2019 Angels in Adoption® Congressional Staff FAQ

What is the Angels in Adoption® Program?

The Angels in Adoption® Program is the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute’s (CCAI) signature public awareness program. It provides an opportunity to honor the good work of individuals, couples, and organizations who have enriched the lives of children around the world. This program includes an annual event in Washington, D.C., the Angels in Adoption® gala, which is geared toward highlighting ordinary people doing extraordinary things. These unsung heroes are selected as Angels in Adoption® Honorees. In addition to those honored from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, National Angels are recognized for their adoption and foster care advocacy on a nationwide scale. Each year, over 100 Members of Congress participate, making it the year’s single most significant congressional event pertaining to child welfare in the United States.

When does the Angels in Adoption Program take place?

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 – Thursday, November 14, 2019

What events make up the program?

Child Welfare Advocacy Fair: During this session, Angel Honorees will have the chance to hear from the representatives of national adoption and foster care advocacy organizations about their work and ways to get more involved.

Legislative Seminar and Child Welfare Topic Breakouts: Honorees will hear from child welfare advocates about making the most of their voice on Capitol hill. Each honoree will have the opportunity to share their experiences and expertise with fellow Angel Honorees through facilitated group discussion on a variety of child welfare topics.

Angels in Adoption® Hill Day: As you may know, in the past CCAI has hosted a large pin ceremony event for all Angel Honorees to receive their pin and certificate in a graduation-style ceremony. This year, we have streamlined the program so that the pin ceremony and individual meetings with Members are combined. This year, CCAI will work with your office to schedule a time for your Angel to meet the Member and staff, discuss their child welfare story, receive their honorary pin and certificate (provided and delivered by CCAI), and take a photo. CCAI will be reaching out through our friends at Arnold & Porter in early October to schedule and confirm a good time for your office to meet on Thursday, November 14.
Angels in Adoption® Reception and Gala: The largest congressional child welfare event in the country – join the Angels in Adoption® Honorees, Members of Congress and the Administration, and representatives from the adoption and foster care community to gather for a celebration of the Angels and the children they help serve. This event will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

What events should my boss plan to attend?

You should put a hold in your boss’s calendar for at least a 30-minute time slot during the Angels in Adoption® Hill Day to meet with their Angel Honoree and present them with their award certificate and pin (provided by CCAI).

Angels in Adoption® Hill Day
Thursday, November 14, 2019
10:30AM – 3:00PM (one 30-minute time slot)
Location: TBD, Capitol Grounds

Your boss is also encouraged to attend the Angels in Adoption® Reception and Gala, which is the largest congressional child welfare event in the country. Angels in Adoption® Honorees, Members of Congress and the Administration, and representatives from the adoption and foster care community will gather for a celebration of the Angels and the children they help serve. This event will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Angels in Adoption® Partners Reception and Gala
Thursday, November 14, 2019
6:30PM – 9:30PM
Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Can I attend these events with my boss?

Absolutely. If you would like to RSVP for any program events, please email Erika Brigantti at erika@ccainstitute.org.

What should my boss and I expect for the Hill Day meeting?

This year, CCAI will work with your office to schedule a time for your Angel to meet the Member and staff, discuss their child welfare story, receive their honorary pin and certificate (provided and delivered by CCAI), and take a photo. They will likely be accompanied by one or two other honorees and a Hill Day leader. CCAI will be reaching out through our friends at Arnold & Porter in early October to schedule and confirm a good time for your office to meet on Thursday, November 14.

What is the “congratulatory letter”?

This is a letter from your boss congratulating their Angel Honoree for the work they’ve done on behalf of children in their state or district. CCAI will provide a template that offices may choose to modify and have the Member sign. Offices are also welcome to draft their own congratulatory letter. CCAI will send a representative from our team to pick up letters by the end of October.
Will my Angels be traveling to Washington, D.C. for the program?

Angels are notified that they have been chosen to be a 2019 Angels in Adoption® Honoree in the last week of August. By the end of September, we will know if your Angel has accepted the honor and if they will be traveling to Washington, D.C. this November to participate in the Angels in Adoption® program. Please note that we will notify your office either way. As a note, historically about 70-75% of the honorees travel to D.C. for the program. If your honoree is unable to come to D.C., we will follow-up in early October with some alternate options.

What costs are borne by the Angels?

There is no cost to attend the events related to the program for those who are being honored as Angels in Adoption® and his/her/their guests (spouse, children, friends, colleagues, etc.). Angels receive two (2) complimentary tickets to attend the Reception and Gala on November 14. Additional tickets for the Reception and Gala are $100 per additional adult and $50 per additional child meal (general public tickets are sold at $250 per person). Unfortunately, CCAI is unable to cover the cost of transportation to Washington, D.C. and accommodations while staying in D.C. All Angels are responsible for covering their cost of transportation and accommodations while staying in DC.

Is there financial assistance for Angels in Adoption® Honorees?

CCAi offers a limited number of Angel Wing Scholarships each year for Angels who demonstrate significant need to partially offset the cost of lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C. Honorees may apply for financial assistance through Angel Wings, by filling out the application form on our website by September 18th, 2019.