

Cofertility

Intended Parent Welcome Guide



We're ready to make your family-building
dreams a reality. Are you?

www.cofertility.com

Welcome to Family by Co!

We're so honored to be part of your family-building journey.

We're taking a human-centered approach to egg donation that is focused on meeting your unique needs and honoring everyone involved. You may be turning to donor eggs as the first step in your family-building journey, or you may be here after what feels like a lifetime of failed treatments. You may be single or coupled, gay or straight, trying for your first or third child. Whatever your path has been to date, we honor that.

In our model, women freeze their eggs for free when they donate half of the eggs retrieved to your family. None of our donors are receiving cash compensation. Instead, they are empowered to take control over their own reproductive health while supporting your family-building goals.

My – and my co-founders – paths to parenthood were not linear. We didn't feel good about the process and we want to change that for other families. When you work with Cofertility, we give you what we wish we had when we were building our families. No smoke and mirrors, no icky marketing, and no empty promises. Just transparency, support, and firm commitment to helping you bring home your baby.

This welcome packet will introduce you to the Family by Co platform. It covers everything from a general overview of the donor egg IVF process all the way to how we can support you raising a donor conceived child. Depending on where you are in your journey, things may feel more or less relevant to you. Jump around as you need and reach out to our team with any questions.

As we like to say, we're in the "family" business. Thank you for trusting us to help build yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Makler". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Co-founder & CEO

Table of Contents

04	Our stance
06	The donor egg IVF process: an overview
09	Finding a match
12	Financing your journey
14	Our Baby Guarantee
15	Working with a clinic
17	Timeline
18	Raising a donor conceived child

Get in touch

Email

member-advocates@cofertility.com

Schedule a call

www.calendly.com/meetwithcofertility/family-by-co-intro-call

Social Media

[@familybyco](https://www.instagram.com/familybyco)

Website

www.cofertility.com/family



Our stance

The way we build our families is more dynamic than ever. But while modern science has evolved, the egg donation experience is overdue for change. So we're doing things differently.

We believe matching with an egg donor should be a positive experience.

It sounds obvious, right? But the largely unregulated egg donation market has led to some sketchy practices. We want to bring ethics and transparency to an industry where most agencies don't even have an "About Us" page.

If you're looking for an egg donor — either due to infertility, cancer, a genetic condition, or not having eggs (hi, gay dads!) — you may already feel like the odds are stacked against you. The last thing you need is to feel like you're "shopping" for a human who plays a critical role in your family-building journey. And we'll never make it feel that way.

We agree with ASRM that egg donor compensation can open the door for exploitation. Plus, a 2021 Harvard study found that 62% of donor conceived adults felt the exchange of money for donor gametes was wrong, and 41% were troubled by the fact that money was exchanged around their conception. By allowing our donors to freeze their eggs as part of the process, our unique model honors everyone involved.

We believe anonymous egg donation is a thing of the past.

Our model honors freezers, donors, families, and ultimately, the donor conceived children. While other agencies make false promises to donors of "anonymous" egg donations, we tell the truth. In a world of ubiquitous genetic testing, no gamete donation can be guaranteed to be anonymous. We work with all parties involved to build a relationship that feels right for them, and we encourage both donors and intended parents to consider the donor conceived child's best interest.

We believe egg donors should have a say in their donation.

We believe parents and donors should both opt-in to the match, and be on the same page for the type of relationship they want. Our donors specify their communication preferences up front, giving donors and families real options in the process.

We believe in the equal right to parent.

LGBTQ+ families have historically faced more rigorous scrutiny and challenges than heterosexual families regarding their rights to be or become parents. For example, discriminatory laws make it difficult in some states for both parents to be on the birth certificate, solely because of their gender. We stand by protections for LGBTQ+ parents and their children, and support all families equally.

We believe donor conceived children shouldn't be an afterthought.

Part of serving families is recognizing the unique life experience of the humans we're helping bring into this world. These children are so precious and wanted, and the world is just starting to understand the nuances of not sharing genetics with one's parents. This is why we provide families with evidence-based tips and guidance for raising happy, healthy donor conceived children, as well as tools for families and donors to communicate at a mutually-agreed upon level.

We are committed to listening to donor conceived people, following research in this space, and continually sharing our findings to promote a positive experience for all.

We believe family building is not a one-and-done transaction.

