

## Colombia Adoption Program Eligibility

### Program Overview

Children eligible for adoption in Colombia include boys and girls ages 1-15 years. Most children in care are over the age of 8. Families are especially needed for sibling groups of two children where the oldest child is age 10+, or sibling groups of three or more children.

Most children in care have been removed from family care due to neglect, abuse, or loss of a caregiver. Children are cared for in orphanages and private foster homes that are supervised by the country's central adoption authority, the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF).

### General Requirements

- At least one parent must be a U.S. citizen.
- LGBTQIA+ applicants are welcome to apply.
- Openness to moderate needs is required to adopt children under age 8.

### Ages of Parents

- Must be 25-55 years old, some exceptions made for applicants up to age 59 (at time of child referral).
- Must be at least 15 years older and no more than 45 years older than the child they will adopt (at time of official match).
- Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis for up to a 50-year age difference between parent & child when one parent is over the age of 55.

### Marital Status/Cohabitation

- Married couples must be married at least two years at time of home study approval.
- Cohabitation is recognized.

### Single Applicants:

- All single applicants can adopt children ages 10+, sibling groups or younger children with more moderate to significant needs.
- Single men may adopt boys only.

### Medical History

- Parents cannot have serious physical or mental health concerns.
- A psychological evaluation is required for all applicants.

### Criminal History

- Applicants must have a clean criminal history (some minor offenses may be allowed, please inquire).
- Applicants with criminal history related to drugs or violence are ineligible to adopt.

### Colombian Heritage

- Children's Home is accepting heritage families open to a minimum age range of 0-47 months and with mild or moderate needs.
- At least one parent must be able to provide a Colombian birth certificate, passport & ID card (cedula).



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**Additional Requirements:**

Colombia program families must complete these additional training requirements. If you are working with a home study agency other than Children's Home, please be sure they are aware of these requirements.

- 1. IN PERSON TRAINING:** Colombia requires that at least 10 hours of training must be delivered face-to-face and must cover topics that are relevant to the age, medical and developmental conditions of the child(ren) to be adopted.
- 2. TBRI® FOUNDATIONS: ESSENTIALS FOR ADOPTION PREPARATION**  
Families adopting from Colombia must also complete essential training based on Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®), a therapeutic model that teaches parents to provide effective support and treatment for children with histories of adversity and trauma.
- 3. SPANISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY:** Applicants seeking to adopt children of speaking age must demonstrate Spanish language proficiency, or provide a plan to obtain Spanish language basics, to communicate with the child(ren) once placed. Evidence of this proficiency or plan must be addressed in the home study and Colombian dossier.

**Hosting Program**

Children's Home participates in the Kidsave hosting program. Families interested in hosting and/or adopting a child, or siblings, age 10+ through this program can [learn more here](#).

**For More Information:**

Contact our Adoption Information Team: [welcome@chlss.org](mailto:welcome@chlss.org) or 651.646.7771.