

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS)

This Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) program was developed to assist families in the post-finalization phase of adoption. It was recognized that, at the time of finalization, many families are not aware of special needs that will surface in later years. There may be financial strain for the adoptive family to assure adequate assistance is provided for the family. Agencies need to be open to helping the family access needed resources as appropriate. Families apply for PASSS in their county of residence, if they reside in Ohio. If the family adopted in Ohio but now resides out-of-state, the family is not eligible for PASSS.

This is the only subsidy program that may serve any adoptive family, including private agency, public agency, international, independent (step-parent adoptions are excluded). This is the only subsidy program that will accept applications in the post-finalization period.

Eligibility Requirements for PASSS:

1. The child developed a special need which existed before the adoption was finalized or can be attributed to factors in the pre-adoptive background;
2. The child is under age 18 or is 18-21 and mentally or physically handicapped;
3. Other sources of income are inadequate to meet the child's needs;
4. The expenses entailed to meet the child's needs are beyond the economic resources of the adoptive family;
5. The child is not in the custody of the PCSA or PCPA

Procedures for PASSS:

1. A 1050 form from ODJFS must be completed by the adoptive family with supporting documentation.
2. The application is presented to a PASSS Review Committee formed by each PCSA. The Committee shall have at least 3 members, including one person who is not employed by the PCSA
3. The Review Committee makes a Determination and sends this recommendation to the executive of the PCSA. A recommendation is made by the Review Committee within 45 days of application. The executive of the PCSA has 5 days to make a final decision on the recommendation of the Review Committee.
4. Copies of all applications, approved or denied, are sent to the Adoption Section at ODJFS
5. The PCSA enters into subsidy agreements to the extent that State funds are available to the PCSA.

The Committee makes recommendations on the level of funding based on the following list of priorities:

1. In-home family preservation;
2. Services to reduce serious psychological risk for the child or others;
3. Medical service designed to relieve or correct pre-adoptive health problems.

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Limitations on PASSS

1. No more that \$10,000 shall be encumbered for any one child in any one fiscal year; unless the family's resources drop substantially due to an involuntary loss of employment or a qualified professional recommends residential treatment or therapeutic foster care to prevent adoption disruption (in the case of these exceptions, a maximum of \$15,000 may be provided for services to a child);
2. The adoptive parent must pay 5% of the total cost of services provided for the child unless the gross income of the adoptive family is less than 200% of the federal poverty guideline;
3. No funding for maintenance costs (maintenance costs include expenses for food, shelter, and daily supervision);
4. No subsidy shall supplant funding normally used for services;
5. No funding shall be provided for legal fees;
6. No funding shall be provided for adoptive placement services;
7. No funding is provided for goods or services that are of equal or greater benefit to other family members, except family counseling and respite;
8. No funding for recreational activities
9. No funding for a child if there is no relationship between adoptive parent and child;
10. No funding to facilitate contact with a parent whose rights have been terminated;
11. No funding for services to a child in the custody of a PCSA or PCPA;
12. No funding for costs associated with residential care¹;
13. No funding for respite services that are not required to address psychiatric, psychological, counseling, or medical needs;
14. No funding for services to a child that are designed to enhance the child's self esteem or cultural development;
15. PASSS funds shall not supplant Medicaid funding unless:
 - a) Medicaid-approved services are not available on a timely basis;
 - b) Medicaid-approved services are not accessible;
 - c) No Medicaid-approved provider has the expertise in the specific issues unique to the needs of the child, such as separation, attachment, and bonding, or other related adoption issues. Such needs must be documented in written form by an appropriate professional.
16. Appeal Rights: Upon request, the applicant shall be granted a state hearing.

¹ If costs for residential care are "unbundled" so that expenses for therapy can be paid separately, these expenses can be covered by PASSS subsidies.

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