

Adoption Learning Partners (ALP) is pleased to collaborate with the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (IDCFS) to provide DCFS families with online courses designed to increase their knowledge of key concepts and which are pre-approved for foster training credit.

How to Register:

1. Click “register” at the top of this page: <http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org>
2. Create your registration on the site. Each person must do so individually.
 - You’ll be asked to create a username and password.
 - You’ll be asked for your personal, contact, and address information.
 - In the section on Adoption Information, it will ask you to select your agency. Use the pulldown menu to find **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services**. You will then be asked for your DCFS ID Code and DCFS License Number. The code is the first initial of your first name followed by the first three letters of your last name and the last four digits of your Social Security number. Please have these ready prior to starting the registration process. You **MUST** select the correct agency and include the ID Code and License Number to receive any applicable discount/fee waiver. **If you are working with a private agency, you should still select DCFS as your agency here.**
 - You’ll be asked for your relationship to adoption, how you heard about ALP, and you’ll need to accept the terms of use to continue.
3. Once you have registered, you will be assigned your own account page (“my account”) and can navigate the site and add courses to your account.
4. The courses can be found under the “catalog” tab. Click on the “Courses” submenu to the left and you’ll see a list of all ALP courses. Click the name of each course one at a time to bring up a page describing the course and click the red “Add to Cart” button on the right-hand side. Add any of the courses which have been pre-approved by DCFS. For a list of these courses see [see document ALP_DCFS_Courses]

Please note: The discounted price (often \$0) will appear in your shopping cart and not before. You must complete the transaction by clicking the red “Place Order” button in the “Cart” in order to add the courses to your account page. If there is a fee, you will be provided with a place to enter credit card data. ALP does not take checks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Each time you return to Adoption Learning Partners, log in with the unique username and password you created to resume your coursework.
- Once you enroll in a course, you can take it at your own pace and it is yours to keep. You’ll always have online access and can review the material even after you finish it.
- Once you complete a course, the end of course evaluation will be available on your account page. Once submitted, ALP will review the evaluation and the time spent in the course to determine certificate eligibility. This will take one to two business days and your account page will show that your evaluation is “Pending Approval.”
- If you successfully meet the requirements for certification, you will receive an e-mail notifying you that the certificate has been issued. That certificate will be available on your account page. **Please print it out for your records.** ALP will also notify DCFS on a monthly basis on all certificates earned. If you do not successfully complete the requirements for certification, you’ll be given an opportunity to do so.

If you have any technical questions about a course or how to register and enroll, please contact ALP at: info@adoptionlearningpartners.org or leave a voice message at 800-566-3995. If you have any questions about which ALP course to take, please contact your caseworker.

Courses Available Free of Charge to Illinois DCFS Families and pre-approved for training credit

Conspicuous Families: Race, Culture, and Adoption – 1.5 credit hours

The term “conspicuous families” refers to transracial and/or transcultural families. These families face unique parenting challenges that call for awareness of the issues they will encounter.

Discipline and the Adopted Child: Ain’t Misbehavin’ – 2.0 credit hours

Helps parents better understand potential causes for challenging behaviors and develop effective adoption friendly discipline plans to address them.

Let’s Talk Adoption: A Lifetime of Family Conversations – 2.0 credit hours

Focuses on a child’s understanding of what it means to be adopted and how it changes as she or he grows. It gives families the tools needed to talk about adoption and feel comfortable in doing so.

The Journey of Attachment – 2.0 credit hours

Provides adoptive families with an understanding of the attachment process and a set of skills that will help them develop a secure attachment with their child.

Finding the Missing Pieces: Helping Adopted Children Cope With Grief and Loss – 2.0 credit hours

Helps parents understand the feelings children have about adoption and the losses they experience and gives families strategies and resources they can use to help their children express and deal with their feelings of grief.

Adopting the Older Child – 2.0 credit hours

This course introduces prospective adoptive parents to the challenges and joys of non-infant adoption.

Becoming Your Child’s Best Advocate: Help for Adoptive Parents – 2.0 credit hours

Focuses on helping parents become better advocates for their children. It helps families find the resources and services their children may need through the years.

Lifebooks: Creating and Telling Your Child’s Story – 1.5 credit hours

This course introduces parents to the importance of Lifebooks, helps them create one for their child, and provides tips on how to use a Lifebook.

Understanding the Adoption Tax Credit – 1.0 credit hour

This course helps families take full advantage of the adoption-friendly legislation that can help make adoption more affordable.

Courses Available for a Fee* to Illinois DCFS Families and pre-approved for training credit

Tough Starts: Brain Development Matters - 2.0 credits (\$25)

Explains the impact that early trauma has on a child's brain chemistry, brain development and sensory processing. With a thorough understanding of brain development, parents are better prepared to learn how to more successfully intervene and shape their child's troubling behaviors.

Tough Starts: Treatment Matters - 2.0 credits (\$25)

Gives parents strategies for seeking professional help as soon as they recognize significant challenges in their child. Understand the importance of a diagnosis, when to consider medication and how to choose a therapist.

Tough Starts: Parenting Matters – 2.0 credits (\$25)

Applies a strengths-based, therapeutic approach in order to heal a child who has had a tough start in life. Learn this deliberate and intentional approach to parenting through exercises, family stories and expert advice.

Tough Starts: Family Matters – 1.0 credit (\$10)

Helps parents understand the toll raising a tough start child can take on them, their relationships and their other children. Family Matters teaches techniques parents can use to support each member of the family, and themselves, through these challenges.

* Note: Fees are subject to change. ALP offers the four Tough Start courses bundled together in the **Tough Starts Matter Package – 5.0 credits (\$60)**

Other ALP courses and webinars

ALP offers other courses as well as webinars (live and on-demand) that may be useful to your family. While some of these trainings have certificates and credit hours, they are not pre-approved for in-service licensing credit. Please contact your caseworker to see if they are appropriate for your needs. These courses and webinars have fees.