



Over 104,000 people are on the National Transplant Waiting list hoping for a lifesaving transplant. Of these, 86% need a kidney.

A new patient is added to the transplant waiting list every eight minutes.

You can help.

How do I become an organ, eye, and tissue donor?

You have multiple options for signing up as a donor.

- Sign up online through your state's donor registry link on organdonor.gov/sign-up.
- Join the National Donate Life Registry at registerme.org.
- Sign up in person by visiting your state's Department of Motor Vehicles.

You can sign up to be a donor in your state and the National Donate Life Registry. You only need to sign up once unless you move to a new state, and then you'll need to sign up again. Be sure to tell your family about your decision so they can help honor your wishes.

How does organ donation work?

Most organs for transplants come from deceased donors. When someone passes away, the hospital contacts an organ procurement organization (OPO). They check if the person signed up to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor. If not, the family can choose to donate their organs to someone in need.

DoNation Donor Fact:

A deceased donor can save up to eight people in need of organ transplants and heal the lives of 75 patients in need of tissue donation.

What organs can I donate?

Eight vital organs: heart, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, liver, intestines, hands, and face

Eye: Cornea

Tissue: Skin, heart valves, bone, blood vessels, and connective tissue

DoNation Donor Facts:

Hand and face transplants, called Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) transplants, often benefit United States Veterans.

Over 95% of sight-restoring corneal transplants performed in the United States are successful.

More than 2.5 million tissue transplants occur each year, including grafts for dental implants, torn ligament or tendon repair, and reconstructive efforts for spinal cord injuries or arthritis.

Organ Donation Myths

Myth: If I sign up as an organ donor, doctors won't try to save my life.

Fact: Organ donation is about saving lives. The doctors who care for you are not part of the transplant team. They will do everything possible to save your life. Only after all efforts have failed does the transplant team check if you are a donor.

Myth: I can't have an open-casket funeral if I donate an organ.

Fact: You will be treated with respect during the donation process. Organ, eye, and tissue donation will not stop you from having an open-casket funeral.

Myth: My family will pay for the cost of my donation.

Fact: Your family only pays for your medical care and funeral costs. They won't pay anything for your donation. These costs are covered by insurance or the transplant recipients.

Myth: I can only donate to someone with the same race or ethnicity as me.

Fact: Race and ethnicity don't affect donor matches. While similar backgrounds can sometimes lead to better long-term success, they are not part of the matching process.

Can I donate an organ while alive?

Yes! Living organ donors can reduce someone's waiting time for an organ transplant. As a living donor, you can donate one kidney, part of your liver, one lung lobe, part of your pancreas, or part of your intestine. To donate an organ while alive, you must be at least 18 years old and in good physical and mental health. Most living donors live healthy and active lives after their donation.

DoNation Donor Fact:

When you donate a piece of your liver, your liver and the donated piece both grow back to full size!

How are donors matched with patients on the National Transplant Waiting List?

Matches are based on blood type, body size, where the patient's transplant hospital is, how long they've been on the waiting list, and how serious their condition is. The donor's and patient's race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and income do not affect the match.

Does having donors from diverse backgrounds make a difference?

Yes! When donors are of different ages, races, and ethnicities, it helps more patients on the National Transplant Waiting List find a good match.

DoNation Donor Fact:

Over half of the patients on the transplant waiting list are from a racial or ethnic minority group.

While **90%** of Americans say they support organ donation, only **60%** are signed up to be donors.

YOU can give the gift of life.

