



**WELCOME!**

**PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AND ORGANIZATION IN THE CHAT BOX.**

## INNOVATION & IMPACT GRANTS PROGRAM

2026 Information Session  
April 30, 2025

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## AGENDA

- **Welcome and Overview of Purpose:** Pam Geis, Grant Committee Chair
- **Focus/Areas of Emphasis:** Rachel Maske, Committee Member
- **Donor Registry Data:** Katelynn Kirkpatrick, DHS Organ & Tissue Registry
- **Key Application Criterion:** Rob Combs, Committee Member
- **Grants Timeline:** Jeff Starke, Committee Member
- **Success Story:** Pam Geis, Grants Committee Chair
- **Q & A/Wrap-up:** Pam Geis, Grants Committee Chair



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## FOCUS OF PROJECTS

- Increasing the number of individuals who register to become organ, eye, and tissue donors

**OR**

- Increasing the number of donated organs/tissues available for transplantation



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## AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- Unmet need related to increasing donor registration or the availability of more donated organs/tissues in Wisconsin
- Specific demographic, age, or professional group
- Unique geographic location (county, region or tribal area) of Wisconsin
- Transformational change in professional/clinical practices, policy, or systems



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# DONOR & TRANSPLANT DATA

## Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network Site

Source: <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/data/view-data-reports/state-data/#>

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# DONOR & TRANSPLANT DATA

Organ by Birth Sex  
Current U.S. Waiting List  
For Type = Candidates, State = Wisconsin

Information! Based on OPTN data as of February 25, 2025.

Change Report (Optional):  
Count: Candidates

Add Field to Report:

State: Wisconsin

Create a New Report

	All Organs	Kidney	Liver	Pancreas	Kidney / Pancreas	Heart	Lung
All Birth Sexes	1,411	1,163	158	14	61	58	10
Male	912	740	109	8	39	49	4
Female	499	423	49	6	22	9	6

Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction. This report shows OPTN data for Organ by Birth Sex through February 25, 2025. OPTN Data is updated on a monthly basis. Totals may be less than the sums due to patients included in multiple categories.

**2023**

302 deceased organ donors

159 living organ donors

**2024**

317 deceased organ donors

168 living organ donors

Source: <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/data/view-data-reports/state-data/#>

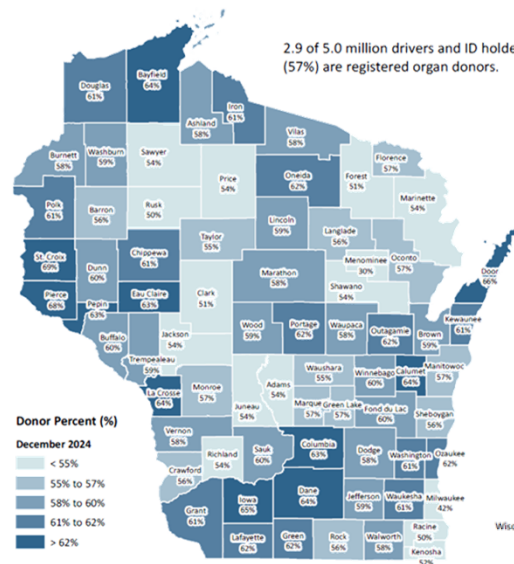
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## WI DONOR REGISTRY DATA

### Saving Lives in Wisconsin DonorRegistry.Wisconsin.gov

2.9 of 5.0 million drivers and ID holders  
(57%) are registered organ donors.



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## KEY APPLICATION CRITERION

Apply online: [www.donatelifewisconsin.org/grants](http://www.donatelifewisconsin.org/grants)

**LOI Deadline:** June 2, 2025 (5:00 p.m. Central)

**Notifications to applicants:** June 16, 2025

### COMPONENTS of Letter of Intent (LOI)

- Organizational and project staff information
- Project name, type, focus, and anticipated funding request (\$10,000-\$50,000)
- Need/problem project will address and supporting data
- Project overview with anticipated outcomes
- Impact statement



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## KEY APPLICATION CRITERION *continued*

- There is no limit to the number of LOIs an eligible organization can submit.
- A separate LOI is required for each project submission.
- Collaborative projects between organizations are welcome. However, at least one organization involved in a collaborative project submission must meet the “eligible organization” criteria.



