



Grants Request for Proposal  
August 2021

Increasing Kidney Transplant Rates and Reducing Barriers for  
Recipients and Donors

## BACKGROUND

### About the Kidney Transplant Collaborative (KTC)

The Kidney Transplant Collaborative (KTC) was established in 2021 as a non-profit dedicated to advocating for policy solutions that dramatically increase kidney transplant rates and reduce the financial burdens and challenges kidney recipients, donors, and families are currently experiencing in the transplant environment.

As one element of achieving this mission, KTC will be actively engaged in seeking legislative solutions in several key policy areas. Our advocacy agenda will include pursuing policy solutions addressing:

1. Living Donor Expense Compensation
2. Expansion of the Paired and Chain Kidney Donation Programs
3. Patient Engagement & Transparency with Organ Acceptance and Waitlist Management

KTC will also be awarding grants to fund innovative programs that clearly demonstrate an increase in kidney transplants or reduce financial burdens and challenges for recipients, donors, and their families. The grant awards will range from \$50,000 to \$2 million for projects spanning up to 24 months in duration.

KTC has engaged experts with technical, clinical, and quality expertise from the renal and transplant community to serve on the Board of Directors and Expert Advisory Panel. The members of KTC's Board and Expert Advisory Panel play an important role in assessing the organization's grant and policy priorities, as well as monitoring the outcomes of the grants projects selected.

The members of KTC's Board of Directors and Expert Advisory Panel are:

#### **Board of Directors:**

Louis H. Diamond, MBChB, FCP (SA), FACP, FHIMSS – *KTC President and Chair*

Nancy Armistead, MPA

Rebecca J. Schmidt, DO, FACP, FASN

John Weinberg, MD

#### **Expert Advisory Panel:**

Thomas Peters, MD, FACS, FASN - *Chair, Expert Advisory Panel*

Andrew Howard, MD, FACP

Stephen Pastan, MD

Michael Rees, MD, PhD

Dennis Wagner, MPA

David White

## Why is KTC Funding Innovative Work in the Kidney Transplant Space?

It is essential that the kidney transplant community continue to aggressively explore innovative kidney transplant methods, strategies and programs that can be implemented at the state, regional and federal level to significantly increase kidney donation and transplantation.

Kidney transplantation is considered the optimal treatment, usually increasing quality of life and survival for patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). With very few new ESRD patients receiving a pre-emptive kidney transplant and with only a fraction ultimately receiving transplants, new strategies to increase kidney donations and transplant rates are not only essential but are also critical to the survival of over 90,000 patients currently on the transplant waitlist. Greater efforts must be made to increase the number of transplants, reduce transplant wait times and kidney discards, and eliminate donation barriers.

One of KTC's primary goals is to fund groundbreaking new programs and best practices that clearly demonstrate a potential to increase kidney transplants, as well as reduce unnecessary financial barriers and challenges for recipients, donors, and their families.

## Who is Eligible to Submit Grant Proposals?

KTC will be accepting grant proposals from the following organizations:

- Kidney Transplant Centers
- Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs)
- Professional Organizations in the Kidney and Transplant Community
- ESRD Networks
- National Academy of Medicine Organ Donation Committee Members and Presenters
- Other Organizations as Approved by KTC's Board of Directors and Expert Advisory Panel

## Are Organizations Able to Collaborate to Submit a Grant Proposal?

Organizations are welcome and encouraged to partner to submit grant proposals especially if a collaboration can demonstrate a substantial opportunity to increase the number of kidney transplants or reduce financial barriers and/or challenges for kidney recipients, donors, and their families.

## What Types of Grants is KTC Interested in Receiving?

KTC is encouraging organizations in the kidney transplant community to submit innovative and creative grant proposals that build on an organization's existing work or help to design a new inventive model or strategy. Organizations are welcome to submit more than one grant proposal. The proposal(s) must demonstrate improvement (i.e., increased kidney transplants) within the two-year timeframe (2022-2023).

