

HHS Office of Population Affairs Embryo Adoption Awareness Program

Overview

The Office of Population Affairs' (OPA) Embryo Adoption Awareness program is a national program that supports grants, cooperative agreements and contracts that aim to increase public awareness of embryo donation and adoption.

The program was first funded by Congress in 2002 to increase public awareness of the existence of human embryos that remain after *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) procedures, some of which could be made available for adoption. The scope of the program has since expanded to include medical and administrative services that make embryo adoption more attainable for couples. \$1,000,000 is available annually to support grants and contracts through the Embryo Adoption Awareness program.

Purpose and Activities

In the course of IVF treatments, couples usually produce more embryos than they can use. These embryos are generally frozen while the couple decides about their ultimate disposition. Many of these cryo-preserved embryos could be made available for adoption by those who are:

- infertile;
- experiencing difficulty achieving a pregnancy; or
- interested in having more children through frozen embryo transfer.

Program grantees may facilitate the adoption or donation of frozen embryos through public awareness campaigns, medical/administrative services that address common financial and legal obstacles of embryo adoption, or both.

Learn more about the Embryo Adoption Awareness program:
www.opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/embryo-adoption-awareness-eea

Grantees

Empower Donation, LLC aims to 1) increase the number of patients that choose to donate their embryos for family building and 2) increase the number of clinics willing to provide embryo donation and open donation services. This grantee's goal is to normalize this family-building method through webinars, trainings, and other educational materials.

National Registry for Adoption conducts a multi-channel digital marketing public awareness campaign using email and social media platforms to educate potential donors/recipients about embryo donation/adoption. This grantee also helps increase access to these services through free counseling and affordable matching and legal support services.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions delivers educational counseling, educates medical professionals to encourage discussions with patients, and works to shorten the timeline for the embryo donation or adoption process.

