, X amount due at finalization, etc.; OR
 2. Applicant(s) are completing a private adoption (not working with an adoption agency). However, can show ACTUAL costs related to adoption process. These fees can be for an adoption agency, adoption lawyer, adoption consultant, birth mother expenses, travel associated with adoption, or a combination.
 - a. For qualification purposes, **Estimated fees DO NOT equal Invoiced fees. Invoiced fees are ACTUAL costs** that you are required to pay for your adoption.
 - b. An Invoice or Formal Contract that clearly outlines your adoption fees are both acceptable documents to submit for documentation.
 - **WAT! Home Study Grant:**
 - Applicant shall be Home Study Approved
 - Applicant does not yet meet the qualifications of the **WAT! Adoption Grant**, but in the process of adopting.
 1. Refer to this YouTube video [[WAT! Home Study Grant- YouTube](#)] for an explanation of the creation of the **WAT! Home Study Grant** and more detail of what the options are for applicants who do not qualify for the full \$5,000 **WAT! Adoption Grant**.

4. **Application:** The application is the same for the **WAT! Adoption Grant** and the **WAT! Home Study Grant**. See Items 2 and 3 above for the differences between the two grants. The application may be completed in one of three ways:
- **Online**
 - If applying online, we **strongly recommend** saving to your desktop or printing a .PDF of application **first** to review (in its entirety) and gather all pertinent information, as once you begin online application **you will not be able to save progress**. You will need to complete an online application in one sitting, otherwise you will have to start over again.
 - Note, even when applying online, supplemental materials will need to be emailed (refer to Section 5. *Supplemental Materials* below).
 - **Email**
 - Send all materials (application and supplemental Materials) to info@watadoptions.org.
 - Email subject should be **[Applicant Last Name], [First Name] Grant Application**. Add "**1 of X**" (X being the number of total emails) at the end of the subject titles if multiple emails are to be sent for one application due to file size or any other reason.
 - **Postal Mail**
 - Send all materials (Application and Supplemental Materials) to **P.O. Box 195693, Winter Springs, FL 32719**
 - Note: PO Box is not checked as regularly as email. If you mail in please consider emailing info@watadoptions.org to alert WAT! team that application has been mailed.
5. **Supplemental Materials** required with application (application will not be considered complete until all documents are submitted):
- Approved home study.
 - Latest tax return.
 - Family photo including everyone who will be in the adoptive household.
 - Total adoption fee breakdown or itemized invoice.

Email all supplemental materials to info@watadoptions.org using the subject line: **[Applicant Last Name], [First Name] Grant Application Supplemental Materials**. Add "**1 of X**" (X being the number of emails) at the end of the subject titles if multiple emails are to be sent.

6. **Grant Award Winners (Grantees):**
- If grantee is adopting through an adoption agency, the award amount will be paid directly to the agency*.
 - *If grantee has already paid the adoption agency (in part or in full), it is the grantee's responsibility to confirm with the agency whether the agency will reimburse the overage to the grantee. If the agency will not reimburse grantee as stated above, it is the grantee's responsibility to let WAT! know as soon as possible to prevent grant monies being sent to the agency. In this case, WAT! will work with grantee to find an agreeable solution.
 - If grantee is not adopting through an adoption agency, grantee will provide WAT! with the following information:

- Method of adoption:
 - How was the home study obtained?
 - How is grantee being matched with a child for adoption?
 - What lawyer is the applicant working with to finalize adoption (name, license number, and state of license)?
- Receipts of all expenses directly related to adoption (if already paid).
- Itemization of expected adoption fees not yet paid (document what lawyer fees will be as well as any other anticipated fees directly related to the adoption).
- Any additional information WAT! deems necessary to determine award amount and/or method of award payment.

7. Miscellaneous Notes:

- If there are multiple qualified applicants at a time but not enough funds to award to all, WAT! will primarily consider financial need when determining the award winner, but may also consider other factors.
- If you have any questions regarding the application and or supplemental materials, please email info@watadoptions.org. Please use the subject line: ***[Applicant Last Name], [First Name] Grant Application Questions.***