

24 States Receive More Than \$26 Million for 2013 Adoptions

by Mary Boo, assistant director

In September 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau announced the 2013 Adoption Incentive Payments. These awards were earned by states that increased adoptions from foster care in federal fiscal year 2013 (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013). This year, 24 states received bonus payments totalling more than \$26 million. The funds available were just 57 percent of what states could have earned if Congress had fully funded the pro-

gram (see chart below). In the past, states were eventually able to receive their full amount earned from the next year's Adoption Incentive funding.

For 2013, states could earn bonuses for increases over a baseline in overall adoptions from care (\$4,000 per child over the baseline), adoptions of children with special needs (\$4,000 per child), and adoptions of children ages nine and older (\$8,000 per child).

Texas and Florida received large payments—\$7,156,894 and \$3,497,456 respectively—as they have every year since 2008. Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nevada, and West Virginia all received more than \$1 mil-

lion dollars in Adoption Incentive Payments for the fourth year in a row.

All but five states that received a payment for their 2013 adoptions—Delaware, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota—also earned bonuses for 2012 adoptions. Notably, some of the states with the largest foster care populations—California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania—did not earn any incentives again this year. Perhaps with the changes to the incentive program passed in the Strengthening Families Act, these states will earn bonuses in future years. As described on page 2, the law sets a new baseline to calculate the bonus payment and phases in an incentive based on each state's rate of adoption.

NACAC continues to encourage states to invest Adoption Incentive Payments into post-adoption support services—services to help strengthen and sustain the families whose adoptions generated the funds. ♦

State	Incentive Earned	Actual Incentive Paid
Alabama	\$984,000	\$561,236
Alaska	\$620,000	\$353,624
Arizona	\$7,400,000	\$4,220,675
Arkansas	\$2,280,000	\$1,300,424
Delaware	\$32,000	\$18,252
Florida	\$6,132,000	\$3,497,456
Idaho	\$200,000	\$114,072
Kentucky	\$1,144,000	\$652,493
Louisiana	\$2,456,000	\$1,400,808
Massachusetts	\$16,000	\$9,126
Minnesota	\$152,000	\$86,695
Mississippi	\$608,000	\$346,780
Missouri	\$1,393,000	\$793,943
Nebraska	\$1,116,000	\$636,523
Nevada	\$2,250,000	\$1,282,173
South Carolina	\$844,000	\$481,385
South Dakota	\$172,000	\$98,102
Texas	\$12,548,000	\$7,156,894
Utah	\$1,324,000	\$755,159
Virginia	\$568,000	\$323,965
Washington	\$500,000	\$285,181
West Virginia	\$3,272,000	\$1,866,223
Wisconsin	\$420,000	\$239,552
Wyoming	\$132,000	\$75,288
Total	\$46,563,000	\$26,556,029

Natalie

Born in 2003, Natalie is a smart, creative, and ambitious sixth grader. She is an avid reader who wants to do well in school, where her favorite subjects are math and reading. Natalie is also an energetic athlete who loves softball and enjoys swimming. In quieter times, she likes to draw and sing. She hopes to learn to play guitar one day. Her favorite foods are empanadas and taco salad and her favorite TV shows are *Teen Wolf* and *Finding Carter*. When she gets to choose movies, she prefers romantic ones, although she also really likes *Courageous*. A friend of animals, she loves horses and would like to have a pet dog (especially a husky or a pitbull), hedgehog, or snake. In the future, she would like to go to college and become a veterinarian.

Natalie would like to have a “nice forever family” who will support her in life. For more information, contact Torri Cowans at Children Awaiting Parents: torri@capbook.org; 585-232-5110. ♦



photo by Kelly Smith