Living organ donors can get help to pay for travel expenses, lost wages, and dependent care

The Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Program, operated by the National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC), can pay for up to $6,000 of certain expenses for living organ donors and their caregivers on their trips to the transplant center for evaluation, surgery, and medical follow-up visits:

- **Travel expenses** — transportation, food, and lodging
- **Lost wages** — money a living donor would have earned from their job if they hadn't missed work during the donation process
- **Dependent care** — money a living donor spends on care for children or elders because of the donation process

How does it work?

For travel expenses, an approved donor:

1. Gets a credit card from NLDAC
2. Calls NLDAC to make a budget before each trip
3. Uses the NLDAC card to pay for travel expenses

The donor must apply and be approved by NLDAC before the organ donation happens.

For lost wages and dependent care, NLDAC pays a donor back by direct deposit to their bank account or by check. The donor may owe income taxes on the money they get for lost wages and dependent care.

NLDAC cannot pay for expenses covered by the recipient's insurance or a state program.

Who qualifies?

Only the living organ donor qualifies for financial help from this program. But the donor and their recipient will fill out and sign the NLDAC application together.

Donors who live near the transplant center can apply. There are no mileage requirements.

How does a donor qualify?

To qualify:

- The donor and their recipient must both be U.S. citizens or lawfully present residents
- The donor and their recipient must both live in the U.S. or its territories
- The donor's yearly household income (when they apply) should be at or below 500% of the U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines. These amounts are shown in the "Qualify" columns in the chart below.

Use this chart to see if the donor might qualify:

1. Find the column for **where the donor lives**
2. In that column, go to the row for the **number of people in the donor's household**
3. Compare the donor's yearly household income to the 2 amounts in the chosen column and row:
   - The **"Qualify" amount** is the highest the donor's household income can be and still qualify for this program without filling out a Financial Hardship Waiver
   - The **"Maybe qualify" amount** is the highest the donor's household income can be and possibly qualify for this program. See the note below the chart.

Number of people	48 states & DC		Alaska		Hawaii	
	Qualify	Maybe qualify	Qualify	Maybe qualify	Qualify	Maybe qualify
1	$79,800	$119,700	$99,750	$149,625	$91,800	$137,700
2	$108,200	$162,300	$135,250	$202,875	$124,450	$186,675
3	$136,600	$204,900	$170,750	$256,125	$157,100	$235,650
4	165,000	$247,500	$206,250	$309,375	$189,750	$284,625
5	$193,400	$290,100	$241,750	$362,625	$222,400	$333,600
6	$221,800	$332,700	$277,250	$415,875	$255,050	$382,575

ⓘ Note: Donors whose yearly household income is between the "Qualify" and "Maybe qualify" amounts can still be considered for the program. They need to fill out and submit a Financial Hardship Waiver form with their part of the application worksheets.

How do a donor and recipient apply?

The **donor** and **recipient** must:

1. Get the NLDAC application worksheets in 1 of these 3 ways:
   - Visit **LivingDonorAssistance.org** and under the "Get Help" tab, click on "How to Apply"
   - Ask a transplant professional
   - Contact the NLDAC office at **888-870-5002** or **nldac@livingdonorassistance.org**
2. Fill out and sign the NLDAC application worksheets
3. Attach proof of the donor's yearly household income

   If applying for lost wages, also attach proof of lost wages and IRS Form W-9.
4. Give the completed worksheets and income documents to your transplant professional who will submit the application for you

What documents can be used as proof of yearly household income?

Use any of these:

- Social Security or disability statements
- Pay stubs, W-2, or 1099
- Federal income tax return
- Confirmation of Medicaid, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also called food stamps), or WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) eligibility

For questions about a document, talk to a transplant center professional or call NLDAC.

What documents can the donor use as proof of lost wages?

Use any of these:

- 2 recent pay stubs if the donor is an employee
- Schedule C from the donor's tax return or a 1099 form if they are self-employed or an independent contractor

If the donor doesn't have either of these, they can use an earnings or tax statement from their company.

When do a donor and recipient need to apply?

Apply early! NLDAC can only help pay for costs that happen after an application is approved. Applicants don't need to wait until a donation appointment is scheduled. An application must be approved and funded before the donation surgery.

The donor and recipient should give their completed paper application worksheets to a transplant professional or submit the online application for review at least 3-4 weeks before their trip. This makes sure NLDAC has time to review the application and mail the credit card to use for travel expenses. NLDAC needs 10-15 business days before surgery to process an application.

NLDAC can process **urgent liver** applications in 1-2 business days.

If a donor is in a donor chain or paired donation, or is a non-directed donor, what recipient do they list on the application?

For a donor chain or paired donation, the donor should list their originally intended (but incompatible) recipient on the application, not the stranger who will get their organ.

If the donor is an anonymous, non-directed donor (which means they did not choose a recipient and are willing to donate to anyone), NLDAC will review their application based only on the donor's information. No recipient information is required.

If a donor doesn't qualify for this program, can the recipient help them pay for their expenses?

Yes. The recipient can make reasonable payments to cover the donor's travel expenses, lost wages, and dependent care. However, it is illegal to buy and sell organs.

Please visit us online at LivingDonorAssistance.org

Toll Free: 888-870-5002 | Tel: 703-414-1600
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National Living Donor Assistance Center
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Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm ET, closed on federal holidays

LivingDonorAssistance.org

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