



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

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. This program helps living organ donors pay for:



-  **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, a disabled adult, or elderly person because of their 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. Swipes their card to pay for travel expenses

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.



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

Who qualifies?

Only the living organ donor (the person who will donate an organ) can qualify for this program. To qualify, the donor and their recipient (the person who will get the organ) must both:

- ✓ Be U.S. citizens or lawfully present residents
- ✓ Live in the U.S. or its territories



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

NLDAC's goal is to help donors whose recipients can't afford to help them. So, the donor qualifies based on the recipient's yearly household income. The recipient's yearly household income must be below 350% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see the table below).

If the recipient's household income is more than 350% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, but they can't afford to cover the donor's travel costs, lost wages, or dependent care, the recipient can ask NLDAC for a waiver for financial hardship.

To see if the recipient's yearly income is below 350% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, find their household size and location in this chart:

	350% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) 2024		
Household size (The number of people claimed on the tax return. A person age 22 or older residing with family but living independently may be considered a household of one.)	48 states and DC	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$52,710	\$65,835	\$60,585
2	\$71,540	\$89,390	\$82,250
3	\$90,370	\$112,945	\$103,915
4	\$109,200	\$136,500	\$125,580
5	\$128,030	\$160,055	\$147,245
6	\$146,860	\$183,610	\$168,910
7	\$165,690	\$207,165	\$190,575
8	\$184,520	\$230,720	\$212,240

The government adjusts the FPGs each year. Visit livingdonorassistance.org for updates.

How do we apply?

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

- 1** Get the NLDAC application worksheets in 1 of these 3 ways:
 -  Visit **LivingDonorAssistance.org** and under the “How to Apply” tab, click on “Start Your Application”
 -  Ask your 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 and recipient’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 we use as proof of yearly household income?

You can 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



If you have questions about a document, talk to your transplant professional or call NLDAC.

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

You can use any of these:

- 2 recent pay stubs if you are an employee
- Schedule C from your tax return or a 1099 form if you are self-employed or an independent contractor

If you don't have either of these, you can use an earnings or tax statement from your company.

When do we need to apply?

Apply early! NLDAC can only cover expenses that happen after your application is approved. You don't need to wait until you schedule a donation appointment. Your application must be approved and funded before your donation surgery.

Give your completed paper application to a transplant professional or submit the online application for review at least 3-4 weeks before your trip. This makes sure NLDAC has time to review the application and mail the card you'll 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 I'm in a donor chain or paired donation, or am a non-directed donor, what recipient do I list on the application?

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

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

If I don't qualify for this program, can the recipient help me pay for my expenses?

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

National Living Donor Assistance Center
1401 S. Clark Street, Suite 1120, Arlington, VA 22202

Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm ET, closed on federal holidays

Toll Free: 888-870-5002 | Tel: 703-414-1600

Fax: 703-414-7874 | Email: nldac@livingdonorassistance.org



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