

Adoption Benefits for State Employees and Other Eligible Applicants

What Law Authorizes the Adoption Benefit?

Section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, authorizes monetary benefits to certain employees who adopt Tm[e]TJETBT1 0 Tc[]TJ1

g applications, determining the benefit award for each eligible applicant and transferring the budget to each agency or school district that has an eligible employee.

Who is an Eligible Applicant?

A full-time or part-time employee of the State (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches, including the Department of Lottery), the State Universities, Community Colleges, School Districts, Water Management Districts and instructional personnel employed by the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind at the time the adoption was finalized provided the employee is paid from regular salary appropriations (not OPS or otherwise temporary or casual labor). Effective July 1, 2017 a qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida Virtual School may retroactively apply for the adoption benefit if he or she was employed by a charter school or the Florida Virtual School at the time the adoption was finalized.

What Types of Adoptions are Eligible for the Adoption Benefit?

If, prior to the adoption, the child was in the permanent custody of the Florida Department of Children and Families and the final order of adoption was granted on or after July 1, 2015 (inception date of program), the child may be eligible. Children adopted internationally, through interventions, or privately do not qualify.

If I Qualify, What Types of Benefit May I Receive?

Adoption of a Special Needs Child: A monetary benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child. (Pro-rated for part-time employee)