



General Eligibility Requirements

The following is an overview of written requirements for the China Adoption Program based on the changes issued from the China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) in July 2017. This information is meant as a preliminary resource and is not definitive; we strongly encourage anyone interested in adopting from China to contact one of our adoption information coordinators to discuss their circumstances.

In general, eligibility requirements for **married couples** seeking to adopt through our China program include (single female applicants: see separate section, below):

- An adoption home study completed by a non-profit agency that has Hague or Council On Accreditation (COA) accreditation
- Complete a minimum of 12 hours of adoption-related education (these 12 hours can be included as part of the total of 30 hours of adoption-related education required by Children's Home)
- Applicants should be at least 30 years of age
- No more than 5 children (minors) residing in the home (i.e. 5 children in the home are permitted in order to adopt a 6th child)
- Age of youngest child in the home at time of application to China should be at least 3 years old
- Minimum annual income of \$30,000 + \$10,000 per each child currently living in the home; cannot include funds received through a pension, disability benefits, or subsidies when calculating annual income
- Minimum net worth of \$80,000 for married couples; cannot include value of insurance policies when calculating net worth
- No serious physical health diagnoses (BMI must be less than 40; inquire about history of major surgery, vision/hearing impairments, mobility limitations, chronic or long-term health diagnoses); CCCWA requires a certain time period if there's a cancer history, please inquire
- No mental health diagnoses; some flexibility for a minor mental health condition, such as mild anxiety or minor depression, provided the condition is well controlled with a low dose of medication and able to be documented as such
- No history of drug use or dependency; where there is a history of alcohol abuse, consideration given for individuals with 10 or more years of alcohol-free lifestyle
- Minimal criminal history
- Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent
- Married a minimum of 2 years (with either no divorce history or a history of 1 divorce); married couples with more than 1 divorce on either side must be married a minimum of 5 years; no more than 2 divorces on either side. Time spent cohabitating prior to marriage may be included.

- No more than 50 years between age of youngest spouse and child to be adopted
- Married couple consists of one male and one female applicant (China Center of Children's Welfare and Adoption does not permit gay or lesbian individuals to adopt)
- There must be an interval of at least 1 year between adoption processes (from date of previous adoption registration to either a) the date of sending a subsequent dossier to China, or b) applying for pre-approval on an identified waiting child, whichever comes first)
- Commit to completing 5 years of post-placement reporting requirements

In general, eligibility requirements for **single female applicants** seeking to adopt through our China program include:

- An adoption home study completed by a non-profit agency that has Hague or Council On Accreditation (COA) accreditation
- Complete a minimum of 12 hours of adoption-related education (these 12 hours can be included as part of the total of 30 hours of adoption-related education required by Children's Home)
- Applicants should be at least 30 years of age
- There should be no more than 50 years between age of single prospective parent and child to be adopted
- No more than 2 children under 18 years of age in the home to adopt a third child
- Age of youngest child in the home at time of application to China should be at least 3 years old
- Minimum net worth of \$100,000 for single applicants; cannot include insurance policies when calculating net worth
- Minimum annual income of \$30,000 + \$10,000 per each child currently living in the home; cannot include funds received through a pension, disability benefits, or government subsidies when calculating annual income
- No mental health or serious physical health diagnoses (BMI must be less than 40; inquire about history of major surgery, vision/hearing impairments, mobility limitations, chronic or long-term health diagnoses); CCCWA requires a certain time period if there's a cancer history, please inquire
- No history of drug use or dependency; where there is a history of alcohol abuse, consideration given for individuals with 10 or more years of alcohol-free lifestyle
- Minimal criminal history
- Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent
- Single must attest in writing to her sexual orientation as non-homosexual (China Center of Children's Welfare and Adoption does not allow gay or lesbian individuals to adopt)
- There must be an interval of at least 1 year between adoption processes (from date of previous adoption registration to either a) the date of sending a subsequent dossier to China, or b) applying for pre-approval on an identified waiting child, whichever comes first)
- Commit to completing 5 years of post-placement reporting requirements

More Information

Contact an adoption information specialist: welcome@chlss.org or 800.952.9302