



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ODJFS Partners with Fifth Third Bank to Provide Loans to Prospective Adoptive Parents

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), in conjunction with Fifth Third Bank, has launched a new program that will provide loans of up to \$3,000 to help defray the initial costs of adopting a child.

“This wonderful program will help prospective adoptive parents better pay for the initial cost involved in adopting a child,” said ODJFS Director Michael Colbert. “The Ohio Adoption Loan Program makes adoption easier for Ohio families and will help more families adopt children into safe and loving homes.”

“We are pleased to work with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services on this loan program, and have a large network of nearly 400 branches in the state of Ohio to serve adoptive parents seeking loan assistance,” said Steven Alonso, executive vice president, Consumer Bank, Fifth Third Bank. “As an organization, we value families who choose to adopt, and in fact, Fifth Third Bank was recently named one of Ohio’s Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.”

Fifth Third Bank will manage the loan program, including receiving, reviewing and approving adoption loans. Prospective adoptive parents are eligible for loans of up to \$3,000 for adopting a child living within the state and up to \$2,000 for adopting a child living outside the state if the adoption is finalized in Ohio. Loans are subject to credit review and approval.

Loan applicants may apply at any Fifth Third Bank branch and must present written proof of program eligibility from an adoption agency confirming they have been matched with an identified child.

Prospective adoptive parents interested in the Ohio Adoption Loan Program should contact their county public children services agency, private child placing agency or private noncustodial agency for more information. A list of county agencies is available at http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/County_Directory.pdf.

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