



Report to Congress on The Number of Accredited Adoption Service Providers

Section 7019(e) of the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2026 (Div. F, P.L. 119-75) and House Report 119-217

The Department of State, as the U.S. Central Authority for the 1993 Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, prioritizes and promotes intercountry adoptions that are safe, legal, ethical, and transparent. Our legal and regulatory structures are designed to protect children and the U.S. citizens who adopt them. Strong and effective oversight of intercountry adoption services helps bolster foreign adoption authorities' confidence in the U.S. accreditation system and protects intercountry adoption as a viable option for children when it is in their best interests.

The Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA) establishes the requirements and standards for agencies and persons to be accredited or approved to provide intercountry adoption services in the United States. Non-profit agencies are accredited, while individuals and for-profit agencies, which are both referred to as "persons," are approved. The IAA

requires the Department of State to designate and oversee one or more qualified Accrediting Entities (AE) to accredit and approve agencies and persons for this purpose.

Since 2008, there have been four designated AEs:

- Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) – operational from June 2008 to March 2013,
- Council on Accreditation (COA) – operational from June 2008 to December 2018,
- Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity (IAAME) – operational from April 2018 to September 30, 2025,
- Center for Excellence in Adoption Services (CEAS) – operational from December 2022 to present.

This report contains the number of accredited and approved adoption service providers and the range of costs of accreditation, including all relevant fees, disaggregated by fiscal year, since April 1, 2008, and addresses the total amount of money received by AEs from “Adoption Service Providers” (ASPs). The Department uses the term “ASP” to refer to agencies and persons that are accredited or approved during the relevant fiscal year.

TABLE: NUMBERS OF ACCREDITED AND APPROVED ASPS

ASPs are included in the data for any fiscal year in which they were accredited or approved, including temporarily,¹ and even if only for a portion of the fiscal year. AEs generally grant accreditation or approval for four years and may, for purposes of staggering renewals, provide an extension of up to one year as long as the total period of accreditation or approval does not exceed five years.

Fiscal Year	Total Number of ASPs	Accredited	Approved	Temporarily Accredited
2008	218	184	7	27
2009	231	196	8	27
2010	239	210	7	22
2011	214	209	5	0
2012	216	210	6	0
2013	218	212	6	0
2014	206	201	5	0
2015	199	194	5	0

¹ Section 203(c) of the IAA allowed for temporary accreditation for a year following the entry into force of the Convention. Temporary accreditation was available only to agencies that performed fewer than 100 intercountry adoption cases in the year prior to the transitional application deadline and only for the one or two-year period following April 1, 2008, the Convention's entry into force for the United States.

Fiscal Year	Total Number of ASPs	Accredited	Approved	Temporarily Accredited
2016	194	189	5	0
2017	183	178	5	0
2018	165	160	5	0
2019	150	147	3	0
2020	134	131	3	0
2021	111	109	2	0
2022	97	96	1	0
2023	84	83	1	0
2024	71	70	1	0
2025	64	63	1	0

As the global number of intercountry adoptions has declined and continues to do so, many ASPs have elected not to maintain or renew accreditation or approval and to cease providing services. Some continue their work as exempt or supervised providers, as the accreditation and approval regulations allow. This includes a significant number of ASPs that only provided home studies and had become accredited or approved voluntarily but were not required to maintain accreditation or approval to continue their work. Since prospective adoptive parents can work with an ASP outside their state of residence, the reduction in accredited or approved home study providers does not impede U.S. families' ability to adopt through the intercountry process.

COST OF ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL

The IAA authorizes AEs to establish, subject to Department approval, a schedule of fees that do not exceed the cost of accreditation. Per 22 CFR 96.8, those costs of accreditation include, but are not limited to, costs for completing the accreditation or approval process, complaint review, routine oversight and enforcement, and other data collection and reporting activities. When establishing fees, AEs appropriately consider the relative size, geographic location, and number of adoption cases managed by ASPs. The ASP is responsible for paying fees to the relevant AE that has jurisdiction over it.

Prior to approving a new fee schedule, the Department assesses the AE's budget and projected revenue and confirms compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, including reviewing that fees do not exceed the full costs of accreditation. Effective January 8, 2025, any changes to an AE's fee schedule will be published in the Federal Register for public comment prior to approval. The Department does not establish the fee schedule, place a cap on fees, mandate a particular fee structure, or require that the fee schedule be identical across multiple AEs.

Since the authority for determining fees lies with the AEs, direct comparisons across AEs are difficult. For example, COA calculated its fee amounts based on an applicant's documented revenues from its intercountry adoption programs, while IAAME did so according to the average number of adoptions for which the agency served as the primary provider during the previous two years. CDHS, a public entity, was able to use state funding to support some operating costs but was only authorized to accredit, approve, monitor, and oversee ASPs located in the state of Colorado. COA's business model involved the use of volunteer peer reviewers to perform some elements of the AE role; however, since 2017, the

Department has required all AE functions be performed by paid AE staff. From 2008 - 2017, AEs charged a flat “monitoring and oversight” fee each year to cover activities outside of the cost of applications for accreditation or approval. Beginning in 2018, AEs have charged a per case monitoring and oversight fee in recognition that the amount of work to monitor and oversee ASPs is proportional to the number of cases an ASP facilitates.