Specific information on grant topics of interest can be found in **Addendum A.**

## How Does my Organization Submit our Grant Interest?

### PHASE 1

**Step 1: Grantee Letter of Intent** – Eligible organizations interested in submitting a KTC grant proposal will be required to electronically submit a non-binding letter of intent by COB ET on **Tuesday, August 31, 2021**. The letter of intent should be no more than two pages and contain the following information:

- Project Description – Provide key details on the project goals.
- Stated Impact – Project how the project will increase kidney transplantation or reduce a specific barrier or challenge.
- Implementation Strategy – Provide a brief outline of the project strategy and timeline.

Each letter of intent should be electronically forwarded to KTC’s Program Director, Susan Murdock at [smurdock@kidneytransplantcollaborative.com](mailto:smurdock@kidneytransplantcollaborative.com) by the above deadline.

**Step 2: Review of Letter of Intent** – The letter of intent submissions will be reviewed by the members of KTC’s Expert Advisory Panel. Organizations will be notified of their grant proposal status (approved or disapproved) upon final review by the Expert Advisory Panel and approval by the Board of Directors no later than **Friday, October 1, 2021**.

### PHASE 2 – Approved Organizations Only

**Step 3: Submitting Grant Proposal** - Approved organizations will be required to submit the following project detail by **Friday, October 22, 2021**, complying with the appropriate grant submission guidelines and content requirements.

<b>Section 1: General Submission Guidelines &amp; Requirements</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Information Required</b>
Submission of Grants RFP	Grant proposals must be submitted by applicants who have an approved letter of intent from KTC. Submission of the final grant proposal will be made electronically to KTC’s Program Director.
Proposal Validity	Proposals will remain valid for a period of 180 days.
Cost Reimbursement	Cost reimbursed grants will be awarded for up to 24 months and funding amounts will range from \$50,000 to \$2 million
Stakeholder Engagement	Applicants are encouraged to engage with other stakeholders and organizations as appropriate.
Consumer Engagement	Applicants should outline a mechanism for consumer engagement.
Compliance	No hardware purchase will be approved as part of this request for proposal.
Distribution of Work	Applicants must sign a release statement and agree to facilitate public distribution of work products and results as requested by KTC.

General Format Requirements	All applications must be in MS Word format – 1.5 spacing using Times New Roman 12 point-size font. Page numbers should be included on the bottom lower right corner of each page. Applications should not exceed 15 pages in length.
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<b>Section 2: Project Content Requirements</b>	
<i>Successful grant applications should include the following information.</i>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Information Required</b>
Cover Sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Title and timeline</li> <li>▪ Full name of organization</li> <li>▪ Full address with phone number</li> <li>▪ Tax status</li> <li>▪ Mission</li> <li>▪ Website address (if any) and email address</li> <li>▪ Contact person and title (include address if different than above including email address and phone number)</li> <li>▪ List of other organizations and contacts involved (if any) and identification of lead organization</li> <li>▪ Indication of whether IRB approval is required and the date KTC will receive approval from IRB</li> <li>▪ Signed by a representative that is authorized to commit the organization</li> </ul>
Executive Summary	3 to 5 paragraphs with high-level summary of proposal, with a focus on projected impacts and results.
Project Description	Description to include project goals and interim milestones – detail on how the project will increase kidney transplantation and/or reduce the barriers and challenges for recipients and/or donors.
Implementation	Provide an overview and explain the framework, conceptual model and setting
Outcomes	Explain the project outcomes, interim targets, and measures, including some discussion of potential additional scalability or further impact
Evaluation	Explain your internal evaluation methods and deliverables.
Socioeconomic Disparities	Describe how your program will impact or ease financial barriers or challenges for low-income or geographically challenged recipients, donors, or their families.
Barriers	Explain potential barriers in achieving your project goals and strategies for mitigation.
Experience	Include background information about your organization, a description of any previous work in this area, and current or prior collaboration with other organizations. Up to 3 letters of support may be included in an appendix.
Conflict of Interest	Applicants will be required to complete and sign KTC’s conflict of interest statement.
Indirect Costs	Indirect costs are discouraged and if applied cannot exceed 15% of the grant.

