

ANGELS IN ADOPTION®

Frequently Asked Questions

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. Angels in Adoption® is a leadership program that honors a wide spectrum of individuals, couples, and organizations making extraordinary contributions to adoption, foster care, permanency, and child welfare. Once selected, Angel honorees are invited to travel to Washington, D.C. for a leadership program to participate in congressional meetings with federal policymakers, receive advocacy and educational training, meet with fellow advocates, and receive recognition at the Angels Celebration held in their honor. Angels in Adoption® is the largest congressional child welfare event in the United States.

Who recommended me?

The Angels in Adoption® Program is the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's (CCAI) A community member and/or congressional office from your state provided CCAI with your name, contact information, and brief biography.

Is there a program registration fee?

No, there is no registration fee to participate in the Angels in Adoption® Program. We are thrilled to be able to offer a full child welfare congressional leadership program without registration costs. However, participants *are* responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. To help defray some of the costs for Angels with demonstrated financial need, CCAI has set up an Angel Wings Scholarship Fund, which will provide partial scholarships toward travel and lodging in Washington. Please contact CCAI's Programs Coordinator, Lisette DuFore Benz, at lisette@ccainstitute.org for more information.

Why should I come to Washington, D.C.?

This is an opportunity for CCAI and Congress to celebrate your outstanding work and communicate to Members of Congress that adoption, foster care, and child welfare issues are very important to their constituents. The Angels in Adoption® Program is a truly once in a lifetime experience.

When should I arrive in Washington, D.C.?

We recommend that honorees arrive on Sunday evening, September 27, or Monday morning, September 28. Since events do not begin until midday on September 28, you should have time to settle into your accommodations that morning.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION®

Frequently Asked Questions cont.

Where should I book my lodging accommodation?

You are welcome to stay wherever is most convenient and reasonable for you. We do not have an “official” hotel partner as one hotel can oftentimes not accommodate all families, groups, and preferences. Because of this, we encourage all honorees to find lodging wherever works with them – some stay at hotels, others with family and friends in the area, and many at AirBnBs. In fact, AirBnBs are very popular in D.C. and accessible across the city. You can look at the available listings at <https://www.airbnb.com>.

We suggest staying in an area around the U.S. Capitol and Navy Yard areas of D.C. to make attending the Angels events as easy as possible. D.C. is very walkable and staying close by to the Capitol will allow for walking to many of the events as parking is difficult to come by as well. Additionally, D.C. has excellent public transportation so any hotel near a metro station will also allow for easy travel to and from events.

Hotel recommendations close to the U.S. Capitol and Capital Turnaround:

- Courtyard by Marriott Washington Capitol Hill/Navy Yard | 140 L St., SE, Washington, DC, 20003
- Capitol Hill Hotel | 200 C St., SE, Washington, DC, 20003
- Thompson Washington D.C. | 221 Tingey St., SE, Washington, DC, 20003
- Residence Inn by Marriott Washington Capitol Hill/Navy Yard | 1233 First St., SE, Washington, DC, 20003
- AC Hotel by Marriott Washington DC Capitol Hill Navy Yard | 867 New Jersey Ave, SE, Washington, DC, 20003
- Hyatt Place Washington DC/National Mall | 400 E St, SW, Washington, DC, 20024
- Hampton Inn & Suites Washington DC-Navy Yard | 1265 First St, SE, Washington, DC, 20024
- Selina Union Market | 411 New York Ave, NE, Washington, DC, 20002
- Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill | 400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20001
- Kimpton George Hotel | 15 E St, NW, Washington, DC, 20001
- Phoenix Park Hotel | 520 North Capitol St, NW, Washington, DC, 20001
- Washington Court Hotel | 525 New Jersey Ave, NW, Washington, DC, 20001
- YOTEL Washington | 415 New Jersey Ave, NW, Washington, DC, 20001

Is the Angels in Adoption® Program kid-friendly?

Yes! CCAI welcomes kids and families and tries to be as inclusive as possible. Kids of all ages are always welcome to any and all events.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION®

Frequently Asked Questions cont.

When will Angel Honorees receive honorary pins and certificates?

During Hill Day – this day is the highlight of the program for most as this is the time you meet with the congressional office who nominated you and have the opportunity to share your story.

How many Angel honorary pins do I receive?

As an Angels in Adoption® Honoree, you will receive one (1) complimentary handcrafted Angel Pin on September 29 during Hill Day. For example, whether you were honored as Mr. John Smith, Mr. John and Kathy Smith, or John Smith Adoption Associates, you will receive only one pin. We are acutely aware of the significance of these pins and are proud of what they represent for our Angels. Over the years, we have watched Angels wear their pins as a badge of honor and they serve as a wonderful conversation piece. If you desire to purchase an additional pin/s, CCAI will help you to order as many pins as you would like at the rate of \$75 charged to us by our vendor, Mignon Faget. We will not add any fees to your purchase, which includes zero shipping or handling fees. To order additional pins, please contact CCAI's Programs Coordinator, Lisette DuFore Benz at lisette@ccainstitute.org.

What is the attire?

For all of Monday events, the attire is business casual. For Hill Day on Tuesday, please wear business attire with comfortable walking shoes. Keep in mind that you will be photographed with one or several Members of Congress. For Tuesday night, we suggest business professional dress – a nice suit or cocktail dress. The Angels in Adoption® Celebration is in the evening and does include a standing reception, so comfortable shoes will help you enjoy the night.

Who will be at the Angels in Adoption® Celebration?

Angels in Adoption® Celebration attendees include your fellow Angels in Adoption® Honorees, Members of Congress and congressional staff, adoption advocacy organizations, program sponsors, and friends of CCAI.

When will a finalized schedule of events for the program be shared?

The 2026 Angels in Adoption® Schedule of Events is expected to be released as soon as possible. All Angel Honorees will receive an email with the schedule when it's published! The congressional schedule is fast paced and subject to change frequently, but the CCAI team works hard to confirm and share schedules as soon as we are able.

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Frequently Asked Questions cont.

Where can I find a list of the 2026 Angels in Adoption® Honorees?

A list of the 2026 Angels in Adoption® Honorees will be published on the CCAI website once all media release forms are received.

What is there to do in Washington, D.C.?

Washington is a great city to visit and has enough activities to keep you busy while you are in town. We recommend you visit [The Official Tourism Site of D.C.](#) for information. There are many free options as well: the Smithsonian museums on the National Mall, National Zoo in Woodley Park, and self-led monument tours.

If I cannot travel to D.C. for the program, but still wish to be honored, what are my options?

CCAI will mail you your pin, certificate, and letter of acknowledgement. CCAI will also let your congressional office know that you are unable to travel to D.C. Sometimes a small event will be arranged in the state or district although that is at the discretion of the Member of Congress.

Does CCAI, as a tax-exempt non-profit, accept matching gifts?

We certainly do accept matching gifts! Please contact Kate McLean at kate@ccainstitute.org or call CCAI at (202) 544-8500.