

GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines Adoption Sponsorship Program Frequently Asked Questions page 1 of 4



GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines
10430 New York Ave Suite A
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-252-PLAY
www.gigisplayhouse.org/DesMoines



Our Mission:

To increase positive awareness of Down syndrome through national campaigns, educational and therapeutic programs, and by empowering individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community.

GiGi's Playhouse offers more than 25 programs designed by therapists and educators; well versed in best practices for Down syndrome curriculum development.

All therapists and tutors generously provide their services free of charge, and all of GiGi's Playhouse programs are offered free of charge to our individuals and families.

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1. Can you send me an Adoption Sponsorship Program application packet?

The GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines Adoption Sponsorship application and the supporting documents are available online. Therefore, we do not mail hard copies of our application. All of the information concerning the adoption sponsorship program is found on our website:
www.gigisplayhouse.org/desmoines/programs-adoption-sponsorship.

2. Can we start the application process if we do not have an agency yet?

No, before applying you must be working with a licensed, child-placing agency (in most cases, this is different than your home study provider), and you must have a completed and/or updated home study.

3. At what point in the adoption process may an Adoption Sponsorship Program application be submitted?

Prospective adoptive families must have satisfactorily completed a home study or home study update prior to submitting an application for financial assistance. Applications must be submitted PRIOR to adoptive placement. You may apply:

- If you have a completed and approved home study.
- If you are working with a 501c3 licensed, child-placing adoption agency.
- If you have not applied previously with GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines for this current adoption.
- If you live within 100 miles of GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines.
- If you are adopting a child with Down syndrome.

4. What types of adoptions qualify for sponsorship assistance?

We consider both domestic and international adoptions. See question 3 to find out the prerequisites for applying.

5. When are your application deadline dates?

There are six periods in our application cycle, and depending on when the online application and supporting documents are received by GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines determines which period your application falls into for consideration. The deadline dates of each period are: Feb 28th, April 30th, Jun 30th, Aug 31st, Oct 31st, and Dec 31st.

6. How will we know when our application is complete?

Your application is considered complete and eligible for review when GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines has received both the online application submission and the required supporting documents. The supporting documents must be postmarked by the deadline date, in order to be considered in that period. You will then receive a confirmation e-mail within 2 weeks of sending in your documents confirming the completion of your application. The deadline dates of each period are: Feb 28th, April 30th, Jun 30th, Aug 31st, Oct 31st, and Dec 31st.



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7. May we have some of our supporting documents sent directly to GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines?

No, all supporting documents must be mailed in at one time in one packet; no items may be faxed or sent in separately. The documents can be sent to:
GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines
c/o Adoption Sponsorship Program
10430 New York Avenue Suite A
Urbandale, IA 50322

8. When are GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program funds awarded?

A minimum of 60 days past the deadline for each period is required for the review of Adoption Sponsorship Program applications. We understand that funding for this program is dependent on availability based on GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines' operating budget.

9. How will we be notified about the outcome of the review process?

Each applicant will receive a letter via email regarding the outcome of the review process.

10. How do we receive the GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program funds if we are awarded one?

Your agency will receive a copy of your award's letter and instructions on when and how to request disbursement of the funds. The GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program check will be mailed directly to your agency on your behalf, once the request has been made. The agency may request the funds when you are approximately 4 months from travel for the final trip (to obtain placement) for an international adoptions. For domestic adoptions, your agency may request the funds at the time of placement of the child. It takes a minimum of 10 business days to process the checks once the request has been made by the agency.

11. What if my adoption is completed during the Adoption Sponsorship Program Application review process?

For example, if you travel to pick up your child(ren) during the period your Adoption Sponsorship Program Application is being considered, that will not affect your consideration for a sponsorship. The agency must still request the sponsorship check from GiGi's Playhouse (see question 10), and can apply for any outstanding funds or reimburse you for funds already paid.

12. If we receive a regrets letter, may we re-apply or be reconsidered?

Once a decision has been made, you may not re-apply or have an application reconsidered for the same adoption, even in light of new information or circumstances.



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13. Is it possible to apply with GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines if you have received funding from GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program in the past?

Applicants are welcomed to apply for adoption sponsorship program for subsequent adoptions. If you are applying for a new adoption, you will need to re-submit the online portion of your application as well as send in updated supporting documents. *Please note: If you are adopting two or more children at the same time, one application will suffice.

14. What is the monetary amount of a GiGi's Adoption Sponsorship Program award?

GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines Adoption Sponsorship Program amounts will not exceed Five Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$5,000.00). We regret that we are not able to guarantee an approval of all applications. GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines encourages you to seek additional sources of adoption funding. We regret that we are not able to approve all applications, please know that funding is only available through donations received for all our programming and the GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines operating budget.

15. Do you award the GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program based on income?

There is no cap on income limitations. We support families looking to adopt children with Down syndrome in the central Iowa area.

16. Do you give GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Programming funds to non-U.S. citizens?

We are not able to award funds from the GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program to families unless at least one parent is a U.S. citizen; keep in mind that your agency must be a licensed U.S. adoption agency and have a 501c3 certification.

17. Do you award GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program funds to families adopting independently?

We are not able to assist with adoptions that are not processed through a licensed, child-placing agency, we do not award GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program funds to families who are adopting independently. (A home study provider alone does not meet the requirement of a licensed, child-placing agency).



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18. May single parents apply for Adoption Sponsorship Program assistance?

Yes, GiGi's Playhouse Adoption Sponsorship Program funds will be awarded to single parents. All prospective Adoption Sponsorship Program recipients must satisfy the same eligibility criteria.

19. Can you send me information on adoption, or can you answer questions concerning a particular adoption process?

GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines is not an expert in the adoption process. However there are resources available online through other organizations.

HowtoAdopt.org is a resource to answer the many questions you might have concerning international, domestic, or adoptions from foster care. It is both a source of information and a guide to help people navigate through the various aspects of adoption. Another great source is Reece's Rainbow. Their website is www.reecesrainbow.org. GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines is not an adoption agency.

20. What adoption agencies do you recommend?

GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines does not recommend or endorse any particular adoption agency. We do suggest practicing due diligence in making this very important decision.

GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines is a registered 501c3 non-profit, and is not an adoption agency. The GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines Adoption Sponsorship Program solely aids in providing financial assistance to help bridge the gap for families in the adoption process. If we have not answered your questions, please contact us via email at adoptiondesmoines@gigisplayhouse.org.

GiGi's Playhouse is the only Down Syndrome Achievement Center in the country offering customized, no-fee programming to anyone that wants it. With 16 locations nationwide and growing, all of the core programs are educational and/or therapeutic in nature and created by professional teachers and clinicians. All programs focus on tangible and meaningful outcomes that enhance and improve lives, and promote self-confidence and achievement. At GiGi's Playhouse, we

*celebrate our individuals and families and turn belief into action. For more information about GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines and the GiGi's Adoption Sponsorship Program please contact us via e-mail at **adoptiondesmoines@gigisplayhouse.org**.*