

## 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.
- Families must be open to a child of either gender.
- Family may be matched with a child who falls outside the birth order of children currently in the home (birth order is not taken into consideration by Colombia). Families seeking to maintain family birth order may wish to consider expanding their openness to identified needs.

### 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 0-5 years and 11 months old, and with mild or moderate needs.
- At least one parent must be able to provide a Colombian birth certificate, passport & ID card (cedula).

**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 (10+ hours)**

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. ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

Some additional training requirements apply. See Parent Training Record for more information.

**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 Summer/Winter Miracles™ 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