Matching with a donor is just the beginning. Unlike traditional donor egg agencies, where the relationship ends after a transaction, we offer a lifetime of support for families. This includes educational materials, support groups, and communication tools available to Family by Co members and families indefinitely.

The donor egg IVF process

Before you get deep into matching, it may be helpful to ground yourself in what the donor egg in vitro fertilization (IVF) process entails.

01.

Finding a match

Once you've decided to go down the path of using donor eggs and work with us to build your family, you're ready to find your perfect match. The next page of this packet will dive deeper into the donors we work with and how to choose a donor with Cofertility.

02.

Donor screening and preparation

When you're ready to move forward with a donor, you'll sign a Family by Co program agreement between you and Cofertility. We'll coordinate the donor's formal screening process based on Food and Drug Administration (FDA), American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), and other industry guidelines. Cofertility will work with your clinic to schedule these screenings, and your doctor will review the results to determine whether she's approved to move forward. If you don't yet have a clinic, we can help you find one!





03.

Egg retrieval

When the doctor gives us the green light, you'll enter into a legal agreement with the donor and her retrieval will be scheduled. The retrieval cycle is roughly two weeks. Throughout this 10-14 day period, the donor will take daily hormone medications to stimulate her ovaries, visit the clinic for regular monitoring, and undergo a safe 30-minute procedure to retrieve the eggs.

We promise to treat your donor like she is our sister. In addition to the Cofertility care package we send, we are always a text away to answer any of her questions. We also offer education and support on how to prepare for the process, including medication injection instructions. On top of that, she'll have the support of our private online community including all the other women going through the egg freezing and donation process at the same time.

Unlike other programs with cash compensation, our donors are motivated by the same thing as you: positive cycle outcomes. Because the donor is receiving eggs from the same cycle, you can rest assured that she'll adhere to her protocol and do everything she can to ensure a successful cycle.

04.

Fertilizing and growing embryos

In most cases, you'll be undergoing a split cycle in which the embryologist will split the egg yield in two on the day of the retrieval. You'll receive one half of the mature eggs. If there is an odd number of eggs, the extra egg goes to you. Depending on what you've arranged with your clinic, the eggs may be fertilized on the day of the retrieval or they may be frozen to be thawed and fertilized at a later date.

Depending on your family building goals (for example: if you are looking to have 2+ children) you and the donor may agree to do two cycles together. This is something you can decide upfront, or once you've seen how many eggs are retrieved in the first cycle. If you go the two cycle route, you can split both cycles or enter an agreement in which you receive all of the eggs from the first cycle and the donor receives all of the eggs from the second cycle. While not all eggs become embryos, fertilization and euploidy rates can differ based on egg and sperm quality. One study looking at frozen donor eggs found that 84.2% of blastocysts were euploid (genetically normal).



05.

Embryo transfer and pregnancy

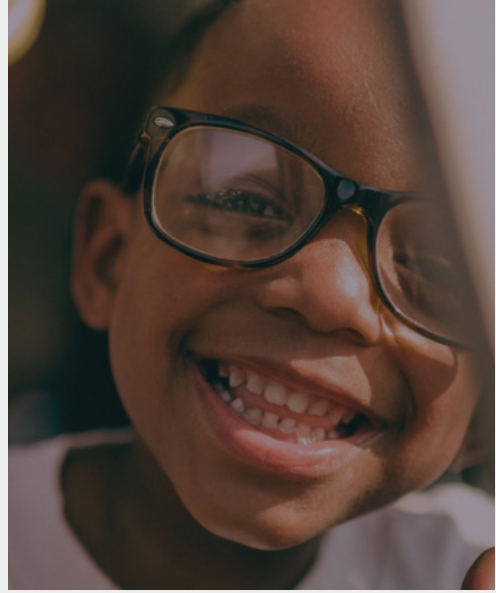
When you're ready to transfer the embryo(s), your clinic may do pre-transfer uterine lining testing for the intended mother or gestational carrier. The intended mother or gestational carrier will receive a series of hormone medications to prepare her uterus for implantation. On the day of the transfer, the doctor will transfer the embryo to the uterus via a catheter. Your clinic will then schedule a blood-serum pregnancy test for roughly ten days later, but an at-home pregnancy test can pick up an early pregnancy as soon as three to five days after a transfer.