TABLE: COA AND CDHS FEE DATA

The fee data below separates one-time costs, paid at the beginning of the application process, from the variable costs that are paid on an annual, per case, or ad hoc basis.

Note: Maximum fees on the table below are based on a 5-day site visit with three evaluators. Site visit costs for 2018-2025 use standard federal per diem rates as reported by GSA. [Per diem files | GSA](#)

Fiscal Year	Fee Range - Cost of Accreditation /Approval Application or Renewal	Min. and Max. of Variable Fees	AEs	Notes/URL
2008	\$2,675 - \$12,675	\$5 - \$5,625	COA and CDHS	FY2008-2009 Approved COA Fee Schedule (PDF) FY2008-2010 CDHS Fee Schedule (PDF)
2009	\$2,675 - \$12,675	\$5 - \$5,625	COA and CDHS	N/A
2010	\$2,675 - \$12,750	\$5 - \$5,625	COA and CDHS	FY2010 COA and CDHS Fee Schedule (PDF)
2011	\$2,675 - \$14,750	\$5 - \$5,625	COA and CDHS	FY2011 – 2015 COA and CDHS Fee Schedule (PDF)

Fiscal Year	Fee Range - Cost of Accreditation /Approval Application or Renewal	Min. and Max. of Variable Fees	AEs	Notes/URL
2012	\$2,675 - \$14,750	\$5 - \$5,625	COA and CDHS	N/A
2013	\$2,675 - \$14,750	\$5 - \$5,625	COA and CDHS	N/A
2014	\$8,400 - \$14,750	\$5 - \$5,625	COA	N/A
2015	\$8,400 - \$14,750	\$5 - \$5,625	COA	N/A
2016	\$8,400 - \$14,750	\$5 - \$5,625	COA	FY2016 COA Fee Schedule (PDF)
2017	\$8,400 - \$14,750	\$5 - \$5,625	COA	N/A
2018	\$8,400 - \$20,800	\$5 - \$5,625	COA and IAAME	FY2018 COA and IAAME Fee Schedule (PDF)
2019	\$8,400 - \$20,800	\$5 - \$5,625	COA and IAAME	N/A
2020	\$8,800 - \$20,800	\$5 - \$2,265	IAAME	N/A
2021	\$8,800 - \$20,800	\$5 - \$2,265	IAAME	N/A
2022	\$8,800 - \$20,800	\$5 - \$2,325	IAAME	N/A
2023	\$8,800 - \$26,000	\$5 - \$2,355	IAAME and CEAS	FY2023 Approved Fee Schedules for Accrediting Entities, IAAME and CEAS - Amended
2024	\$10,600 - \$26,000	\$5 - \$2,490	IAAME and CEAS	N/A

Fiscal Year	Fee Range - Cost of Accreditation /Approval Application or Renewal	Min. and Max. of Variable Fees	AEs	Notes/URL
2025	\$10,600 - \$26,000	\$815 - \$2,670	IAAME and CEAS	On December 16, 2024, IAAME's \$5 replacement accreditation certificate fee was removed — now issued electronically — leaving CEAS's FY25 M&O fee as the lowest minimum fee in effect. See Minor Revisions to Accrediting Entity Fee Schedule

TABLE: ACCREDITATION COSTS TO ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Since CEAS became an accrediting entity on December 1, 2022, ASPs have incurred annual costs associated with accreditation. These costs include all fees paid directly to CEAS to obtain and maintain accreditation. The table below reflects the average annual costs to ASPs for accreditation, as reported by CEAS, for each year since CEAS assumed its role as an accrediting entity.

Cost of Accreditation/ Total Amt Received	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Notes
Average Cost of Accreditation	\$14,917	\$20,107	\$15,553	Data provided by CEAS. The average cost per ASP includes application fees for accreditation/approval or renewal, accreditation/approval/renewal, annual and monthly monitoring and oversight, and site visit fees.
Total Amount Received from ASPs	\$626,375	\$776,402	\$851,408	Data provided by CEAS. The total cost includes application fees for accreditation/approval or renewal, accreditation/approval/renewal, annual and monthly monitoring and oversight, and site visit fees.

ADOPTIONS DIVISION PERSONNEL

The Adoptions Division of the Office of Children's Issues in the Bureau of Consular Affairs is composed of 24 Department of State personnel. All adoptions officers meet the experience requirements in accordance with 42 U.S.C. §14911(b)(2): All personnel of the Department performing core central authority functions in a professional capacity in the Office of Children's Issues shall have a strong background in consular affairs, personal experience in international adoptions, or professional experience in international adoptions or child services.