



Resources to Reduce the Financial Burdens of Living Organ Donation

Costs of living kidney donation

The medical costs related to the process of becoming a living donor are covered under the organ recipient's insurance plan. There may be some routine preventive care, such as a Pap smear for women, which are part of the evaluation process but are not covered by the recipient's insurance plan. If this is the case for you, please speak with the donor social worker to see if there are resources for reduced-fee care in your area.

Payment of travel costs

In some cases, the recipient's insurance covers travel expenses for living donors.

Travel grants

For those who do not have coverage for travel costs, The National Living Donor Assistance Center can pay for up to three trips to the transplant center, including your evaluation visit, surgery and follow-up visit. This grant includes reimbursement for mileage, airfare, hotel, food and other incidentals. The living donor social worker can determine if you are eligible for this grant program, and can help you apply for the grant. For more information, go to the web site: LivingDonorAssistance.org.

Tax credits/ deductions

Many states now offer tax credits and/or deductions for living donors to offset costs associated with living donation, such as lost wages or travel costs. This includes Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. You must itemize your state income taxes to take advantage of this option. The donor social worker can help you learn more.

Role of the living donor social worker

As you explore living donation, you will meet with a social worker who will help you explore the 'non-medical' parts of your life that may be affected by living donation. This includes the impact on your job, family activities, finances, insurance and mood. This will also include looking into resources that may reduce the incidental costs of living donation.