We promise to treat your donor like she is our sister. In addition to the Cofertility care package we send, we are always a text away to answer all of her questions.

We also offer education and support on how to prepare for the process, including medication injection instructions. She'll also have the support of our private online community including all the other women going through the egg freezing and donation process at the same time.

Unlike other programs with cash compensation, our donors are motivated by the same thing as you: positive cycle outcomes. Because the donor is receiving eggs from the same cycle, you can rest assured that she'll adhere to her protocol and do everything she can to ensure a successful cycle.

Finding a match



The Cofertility model

Women who donate their eggs through Cofertility, who we refer to as “Split members,” keep half of the mature eggs retrieved for their own future use and donate the other half to your family. Our model has done away with cash compensation, which we know is preferred by donor conceived people. We don’t fault the industry for allowing cash compensation in the past, but knowing what we do today, we believe there’s a better way.

Our donors are diverse, ambitious, and career-driven; many have graduate degrees or are in grad school and are prioritizing other aspects of their lives ahead of family-building. Most importantly, they’re kind, empathetic, and excited to help your family. Simply put, they’re as unique as you.

In partnership with our medical advisors, our clinical operations team pre-screens our donors through a rigorous, multi-step process to ensure each is qualified and prepared to become an egg donor. Our program goes above and beyond FDA and ASRM-recommended screening guidelines. Before donors can be listed on our platform, we review their personal and family medical history and collect information on their lifestyle and behavioral habits.

Our team meets with each donor 1:1 to better understand her personality and values so that we can provide you with the most thoughtful match possible. Once you decide to move forward with a match, the donor will undergo further screening including a physical exam, blood work, psychological evaluation, and full genetic test.

From end to end, our donors are treated with respect. On our matching platform, we refer to our donors using randomized initials rather than numbers (which felt icky to us). All of our donors are treated like patients - they receive an egg freezing consultation and all of the results from their screenings. While this may sound like table stakes, it’s unfortunately not industry standard and we are committed to giving our donors a better, more human-centered experience.



Where to start

Once you create a Family by Co account, you'll be able to view the donors who are available to match. You can filter based on specific criteria (e.g., race, ethnicity, education, personality) and set yourself up to receive an email anytime a new donor is added to the platform who may be a good match.

You'll immediately be able to see a donor's personal medical history, physical traits, heritage, education, personality, and motivations for joining the program. You'll also see photos of her at various ages. When you're ready to move forward, you'll pay a deposit that puts a hold on the match and prevents the donor from matching with any other family. Once we confirm the donor's interest in moving forward, you'll have five days to sign your Family by Co agreement or the hold will be released. At this point, you and your doctor will also be provided with her full family medical history.

Disclosed vs. undisclosed

From the outset, you'll also be able to see whether the donor prefers a disclosed donation, in which you share contact information and can communicate directly, or an undisclosed donation, in which you do not share contact information and only communicate via Cofertility. We've listened to the perspectives of donor conceived people and the US Donor Conceived Council and highly encourage disclosed donations. Even if you choose not to have a relationship with the donor, this gives your child the opportunity to more easily reach out to the donor in the future, if they want. That said, we strive to be inclusive of cultures that still prefer undisclosed donations. If, after speaking with our team, you decide that an undisclosed donation is what's best for your family, we respect that decision.

Regardless of your disclosure status, the extent of the relationship - including when and how you communicate - is up to both parties. At baseline, studies show the benefits of being honest with your child about his or her donor-conceived origins. We're here to help you and your donor find an arrangement that fits your family and cultural needs while also honoring and satisfying the natural curiosity and lived experience of your donor conceived child.



The power of choice

Unlike many others in the space, we pride ourselves on facilitating mutual matches. Informed consent is core to our mission and we're committed to honoring the needs of everyone involved in the egg donation process. After you place a hold on a match, one of our Member Advocates will reach out to the donor to ensure that she consents to the match. We'll share some information about you and, if you'd like, can include a short note from you to the donor (we'll help you with prompts!). Once she accepts, you can move forward with the process.

Meeting your match

Regardless of your disclosure status, you and the donor may choose to meet as part of the match process. This meeting can take many forms. For example, you can meet over Zoom, over the phone, or in person. The meeting can be facilitated with or without sharing contact information. Some intended parents choose not to meet live but to instead share information about themselves via a letter, slides, or video to their donor.

