

## Iowa Definition of Special Needs

“**Special needs**” means that the child meets one or more of the following criteria:

- ◆ The child has a medically diagnosed disability which:
  - Substantially limits one or more major life activities.
  - Requires professional treatment, assistance in self-care, or the purchase of special equipment.
- ◆ The child has been determined to be mentally retarded by a qualified mental retardation professional.
- ◆ The child is at high risk of:
  - Having mental retardation, as determined by a qualified mental retardation professional.
  - Having an emotional disability, as determined by a qualified mental health professional.
  - Having a physical disability, as determined by a physician.

NOTE: Until a determination has been made that the child has mental retardation, an emotional disability, or a physical disability, only non-recurring expenses can be provided.

- ◆ The child has been diagnosed by a qualified mental health professional to have a psychiatric condition which impairs the child’s mental, intellectual, or social functioning, and for which the child requires professional services.
- ◆ The child has been diagnosed by a qualified mental health professional to have a behavioral or emotional disorder characterized by situationally inappropriate behavior which:
  - Deviates substantially from behavior appropriate to the child’s age.
  - Interferes significantly with the child’s intellectual, social, and personal adjustment.
- ◆ The child is age eight or over and Caucasian.
- ◆ The child aged two or older is a member of a minority race or ethnic group, or the child’s biological parents are of different races.
- ◆ The child is a member of a sibling group of three or more who are placed in the same adoptive home.