

NOVEMBER 8, 2011

The IRS Wants You to Know About the Adoption Tax Credit

Among the many provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) of 2010 was an expansion of the tax credit for adopting parents. A new factsheet from the Internal Revenue Service, *Six Things to Know About the Expanded Adoption Tax Credit*, provides details about the necessary steps for adoptive parents to take to claim the tax credit.

P.L. 111-148 increased the tax credit from \$10,000 to as much as \$13,170. In addition, the credit, which was originally set to expire at the end of 2010, was extended through the end of 2011. Another new provision allows refunds when the tax credit results in a negative balance in taxes owed for the year; previously the credit was nonrefundable.

The factsheet also lists the forms and documentation that are required to process a claim for the credit. Links to an Adoption Benefits FAQs, the required form, and instructions are included. There also are links to short videos in English and Spanish that provide an overview of the new credit.

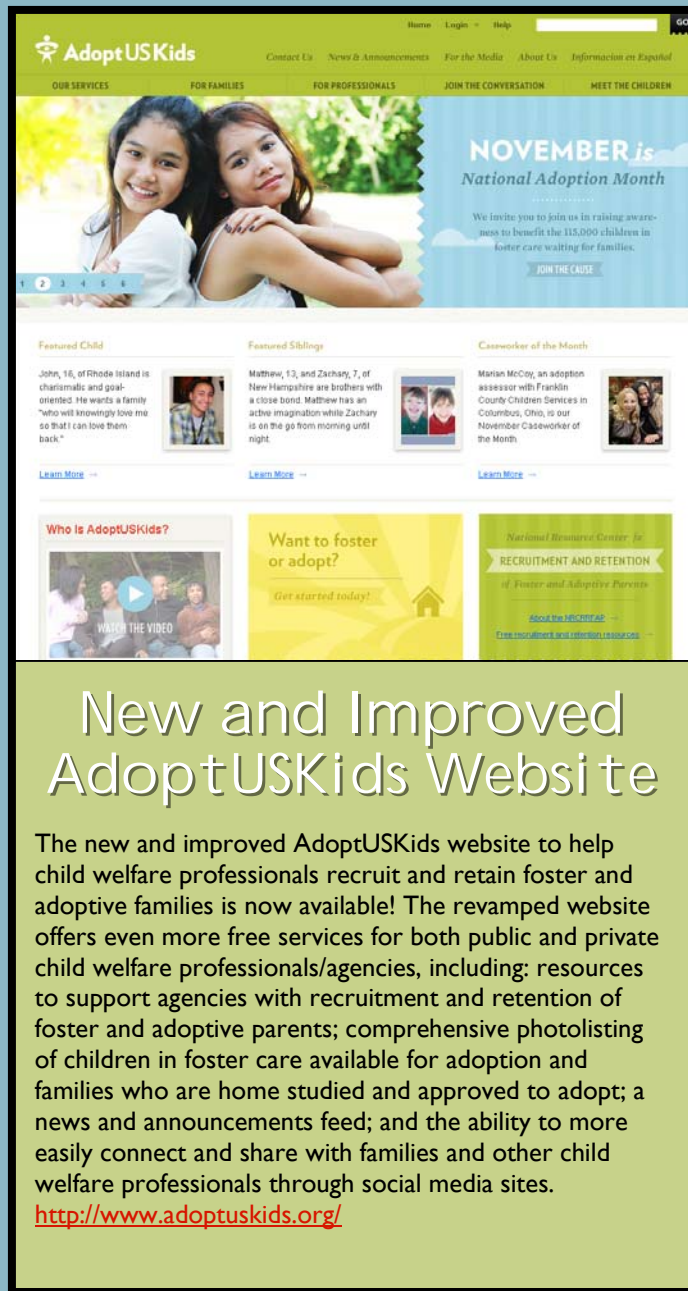
The factsheet is available on the IRS website: <http://www.irs.gov/>
Search the *Six Things to Know About the Expanded Adoption Tax Credit*

Free IFAPA Publication

IFAPA's *Navigating Iowa's Adoption Subsidy Program* publication is intended to be a resource to parents as they consider an adoptive placement and a reference guide after placement. This publication covers the following topics:

- Eligibility of Iowa Adoption Subsidy
- The Iowa Adoption Placement Process
- Foster Care and Adoption Service Differences
- The DHS Adoption Subsidy and Support Services
- Finalization of the Adoption
- Review/Renegotiation of Iowa Adoption Subsidy
- IRS Issues

To request a free copy of this booklet, please e-mail your name and full mailing address to Crystal Thomason at cthomason@ifapa.org.



The screenshot shows the AdoptUSKids website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Login, Help, Contact Us, News & Announcements, For the Media, About Us, and Information en Español. Below the navigation bar are tabs for OUR SERVICES, FOR FAMILIES, FOR PROFESSIONALS, JOIN THE CONVERSATION, and MEET THE CHILDREN. The main content area features a large banner for "NOVEMBER is National Adoption Month" with a photo of two children and a "JOIN THE CAUSE" button. Below the banner are three featured child profiles: John, 16, of Rhode Island; Matthew, 12, and Zachary, 7, of New Hampshire; and Marian McCoy, an adoption assessor. At the bottom of the screenshot, there are three promotional boxes: "Who is AdoptUSKids?", "Want to foster or adopt?", and "National Resource Center for RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION of Foster and Adoptive Parents".

New and Improved AdoptUSKids Website

The new and improved AdoptUSKids website to help child welfare professionals recruit and retain foster and adoptive families is now available! The revamped website offers even more free services for both public and private child welfare professionals/agencies, including: resources to support agencies with recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive parents; comprehensive photolisting of children in foster care available for adoption and families who are home studied and approved to adopt; a news and announcements feed; and the ability to more easily connect and share with families and other child welfare professionals through social media sites.