If you do meet "live," we've put together a list of suggested questions and conversation starters that we'll share with you and the donor before your meeting. Though we don't require someone from Cofertility to be on the meeting, someone from our team can join for part or all of the time.

In short, we view match meetings as another way for you and the donor to connect on a human level. There's no right or wrong way to do this. If it's something you're interested in, we'll work with you to do so in a way that feels good for you.

Financing your journey

We know IVF and egg donation are big expenses for families, and we want to help you financially plan for your donation journey. A journey with Cofertility will cost around \$12,500 plus any expenses from your clinic associated with the donor's screening, egg retrieval, and long-distance travel.

A breakdown of expenses

Match Deposit	\$500
Cofertility Coordination Fee	\$6,500
Cycle administrative expenses	\$5,500*
Medical & travel expenses	varies

*Estimate based on Cofertility's recommended service providers

A note on pricing

Two of the biggest factors in determining the overall cost of your journey are the clinic you choose to work with and whether the donor needs to travel. While we can't directly control what clinics charge for their services, we do estimate clinic fees in order to give you as much upfront transparency as possible.

Travel

If you match with a donor that is out of state, we'll work with all parties to determine the best places to conduct her testing, monitoring, and retrieval in order to minimize long-distance travel. If you choose to work with a clinic that's not local to the donor, you are responsible for covering her travel expenses, including airfare, hotels, and meals for her and a companion.

What about donor compensation?

One thing that's not here that you'll see with other egg donation companies? Donor compensation. Our unique model allows donors to freeze their eggs for free when they donate half of the eggs retrieved to your family. There is no cash compensation, eliminating a considerable expense often associated with donor egg IVF. Plus, our fee is the same regardless of the donor who you match with. You'll never pay extra based on the donor's education, heritage, or any other factors.

Cofertility Coordination Fee: \$6,500

The fee covers the cost of recruiting and pre-qualifying eligible donors, facilitating a mutual match between you and the donor, overseeing the administrative process, and coordinating the donor's screening, egg retrieval procedure, and storage.

After you place a hold on a match, we'll reach out to the donor to confirm her interest and availability. Once she agrees, you'll have five days to sign your Family by Co agreement. The Cofertility Coordination fee is due within 7 days of signing your agreement.

Cycle administration expenses: \$5,500

Administrative expenses are incurred by engaging vendors and professional services as part of the egg donation journey. These expenses are paid to third party service providers through an escrow account that will be set up after your agreement is signed. This includes:

- Legal fees for both you and the donor to create a legally-binding donation agreement
- Donor's background check run by a third party
- Donor's cycle complication insurance
- Donor's care package
- Donor's long-term storage and shipping costs for her portion of the eggs
- Escrow management fee

Medical & travel expenses: varies

Clinic expenses are typically paid directly to your clinic and pharmacy but may be paid through escrow in some cases. We've seen these expenses range from \$10,000 - \$23,000. They include:

- Donor's screening and FDA labs
- Donor's genetic testing and consultation
- Donor's psychological evaluation
- Egg retrieval cycle
- Medications
- Donor's travel expenses

Second cycle with the same donor

Depending on your family-building goals, you may opt to do a second cycle. These costs include:

- Reduced Cofertility coordination fee: \$3,500
- Reduced admin expenses: \$1,500
- Medical and travel fees: varies, can range from \$9,000 - \$20,000

The reduced expenses reflects the fact that her screening will have already been completed.

Our guarantee to you

Our Cofertility Coordination Fee covers the cost of matching and coordination until you have a baby, and we will re-match you at no additional Cofertility Coordination Fee until that happens. What does that mean? If a donor doesn't pass screening, we'll help you match again. If a cycle leads to no blastocysts, we'll match you again. If none of the blastocysts turn into a pregnancy, we'll match you again. We know IVF and egg donation are a huge expense for families, and we're here for you.

