



## **Cradle Fact Sheet**

**About Us:** The Cradle is a human service agency that continuously evolves to help children, families and communities thrive. Building on a century-plus of adoption experience and deep understanding of families, The Cradle has begun expanding its range of parent support services, mental health services and educational programming, while continuing to provide exceptional adoption services, to strengthen all families, regardless of how they were formed.

Since opening in 1923, The Cradle has facilitated more than 16,000 domestic and international adoptions and has been at the forefront of African American infant adoption and LGBTQ+ placements. Our team of social workers, counselors, and education and outreach staff offer ethical, inclusive and lifelong support to tens of thousands of people touched by adoption, including birth parents, adopted persons and adoptive parents.

More than 100 years later, we began expanding our services in 2025 with a new home visiting program and rebranding our longstanding online education platform, Adoption Learning Partners. As part of Healthy Families America, The Cradle began offering an evidence-based home visiting program in Northeast Lake County, specifically North Chicago, Waukegan, Zion and surrounding areas. Our family support specialists partner with new or soon-to-be parents who are looking for additional support to help them nurture and care for their child. Through regular visits, they guide and assist families in building strong relationships and providing care for their child, accessing resources and more.

And after more than 20 years as Adoption Learning Partners, we rebranded to StageWise Parenting to underscore our widened focus to serve all parents while continuing to provide the trusted, research-based and expert-led training that equip families with the tools to navigate each developmental stage with confidence.

**Vision:** A world where every child thrives in a safe and loving family.

### **Mission:**

- Building families through adoption
- Supporting families through life's challenges
- Strengthening communities through education

### **Services:**

- Adoption Services
  - Free Pregnancy Options Counseling (IL and IN)
  - Adoptive Parent Services (IL)
  - Interim infant care (IL)
  - Adoption-Competent Counseling (IL)
  - Post-Adoption Support, including search and connection (National)
- Home Visiting Services in Northeast Lake County (Waukegan, North Chicago, Zion)
- Online Parenting Education through StageWise Parenting (Global)



### **Cradle By-The-Numbers:**

- More than 16,000 domestic and international adoptions
- African American infant adoption program that focuses on adoptive parent recruitment in the African American community opened in 1994. The program was renamed the Ardythe and Gale Sayers Center for African American Adoption in 1999 in honor of Cradle adoptive parents Ardythe and Gale Sayers, Chicago Bears Hall of Famer
  - One of the only programs in the country that promotes adoption awareness in the African American community; in 2024, 67% of Black or multiracial babies were placed with Black or biracial families
  - More than 1,000 African American and multiracial babies placed in adoptive families since 1953, with more than 700 who are part of the Sayers Center
- Began placing children with LGBTQ+ families in 2001, 16 years before the U.S. Supreme Court legalized adoption by LGBTQ+ families nationwide; prior to that, each state could govern whether LGBTQ+ families could legally adopt children
- Almost 200 children have been placed with LGBTQ+ families since 2001
- More than 500,000 enrollments in courses offered by The Cradle's educational arm, StageWise Parenting (fka Adoption Learning Partners) since 2002

**Service Area:** The Cradle is headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, 14 miles north of Downtown Chicago. Expectant parent services are offered in Illinois and Indiana. We are licensed to work with adoptive parents who live in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry or Will Counties in Illinois. Interim Care at Maryville Academy is available for babies born in Illinois; temporary care is available for babies born in Indiana. Therapeutic services are offered at our Evanston headquarters and via telehealth for Illinois residents. Post-adoption services, including search and connection, are available nationwide.

Home visiting services are available for families in Northeast Lake County, specifically Waukegan, North Chicago, Zion and surrounding communities.

StageWise Parenting courses are available to anyone regardless of geographic location.

IL license #: 005064-13

IN license #: 53866

**Revenue and Funding Sources:** The Cradle is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with an annual revenue of approximately \$5.9 million. We receive funding from foundations as well as generous donations from individuals, corporations and community groups.