<b>Section 3: Budget &amp; Personnel Requirements</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Information Required</b>
Budget Requirements	<p>The awards are intended to be cost-reimbursed contracts in which the grantee is reimbursed the actual costs they incur in carrying out the work, plus an additional indirect fee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please submit a budget with sub-totals for labor costs (including fringe), supplies/materials, educational/printing costs, and overhead/indirect costs.</li> <li>• Budgets should be broken out into 12-months periods.</li> <li>• A budget justification should be included, and any in-kind contribution specified.</li> </ul>
Personnel Requirements	List key personnel and capability to do project. Bio statements (1 page) or resume (not to exceed 3 pages) of key personnel should be included in an appendix.

**Step 4: Grants Proposal Evaluation** - The grant applications will be scored and evaluated on the project's ability to increase kidney transplant rates and/or reduce barriers or challenges to transplantation. The grants applications will be ranked by KTC's Expert Advisory Panel as follows:

- Strength of technical proposal (40 points)
- Measurable outcomes (30 points)
- Reasonableness of budget (15 points)
- Experience and qualification of key personnel (15 points)

**Step 5: Grant Award Notification** - Awardees will be notified of the outcome of their grant submission(s) no later than **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**.

**Step 6: Grant Contracts Executed** - Grant awardees will complete and execute KTC's grants legal agreement and conflict of interest policy in preparation of grant funding. Disbursement schedules will be individualized by grant project and will be finalized by the grantee and KTC in December 2021.

**Step 7: Grant Funding Disbursed** - Awardees will receive the first grant funding disbursement payment before year-end.

**Step 8: Implementation Meeting** - KTC's Grants Administrator will finalize a communication and meeting schedule with grant awardees to discuss deliverables and reporting to include:

- Progress Reporting (frequency to be determined by project)
- Semi-annual financial report (with breakout of funds spent, committed, and remaining)
- Potential participation in conference calls with other grantees to share information and progress
- Final technical and business report and delivery of any work products within 30 days after project completion

**KTC Grants Submission Contact Information:**

Completed KTC grant applications and associated materials should be sent to the KTC's Program Director no later than **COB ET Friday, October 22, 2021.**

Susan R. Murdock, Program Director  
Kidney Transplant Collaborative (KTC)  
[smurdock@kidneytransplantcollaborative.com](mailto:smurdock@kidneytransplantcollaborative.com)  
Phone: 910.454.8865

## ADDENDUM A

### Grant Areas of Focus

KTC welcomes all grant submissions that advance the mission of increasing kidney transplant rates or that reduce financial barriers and challenges for recipients and donors. All new, innovative ideas and projects that align with these two important goals will be strongly considered.

KTC is also interested in learning more about potential grant projects that align with the organization's policy interests – living donor compensation, expansion of the paired and chain kidney donation programs as well as patient engagement and transparency with organ acceptance and waitlist management.

Other general grant areas that may be of interest are listed below:

#### General Grant Areas of Interest:

1. Projects that expand living donor chains and optimal sharing of deceased donor kidneys.
2. Projects to reduce deceased donor kidney wastage.
3. Projects or collaborations between organizations to develop and implement mentoring programs to increase kidney transplantation. Potential examples are, but are not limited to:
  - Provide direct quality improvement support using best practice methods to increase kidney transplants.
  - Develop programs that ease financial barriers for low economic or geographically challenged patients.
  - Facilitate mentoring partnerships on key performance metrics with emphasis on offer acceptance for recipients by transplant centers.
4. Development of patient engagement programs to increase awareness, decision-making, and actions around patient advocacy for access to transplants. Potential examples are, but are not limited to:
  - Develop better patient communications and information on the organ acceptance processes.
  - Provide greater transparency and periodic feedback to waiting patients about kidneys declined on their behalf.
  - Inform recipients of living and paired donation options.
  - Educate recipients on the tradeoffs in dialysis mortality and the pros and cons of accepting an available kidney versus waiting for a more perfect kidney.
  - Educate recipients, donors, and their families about the extensive variation in transplant center wait times, organ offer acceptance rates, variations in wait-listing practices, and other information that will allow recipients to become more empowered about their transplantation options.
5. Development of any novel strategies or programs that directly accelerate access to kidney transplantation, reduce time on dialysis and reduce the cost of care.