Additionally, our fee may be waived or fully/partially refunded in the following cases:

The donor doesn't pass her screening.	
This may be for reasons like: • Donor fails genetic screening • Donor fails psychological evaluation • Donor is not approved by your physician for other reasons such as low AMH or failed physical exam • Donor backs out	Waived Cofertility Coordination Fee for another match, or <u>100% refund</u> of Cofertility Coordination Fee if you do not wish to select another donor.
The cycle is canceled or fails.	
This includes the following situations: • The round is canceled by your doctor • No mature eggs are retrieved	Waived Cofertility Coordination Fee for another match, or <u>50% refund</u> of Cofertility Coordination Fee if you do not wish to select another donor.
No pregnancy is achieved.	
This includes the following situations: • No eggs are fertilized • No embryos make it to blastocyst • No genetically normal embryos are created • No eggs or embryos survive the thaw • No embryos successfully transfer • No pregnancies make it to live birth	Waived Cofertility Coordination Fee for another match.

Any other fees already paid or scheduled for payment out of the escrow account as of the date any of the events above happen are not refundable. This may include but is not limited to previous or scheduled payments for genetic screening, AMH test, doctor evaluation, travel, etc. Any remaining money in escrow that hasn't been scheduled for payment is refundable.

In order to process the fee waiver and/or refund, we require written documentation that verifies the justification for refunding. This may include results from the donor's medical screening and/or a signed note from your physician.

Working with a clinic

Donor travel

Our national model affords us flexibility with regard to where the various steps of the donation cycle take place.

There are many options:

- The donor can travel to your clinic for the entire cycle, and the eggs can be immediately fertilized on site by your doctor
- The donor can complete her screening, testing, and monitoring at a clinic close to home and then travel to your clinic for her retrieval
- The donor can complete the entire cycle near her home and the frozen eggs can be shipped to your clinic to be thawed and fertilized there
- The donor can complete the entire cycle near her home and the eggs can be fertilized on-site with fresh or frozen sperm; then the embryos can be sent to your clinic for transfer

Ultimately, the arrangement is based on what makes the most sense for you and the donor, and will be confirmed during the matching period. It's important to note that where the cycle takes place will heavily influence the total cost of your journey. If the donor needs to travel, you'll be responsible for covering the cost for her to travel for the screening and/or the retrieval. In the event that she travels for the retrieval, you'll also cover the cost for a companion to travel with her and should plan on her staying four to five nights in your clinic's city.

The clinics we work with

Cofertility is open to working with any US-based clinic that reports their outcomes to SART, has a CAP certified lab, and meets certain clinical outcome and patient satisfaction standards.

If you have not started working with a clinic, we're happy to recommend one from our network of preferred providers. If you're already working with a clinic, we understand that you may want to continue with your existing care team. We support that, and recommend asking your clinic the following questions to understand if and how they'll work with a Cofertility donor:

- Are you open to overseeing donor egg cycles with donors who meet all FDA and ASRM guidelines with a donor I found through Cofertility?
- If so, can you provide a list of any clinic-specific criteria that she will need to meet?
- Are you open to the donor completing any part of the process outside of your clinic?



Timeline

Navigating the retrieval process

An IVF cycle has a lot of moving parts. Add an egg donor and there are even more steps to consider. Our role is ensuring that everything runs smoothly, and we want to provide you with visibility into the retrieval process and timeline so that you know what to expect and when to expect it.

We've broken the retrieval process into two phases. Your Member Advocate will also create a personalized version of this plan for you upon starting your journey.

Phase I: Screening *Timeline: Up to eight weeks*

- Full physical exam, including ultrasound and bloodwork to test her hormones and ensure she's in good physical health
- Genetic screen and evaluation to ensure she is genetically compatible with you or the sperm source
- A psychological evaluation to ensure she understands and is prepared for the egg donation process
- Background and education check by a third party
- Legal agreement

Phase 2: Egg Retrieval *Timeline: Up to eight weeks*

- Cycle is scheduled
- Donor begins medications
- Donor is monitored at the clinic
- Egg retrieval (7-10 days after start)
- Eggs may be immediately fertilized or frozen and shipped to another clinic to be fertilized later

Raising a donor conceived child

We love being in the “family” business and helping families grow. Our support does not end with the retrieval. We want to give you a glimpse of what you can expect from us once you bring your baby home.

Community support

Our team and our community is here to ensure there's always someone around to lend a supportive hand or answer a question without judgment. We've been through it all, and we've seen it all, and we are eager to help you navigate any questions that may come up.

Resources for life

Importantly, you'll remain in this community from retrieval through pregnancy, and beyond. From virtual events with our team of medical advisors to educational modules and support groups related to raising donor conceived children, our team is here to ensure you have what you need to raise happy, healthy, families.



Cofertility