

## Albania

Updated: 6/4/2019

Bethany Christian Services is currently one of only two approved adoption agencies in Albania. In Albania, Bethany's partner is a non-governmental organization (NGO) named Bethany Social Services Albania (BSSA) which is a separate entity from Bethany Christian Services in the U.S. The BSSA team works with the Albanian Adoption Committee (the governmental authority responsible for international adoption) directly to place children eligible for international adoption.

In Albania, children eligible for adoption range in age from 12 months to 15 years. Many children placed in the Albania program have special needs and can be identified through the Waiting Child Database. Individuals with Albanian heritage wanting to adopt a child without identified needs can apply through the Albanian Adoption Committee, and must be open to a minimum age of 12 months at the time of referral. Specific gender may not be requested. Siblings can be adopted. The Albanian Adoption Committee does not allow for the adoption of a child who is pre-identified, with the exception of children who are identified as having special needs on the Waiting Child Database or for family adoptions.

Family Requirements	
<b>Age</b>	Parents must be at least 18 years older than the child to be adopted, and no more than 55 years older. Applicants over the age of 55 are accepted on a case-by-case basis.
<b>Marriage</b>	Applicants must be married at least one year. No more than one previous divorce per spouse permitted.
<b>Singles</b>	Only single female applicants are accepted. Must be a minimum of 25 years of age.
<b>Income</b>	Must meet USCIS Poverty Guidelines and demonstrate sufficient income for household size.
<b>Children at Home</b>	Accepted with documentation of sufficient resources to care for additional children. Childless families are given priority in the referral process.
<b>Criminal</b>	Albania will not accept an applicant with a criminal history, a history of significant alcohol and/or substance abuse, or history of pornography.
<b>Health of Adoptive Parents</b>	Albania is reluctant to accept an applicant with a significant medical, physiological, or psychiatric condition. Medical support letters will be requested if there are additional concerns.
<b>Concurrent Adoptions</b>	Not allowed. There must be at least one year between arrivals of children whether by birth or adoption.
Travel	
Two trips are typically necessary. The first is 5-6 weeks, and the second is 7-10 days, with approximately 15-30 days in-between trips. Families can make one trip, if desired. In that case, length of one trip could be as long as three months.	

## Process

After a dossier is submitted, it takes approximately two to three years to receive a referral for children age 9 and under. Families must be open to a child up to 9 years old at the time of referral or a waiting child.

For families with an Albanian heritage, it may take 6-18 months to receive a referral for a child meeting the specifications of the Home Study after the dossier is submitted. Families must be open to a child up to 3 years old at the time of referral.

For families adopting waiting children, a letter of intent will be submitted prior to dossier submission. Referral time for the waiting child after dossier submission is approximately 6-16 months for families to be officially matched. Waiting children have minor to moderate needs and vary in age range from 12 months to 15 years. These children are identified on Bethany's Waiting Child Database. There is approximately 8-16 weeks between referral and travel for the first trip to Albania.

The adoption is finalized in Albania.

Post-adoption placement visits and reports are required at: arrival, 3, 6, 12, 18, and 24 months.

## \*Estimated Fees and Expenses

Country Fee	\$13,200 - \$13,550
Third Party Fee	\$2,039 - \$3,053
Travel Fee	\$13,100 - \$16,900
Bethany Fee <i>*Below is a breakdown of Bethany estimated fees and expenses.</i>	\$18,350 - \$19,350
Preliminary Application	Free
Formal Application	\$550
Global Services Fee	\$2,000
IAAME Accreditation Fee	\$500
Home Study Services	\$2,500 - \$3,500
Program Fee 1	\$6,050
Program Fee 2	\$4,150
Post-Adoption Services <i>*This fee includes four post-adoption visits. Additional fees will be assessed if additional visits are required.</i>	\$2,600
<b>*Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>*\$46,689 - \$52,853</b>

\*Please use our [fee calculator](#) to get an estimate of fees based on your zip code for adopting from Albania.