



OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027

The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) leads the network of transplant hospitals, organ procurement organizations, and thousands of volunteers dedicated to honoring the gifts of life entrusted to us and to making lifesaving transplants possible for patients in need. Over 100,000 people are waiting for a transplant and rely on the organ donation and transplant community to strengthen the system to provide equitable access to lifesaving organs to patients.

The OPTN's Strategic Plan encompasses a comprehensive understanding of the most important factors that currently impact the transplant community and a focus on building trust through action on opportunities most impactful to the community and ultimately, the patients we serve. The OPTN achieves these goals through partnership, convening the transplant community to pursue innovation and improvement while maintaining patient safety. These goals include:

- **Increase Opportunities for Transplants:** Improve offer acceptance for deceased donation and enhance access to living donation to increase patients' opportunities for transplant.
- **Optimize Organ Use:** Optimize organ use for transplantation, while improving equity to benefit all patients.
- **Enhance OPTN Efficiency:** Increase the efficiency of the OPTN through improvement and innovation to serve the greatest number of patients.
- **Support OPTN Modernization Initiatives:** Collaborate to lay the foundation for the OPTN of the future.

The OPTN Strategic Plan is not intended to be an exhaustive list of the OPTN's work or focus areas. The plan includes flexibility for the Board to add or redirect as needed to capitalize on emerging opportunities.



OPTN Vision

The OPTN promotes long, healthy, and productive lives for persons with organ failure by promoting maximized organ supply, effective and safe care, and equitable organ allocation and access to transplantation; and doing so by balancing competing goals in ways that are transparent, inclusive, and enhance public trust in the national organ donation system.

We commit our resources to achieve the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan while continuing our dedication to:

- Increase the number of successful transplants.
- Honor the selfless gift of life given by organ donors.
- Safeguard the well-being of patients and living donors.
- Continuously improve the outcomes of patients on the waiting list, living donors, and transplant recipients.
- Advancing equity within the transplant system and supporting vulnerable populations.



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1 GOAL 1

Increase Opportunities for Transplants: Improve offer acceptance for deceased donation and enhance access to living donation to increase patients' opportunities for transplant.

Objectives:

- Develop, implement, and effectively promote educational programs for patients and transplant programs focused on understanding offer acceptance and living donation.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to improve offer and acceptance processes to increase consistency.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to enhance access to living donor transplants.

Metrics:

- Increased organ offer acceptance rates, annually.
- Decreased variability in time from first offer to organ offer acceptance.
- Decreased median number of declines prior to organ offer acceptance.
- Increased number of living donor transplants, annually.

2 GOAL 2

Optimize Organ Use: Optimize organ use for transplantation, while improving equity to benefit all patients.

Objectives:

- Collaborate with stakeholders to identify and reduce key barriers influencing organ non-use and non-utilization, promoting best practices and effective strategies across the transplantation community.
- Explore and evaluate allocation strategies for organs at high risk of non-use.
- Advance equity within the transplant system.

Metrics:

- Decrease non-utilization rate for heart and lung.
- Decrease non-use rate for kidney (Stratified by KDPI group).
- Decrease non-use rate for liver (Stratified by the combination of donor age and DCD status).
- Improve equity: Access-to-Transplant Scores (ATS).

Key Definitions:

- Non-use rate: The proportion of deceased donor¹ organs recovered for the purpose of transplant, but not transplanted.
- Non-utilization rate: The proportion of deceased donor organs not transplanted from all deceased donors².

¹ Deceased donors are individuals from whom at least one organ is recovered for the purpose of transplantation after declaration of death. All donors were assumed to have two transplantable kidneys and two transplantable lungs.

² Ibid.



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GOAL 3

Enhance OPTN Efficiency: Increase the efficiency of the OPTN through improvement and innovation to serve the greatest number of patients.

Objectives:

- Refine the policy development and implementation process to be more efficient, equitable, and strategically aligned.
- Enhance OPTN data collection: increase availability of actionable data.

Metrics:

- Establishment of Quarterly Strategic Plan reviews, inclusive of metric reviews by Fiscal Year 2025.
- Improved policy development and implementation timeliness: Stratified by project type. (ex. allocation, guidance, data collection, etc.).
- Increased Policy Project Benefit.

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GOAL 4

Support OPTN Modernization Initiatives: Collaborate to lay the foundation for the OPTN of the future.

Objectives:

- Develop and implement processes to effectively support the OPTN and OPTN Board of Directors.
- Develop an effective partnership and ongoing collaboration with HHS and OPTN contractors.
- Collaborate with HHS and OPTN contractors, to improve OPTN technology systems.

Metrics:

- Develop and implement feedback process for metrics of successful collaboration and challenges to collaboration (OPTN, HHS, and contractors) by the end of Fiscal Year 2025.