

## ADOPTION SUBSIDY GLOSSARY

**Adoption Subsidy Agreement:** This is a legal contract for payment between the adoptive parent(s) and the local department of social services or the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. This must be on the approved form and is not effective until the date specified on the form. All required signatures must be on this document.

**Adoption Placement:** A child has been placed into a home for the purpose of adoption, and the agency and the child's prospective adoptive parent have signed an adoption agreement, and the facts of such agreement have been recorded in accordance with paragraph (e) of subdivision (5) of Section 383-c or subdivision (5) of Section 384 of Social Services Law.

**Approved Subsidy:** An adoption subsidy agreement that is signed by the prospective adoptive parent(s) and local district, and has the NYSAS authorized final signature is considered approved. This status is required prior to adoption finalization for Title IVE eligibility.

**Audit Worthy:** All expenditures of public funds are subject to audits or reviews to determine that expenditures were made in accordance with statutes and regulations governing their use. Audits are also done to determine whether program operations comply with statutes and regulations. Adoption subsidy approvals and program operations can be audited by local, county, state, and federal officials or firms hired to conduct these fiscal and programmatic reviews. Positive audit results confirm that public funds are being used as authorized. Unauthorized expenditures are subject to repayment and possible further penalty.

**Documentation:** Regulations and policy require children qualifying for handicapped subsidies to have examinations by a psychiatrist, a psychologist, or a medical doctor.

**Final Approval:** A subsidy with final approval has the signature of the NYSAS official or the official authorized by NYSAS for final sign-off.

**Foster Care Board Rate:** This is the amount paid to foster parents for maintenance of children in care.

**Handicapped Child:** Handicapped child means a child who possesses a specific physical, mental, or emotional condition or disability of such severity or kind that, in the opinion of the office, it would constitute a significant obstacle to the child's adoption.

**Hard-to-Place Child:** A child who has been in a placement for a specified extended period of time prior to signing of the adoptive placement agreement of who meets certain age, sibling group, or other requirements as stated in Section 421.24 (a) (3) of Title 18 of the New York Code Rules and Regulations (the State regulations) is considered hard-to-place for purposes of an adoption subsidy determination.

**IEP:** This is a NYS school district Individualized Education Plan for children in the school system. It documents extraordinary educational needs and the plan to address those needs in the school system.

**Medical Assistance:** This is Medicaid authorization for children. It is established when adoption subsidy agreements are approved prior to finalization and are IVE eligible. It covers qualifying expenses not paid by any other insurance of the parent(s).

**Medical Subsidy:** This is medical reimbursement for adopted children who qualify. This program requires that adoptive parent(s) pay for their child's medical expenses and submit claims for reimbursements that are made by the local county to the extent authorized by Medicaid coverage. Medical subsidy is paid for qualifying expenses not covered by any other insurance held by the adoptive parent(s).

**OP-5 Form:** This is a New York City form used for payment authorization for Foster Care. It (or its equivalent) is not an acceptable form for handicapped subsidy examinations for state approval.

**Post-finalization Request:** A child in the guardianship of the commissioner or a voluntary authorized agency who has an adoption finalized without a subsidy on or after January 1, 1982, may be eligible post-finalization for a subsidy. Adoptive parents may request subsidy for a condition or disability that a doctor certified existed prior to finalization, was not known for a condition or disability that a doctor certifies existed prior to finalization, was not known to the adoptive parent(s) at the time of the finalization, and was diagnosed after finalization.

**Prospective Adoptive Parent(s):** The person or persons planning to adopt a child available in New York State.

**Psychosocial History:** This is the description of the psychological, physical, and social factors impacting on a child's condition and behavior. It includes, but is not limited to, trauma, external factors, behavioral manifestations, current and past environmental conditions affecting the child family, and strengths and weaknesses of resources required to meet the child's needs. This should be gathered from interviews with the prospective adoptive parent(s), other caregivers, caseworkers, and those familiar with the child.

**Rate:** The rate is the amount of subsidy authorized. This can be basic, special, or exceptional depending on individual documented and approved need. Rates may be affected by age of child, county, parent income, and size of family. Rates reflect foster care board rates at the local district level.

**Regulations:** The regulations referred to are the federal and state regulations governing the adoption subsidy program. The adoption subsidy regulations are in the New York State regulations in Title 18 of NYCRR Parts 421.24, 422, 426 and 427.6 and in the federal regulations in Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations: Section 1356.40 and Section 1356.41.

**Subsidy/Maintenance Subsidy:** This is the monthly adoption subsidy payment made to the parent(s) for the care of the child as authorized in the approved adoption subsidy agreement.

**Upgrade:** An approved subsidy may be considered for a higher rate at the local district's discretion if the child's initial condition worsens.