



Living Organ Donors

How To Apply for Travel Assistance



What is the National Living Donor Assistance Center?

The National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) provides financial support for travel for living donors. Approved donors receive a credit card to pay for eligible expenses up to \$6,000, including:

- Transportation
- Food
- Lodging
- Travel for the donor's support person

Who can receive assistance?

The donor* and recipient† must be U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted residents, and they must have their primary residence in the U.S. or its territories. NLDAC cannot provide assistance if the recipient's insurance company pays for the donor's travel expenses.

Who qualifies?

The recipient household yearly income determines whether a donor will qualify for the NLDAC program. The recipient household income should be no greater than 300% of the federal poverty guidelines, found in the table above. The donor household yearly income does not determine eligibility, although it will factor into preference for funding. The recipient may request a waiver for financial hardship in certain circumstances.

Recipient Income Requirements 300% HHS Poverty Guidelines (PG) 2018

| Household Number | 48 Contiguous States and DC | Alaska | Hawaii |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | \$36,420 | \$45,540 | \$41,880 |
| 2 | \$49,380 | \$61,740 | \$56,790 |
| 3 | \$62,340 | \$77,940 | \$71,700 |
| 4 | \$75,300 | \$94,140 | \$86,610 |
| 5 | \$88,260 | \$110,340 | \$101,520 |
| 6 | \$101,220 | \$126,540 | \$116,430 |
| 7 | \$114,180 | \$142,740 | \$131,340 |
| 8 | \$127,140 | \$158,940 | \$146,250 |



Guidelines are adjusted yearly. Please see NLDAC website for updates.

Who has preference?

Applications submitted to NLDAC receive preference based on household incomes of the recipient and the donor. See the NLDAC Preference Category Matrix below. Currently, preference category 2 applications are not being accepted.

NLDAC Preference Category Matrix

Applicants will be given preference in the following order of priority:

| | The Recipient  | The Donor  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Higher Preference ↑ | Category 1 | Income is below 300% Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) |
| | Category 2 | Income is below 300% FPG |
| | Category 3 | Income is below 300% FPG |
| | Category 4 | Income is above 300% FPG, must demonstrate financial hardship |
| | | Income is below 300% Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) |
| | | Income is above 300% of FPG, must demonstrate financial hardship |
| | | Does not need to demonstrate financial hardship |
| | | Income may be above or below 300% FPG |

What is the application process?

The recipient and donor must:

1. Complete and sign a [NLDAC application worksheet](#) and attestation form.
2. Gather copies of pay stubs or federal income tax return or other documents to verify household income.
3. Give these documents to your transplant coordinator, social worker, or other transplant professional. The transplant professional will file the NLDAC application.

Where are the application worksheets?

On the [NLDAC website](#). You may also request worksheets from the NLDAC office or your transplant professional.

When should an application be submitted?

6-8 weeks before the surgery or travel is best. The deadline is 10-15 business days before travel/surgery. Applications must be approved and funded before the donor surgery.

What about donor chains, kidney paired donations or non-directed donors?

For those participating in donor chains or paired kidney donation, the intended but incompatible recipient should be listed on the application. Non-directed donors may apply to [NLDAC](#) after a recipient has been identified.

If the donor does not qualify, can the recipient provide assistance?

Yes. The recipient can provide financial assistance to the donor. [The National Organ Transplant Act \(NOTA\)](#) allows for reasonable payments associated with the expenses of travel, housing, and lost wages incurred by the donor of a human organ. However, NOTA does prohibit the buying and selling of organs.

**Donor: the individual who intends to donate an organ.*

†Recipient: the individual with end stage organ failure who needs an organ (kidney or liver).



How is the yearly household income measured?

The most recent federal income tax return will confirm household incomes. Household incomes may also be verified by pay stubs. Other documents may also be considered as proof of income. Call [NLDAC](#) if you have questions.

How is the household number determined?

The household number is the number of people claimed on the federal income tax return. A person aged 22 or older residing with family but living independently may be considered a single household.

Can donors who live near the transplant center apply?

Yes. There are no mileage requirements for [NLDAC](#).



National Living Donor Assistance Center

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