

TYPES OF ADOPTION:

The Big Whit 77 Foundation will accept applications for any legal adoption including but not limited to: private attorney adoptions, domestic and international.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Applicants should be Christians who are married couples or single adults. Applicants will be required to submit a letter from a church leader.
- Applicants must have a completed home study by a licensed social worker or proof of court approval (only if a home study is not required).
- Applicants must reside in Ouachita or Lincoln Parish.
- Applicants must demonstrate a financial need.

GRANT TIME LINES:

Open Arms will have two deadlines in a calendar year; April 1st and October 1st. Completed applications must be **received** by this date. Each applicant will receive an email confirming that the application was received. Applications will be reviewed by the foundation board members and the applicants will be contacted by mail **within 60 days of the deadline with the results of the review.**

PRIORITY:

Grants are awarded at the board's discretion while taking into account eligibility requirements. **All board members will sign confidentiality agreements to protect the privacy of the applicants.**

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

- Completed home study or proof of court approval (only if a home study is not required)
- Application
- Most recent Tax Returns
- Reference letter from church leader

GRANT AMOUNTS:

Each grant amount will be \$2500 (**subject to change based on available funding**)

DISTRIBUTION:

Generally after a grant is awarded the grant will be paid directly to the agency or attorney not the applicant. Under very special circumstances, a grant might be paid to someone other than the agency/attorney as long as the action falls within the spirit of the Big Whit 77 foundation grant process and all IRS regulations

FUNDING:

Monies for the OPen Arms program of the Big Whit 77 foundation are received from general fundraising events and from individual and corporate contributions. Donations designated for a specific adoption are not accepted.

FOLLOW UP:

The foundation requests a picture of your family/and or child (after the child is home) and a letter from you regarding the completion of your adoption journey. These will go in a file to confirm that the adoption was, in fact, completed and the funds were used appropriately. We also request permission to use these things in our newsletter or other publications to further promote the purposes of this ministry and to encourage other adoptive families. The consent to use this information should be completed in the application process (not consenting will not affect the grant decisions).

****If a family is not selected during one application period, they may be considered again for the next grant. Families must update the Foundation with any changes to the application.****