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## KEY APPLICATION CRITERION *continued*

- What is an “eligible organization?”
  - *recognized as exempt from federal taxation under 501(c)3 of the IRS Code*
  - *able to provide proof of charitable status*
  - *able to submit an audited financial statement at the conclusion of the project, if requested by DLW*
- *Eligible organizations located outside of Wisconsin may submit an LOI if the proposed project will be conducted in Wisconsin.*



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## KEY APPLICATION CRITERION *continued*

- Funding requests may be between \$10,000-\$50,000/project.
- Projects must be completed between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026 – no exceptions.
- Organizations must have the ability to begin a project on or shortly after January 1, with or without a signed agreement.
- Organizational leadership must be aware and supportive of application.



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## KEY APPLICATION CRITERION *continued*

- Important points about the LOI:
  - Limited characters in some, but not all boxes;
  - You can save your work so if you need to step away, you will not lose it;
  - Budget request is for total request, itemized budget is required during full proposal process.



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## KEY APPLICATION CRITERION *continued*

- Non-allowable use of DLW grant funding:
  - Expenses billed to/reimbursed from federal/state agencies or other entities e.g., CMS
  - Personal expenses, e.g., cost of living, fines, damages
  - Clinical care or other costs associated with treatment or direct care
  - Direct or indirect lobbying activities or legal fees
  - Financial gifts, e.g., scholarships, endowments, aid, gift cards
  - Entertainment or alcoholic beverages
  - Costs or activities not directly related to project implementation



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## KEY APPLICATION CRITERION *continued*

- Attestation statements:
  - The individual providing supervision of the Project Staff Contact has given approval to submit this Letter of Intent for consideration.
  - The individual or department responsible for financial reporting/financial oversight of grant projects is aware of this project submission.
  - The project can be completed between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026 – no exceptions.
  - The applicant organization has the ability to begin the project on or shortly after January 1, with or without a signed contract.



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## KEY APPLICATION CRITERION *continued*

### ■ Attestation statements:

- The applicant organization agrees to provide a Success Story at the end of the grant period as well as present to the Grants Committee and/or the DLW Board of Directors if requested about their project.
- The applicant organization is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- The applicant organization's Federal tax exemption determination has not been revoked and the present operation of the organization and its current sources of support are consistent with the organization's continuing tax-exempt classification as set forth in such Determination Letter.



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## GRANTS TIMELINE

- **June 2, 2025:** LOI online applications due
- **June 16, 2025:** Eligible organizations invited to develop full grant proposals
- **July 28, 2025:** Full grant proposals due
- **August 28, 2025:** Grant finalists notified



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## GRANTS TIMELINE *continued*

- **September 24, 2025:** Grant finalists provide project overview to DLW Board of Directors
- **October 15, 2025:** Grant award notifications issued
- **January 1, 2026:** Grant project period begins



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## SUCCESS STORY



- **Wisconsin EMS Association**
  - **Attended 2024 Info Session**
  - **Identified a need:** to enhance knowledge and capabilities of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals in the area of organ, tissue, and eye donation
  - **Developed an idea:** comprehensive education platform that includes opportunity for, sample protocols EMS organizations can use, continuing education credits, etc.
  - **Collaborated with other organizations:** for expertise to support idea
  - **Created impact:** in Wisconsin and nationwide  
[www.wisconsinems.com/organ-donation](http://www.wisconsinems.com/organ-donation)



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## Q&A / WRAP-UP

### ■ ASSISTANCE:

- Cindy Huber, Director of Operations  
[chuber@donatelifewisconsin.org](mailto:chuber@donatelifewisconsin.org)



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## DONATE LIFE WISCONSIN

Donate Life Wisconsin (DLW) is a nonprofit alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to increasing donated organs, eyes, and tissues to save and heal lives.

***THANK YOU***



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