<http://www.adoptuskids.org/>

Since 2000, more than 35,000 children have had their adoptions finalized on National Adoption Day.

To find out what events are happening in Iowa this November, visit:
<http://www.iowakidsnet.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.events>

Free Trainings for Parents

“Can You Hear Me Now?” Learn How to Effectively Manage Behaviors in Your Home (3 hrs credit) - How our children learn to control themselves is in many ways directly related to what we do to help teach them to control their behaviors. There is not one behavior management technique that will be right for every child or every situation. In this training we will explore behavior challenges faced by foster/adoptive parents and learn techniques to effectively manage these behaviors in your home. **Trainer: Julie Seemann**

Dubuque - Sat., Nov. 19 (1pm-4:15pm)

Dangerous Playgrounds - Drug Awareness and Trends (6 hrs credit) - This class is a must for all parents of youth & teens! Do you know the meaning of terms like “Spice, Budda, Robo-Trippin’, Trail Mixing, Space Monkey, Bootin, Banging, Cheese, 420, Cabbage Head?” Would you be able to tell if someone is drunk or high? Do you know the difference between Marijuana & Methamphetamine, prescription drugs & Ecstasy? Do you know what kids are sometimes doing to get high without using anything? It has been several years since IFAPA first presented the class “Drug Awareness”; and has since been completely re-written to reflect dramatic changes that have taken place in the past few years. This class features up-to-date “real” photos & videos to help parents gain knowledge about different substances of abuse; what they look like, how they are used, & their effects. **Trainer: Mike McGuire**

Iowa City - Sat., Nov. 19 (9am-4:30pm)

Mason City - Sat., Dec. 3 (9am-4:30pm)

Managing Your Child/Teen’s Behavior: 7 Ways to Foster Love, Respect & Communication (6 hrs credit) – Do communication and discipline with your child or teen seem to get harder and harder each year? This course will teach you how to get their attention and establish rules while discussing trust relative to responsibility. You will come away from this class with a clearer idea on how to use positive reinforcements for behaviors and how to establish appropriate consequences while building a stronger relationship with your child/teen. **Trainers: Dr. Warren Phillips & Dr. Joann Seeman-Smith**

Ames - Sat., Dec. 3 (9:30am-4:45pm)

Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training (3 hrs credit) - This is the state approved Mandatory Reporter class required for foster parents to complete within the first year of licensure, and then every five years thereafter. In addition, the Foster Allegation Information Resource (FAIR) program will be discussed. This is an IFAPA program that provides information and support to foster parents who have had an allegation of abuse made against them. **Trainer: Steven Hayward**

Sioux City - Sat., Nov. 12 (9am-12:15pm or 1:15pm-4:30pm)

Snakes, Snails & Puppy Dog Tails...(I’ll Take the Snakes!): Raising Boys (3 hrs credit) - Parenting boys of any age can sometimes be called an extreme sport. Learning about volcanoes,

dirty socks and landmines of affection will bring us closer to these boys as they grow into men. We will dissect their growth, thinking and actions, while looking at their influences and our interventions. Participants will learn how to communicate with the boys in their care and most importantly how to listen, even when they are not talking. **Trainer: Ruth Buckels, LMSW**

Sioux City - Sat., Dec. 3 (9am-12:15pm)

Sugar, Spice & Everything Nice...(Ya, Right!): Raising Girls (3 hrs credit) - Do you ever feel like one minute you know the girls in your home like the back of your hand and the next minute you know nothing? Perhaps you are grateful to know nothing! This training will give you the opportunity to learn how girls of all ages operate. We will take a look at girls and their world, thinking, behaviors, motivations and payoffs. We will focus on strengthening communication skills and ways to encourage girls in our care to be strong and independent while building a connection with us as parents. **Trainer: Ruth Buckels, LMSW**

Sioux City - Sat., Dec. 3 (1:30pm-4:45pm)

Transitioning Resources: A Toolbox for Transitioning (6 hrs credit) - This training highlights important resources that can help youth in and after foster care. It will also explain how and when to access the many resources. This information will increase the youth’s potential for success by maximizing their opportunity for achieving better outcomes transitioning from foster care to adulthood. This is a very educational and interactive class that will help you in finding needed resources in your area for the youth in your home. Topics discussed will be Positive Youth Development & the implementation of youth-centered planning strategies to help engage the youth in planning for their future. Teens are also welcome to attend this class with a parent. **Trainer: Teresa Sea**

Ankeny - Sat., Nov. 19 (9am-4:30pm)

Cedar Rapids - Sat., Dec. 10 (9am-4:30pm)

Working with Birth Families (6 hrs credit) - This training will explore the role of foster parents in working with birth families. This class will look at how the foster parent/birth parent relationship has changed over the years and with that change the expectation that foster families become more involved with birth families to better work toward positive outcomes. This class will provide an opportunity to better understand the birth family perspective. We will examine modern social issues faced by birth families and how these barriers can impact their ability to succeed. We will also examine the grief and loss process and how it affects both birth families and foster families. We will discuss strategies for working more effectively with birth families to achieve positive outcomes for children in foster care. **Trainer: Mike McGuire**

Davenport - Sat., Dec. 10 (9am-4:30pm)

How to Register for a Class:

To register for a class, call IFAPA at 800-277-8145 ext. 1 or register through the following link on IFAPA’s website:
http://www.ifapa.org/training/training_registration_form.asp.

Be Sure to Have Your Training Hours Completed by the Following Date: http://www.ifapa.org/training/training_requirements.asp