



Friday, September 3, 2021

Office of the Ohio Treasurer

Request for Information

Family Forward – Linked Deposit Program

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION (EXTENDED):

Friday, October 1, 2021 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Submit your PDF response electronically to: FamilyForward@tos.ohio.gov.

Request for Information for Family Forward

The Office of the Ohio Treasurer (the “Treasurer’s Office”) issues this Request for Information (“RFI”) to obtain information and solicit interest for participation in Ohio’s adoption-focused linked deposit program (“Family Forward”).

The Treasurer’s Office issues this RFI in accordance with Chapters 113 and 135 of the Ohio Revised Code (“R.C.”). This RFI is not an offer to contract. All Respondents are required to comply with applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations.

The Treasurer’s Office will review and may substantiate all information requested in this RFI; accordingly, please answer questions as thoroughly as possible. Any false information submitted in response to this RFI may result in the exclusion of the Respondent from any further business dealings with the Treasurer’s Office, and misrepresentations may be reported to both the Ohio Department of Commerce and the appropriate federal regulatory agency

I. BACKGROUND

House Bill 405 from the 133rd General Assembly authorized the Treasurer’s Office to create a new linked deposit program aimed at reducing the financial burdens associated with the adoption process. This new program, named “Family Forward,” will launch in November 2021 and be available to Ohio residents who have either completed an adoption home study or who are pursuing an adoption through the public foster care system. Family Forward will allow eligible participants to reduce the cost of up to \$50,000 in borrowing for adoption related expenses. Additional information is available in [R.C. Section 135.79](#).

Family Forward will function similarly to other linked deposit programs administered through the Treasurer’s Office. The Treasurer’s Office will place a deposit at an eligible financial institution at a reduced rate in connection with the financial institution reducing the interest rate on a corresponding loan.

Given the niche market for adoption loans, the Treasurer’s Office seeks to identify financial institutions who are committed to providing meaningful assistance to prospective borrowers in accessing Family Forward loans. While participation in the program will continue to be available to all eligible financial institutions (see [R.C. Section 135.79](#) and <https://www.tos.ohio.gov/financial-institutions-and-investors/>), the Treasurer’s Office anticipates highlighting those financial institutions who respond to this RFI and express an interest in participating in the Family Forward program so that prospective borrowers are able to navigate the process with greater ease.

Furthermore, other than the requirement that deposits are limited to a term of five years and \$50,000 per adoption, the Treasurer’s Office has discretion in developing the parameters of the state deposit. Financial institutions that respond to this RFI will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on how the deposit program could be structured to increase the attractiveness of the program.

II. RFI RESPONSE SCHEDULE

Friday, September 3, 2021	RFI published
Monday, September 13, 2021	Deadline for receipt of RFI questions
Friday, September 17, 2021	Response to RFI questions
Friday, October 1, 2021	Deadline for receipt of RFI responses

III. INSTRUCTIONS

This RFI is not and shall not be construed as an offer of a contract by the State of Ohio.

Responses to the RFI are the property of the State and will be “public records.” Responses that are labeled “confidential,” or that contain information identified as “confidential,” will not be reviewed. The expenses of preparing and submitting a response to this RFI are the responsibility of the respondent.

All inquiries regarding this RFI should be submitted by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, September 13, 2021, via email to FamilyForward@tos.ohio.gov. Please note that all questions and answers become a matter of public record and will be made publicly available on the Treasurer’s Office website by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 17, 2021. Any information provided in response to this RFI is for discussion purposes only and will not be considered advice within the meaning of Section 15B of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 as amended.

Any and all responses to this RFI should be submitted by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, October 1, 2021, as a PDF attachment via email to FamilyForward@tos.ohio.gov.

IV. REQUESTED INFORMATION

All responses should restate the question along with the corresponding answer.

- 1) Has your financial institution ever partnered with a government agency, non-profit, or other organization to issue loans for adoption related expenses? If yes:
 - a. Provide a description of the partnership including the geographic area where the program was available, how long the program was or has been operational, and the frequency of loans issued.
 - b. Provide a description for how prospective borrowers interfaced with your financial institution for an adoption related loan (i.e., Were loan applications available online, through branch locations, or both?).
 - c. Provide a description for any resources your financial institution committed to the promotion of the program (i.e., Was information made available on your website, at branch locations, or both?).

- 2) Does your financial institution currently issue loans for adoption related expenses independently of a partnership as described in question 1? If yes:
 - a. How frequently are these loans issued?
 - b. Provide a description for how prospective borrowers interface with your financial institution for an adoption related loan (i.e., Are loan applications available online, through branch locations, or both?)
 - c. Provide a description for any resources your financial institution has committed to the promotion of adoption related loans (i.e., Is information made available on your website, at branch locations, or both?)

- 3) Does your financial institution currently participate in any of the Treasurer's Office's other Linked Deposit Programs?

- 4) Is your financial institution interested in providing adoption loans in partnership with the Treasurer's Office's Family Forward Linked Deposit Program?

- 5) Is your financial institution interested in working with the Treasurer's Office to develop a funding formula for the Family Forward Linked Deposit Program?

V. Contact Information and Certification

Contact Information

Please provide the name, title, telephone number, and email address of an individual within the Respondent organization with authority to answer questions or provide clarification regarding its responses.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Certification

I hereby certify that this response is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorized to submit this response on behalf of _____.

Firm Name: _____

By (Print Name) _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____