

# OPTN Board of Directors

*OPTN Webinar*

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# Today's Update and Feedback Opportunities

- Today we are sharing updates on behalf of HRSA and the OPTN Board of Directors, including some important OPTN Modernization steps which we'll detail today
- We welcome your questions and feedback in upcoming OPTN Regional Meetings
- Today's session will be recorded and posted on the OPTN webpage



# OPTN Vision

We collectively support maximized organ donation, effective and safe care, and equitable organ allocation and access to transplantation in ways that are transparent, inclusive, and enhance public trust in the national organ donation and transplantation system.

**OPTN** *Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network*



# The Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network



OPTN  
established  
by Congress  
in 1984

## Organ Procurement & Transplant Network

### OPTN's Mission

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.

HRSA  
Oversees  
the  
OPTN

- Board of Directors and Committees
- Histocompatibility Laboratories
- Organ Procurement Organizations
- Transplant Centers
- Patients/Donors/Families
- Others

Our collective efforts help the OPTN reach its goals to:

Increase the number of transplants including increased donation

Provide equity in access to transplants

Improve waitlisted patient, living donor, and transplant recipient outcomes

Promote living donor and transplant recipient safety

# OPTN Modernization

**As part of its Congressionally mandated OPTN oversight role, HRSA will manage the Modernization through:**

- **Oversight and compliance monitoring of OPTN components; improvements in outcomes** in adherence to federal statute, Congressional mandates, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation governing federal contracts
  - Incorporation and designation of the OPTN Board of Directors
- **A new operating model** that reduces the risks and challenges inherent in the current structure
- **A more strategic procurement process** to obtain support of best-in-class contracted experts and reduce conflicts of interest
  - Direct support to the OPTN Board of Directors
  - Other expert teams to work exclusively on operational improvements (e.g., matching system/data, communications, transformation services)
  - Deliberate and monitored approach to transition contractors and implement system changes with a focus on “do no harm”
- **Improved collaboration** across the OPTN



**Our goal is to increase the**

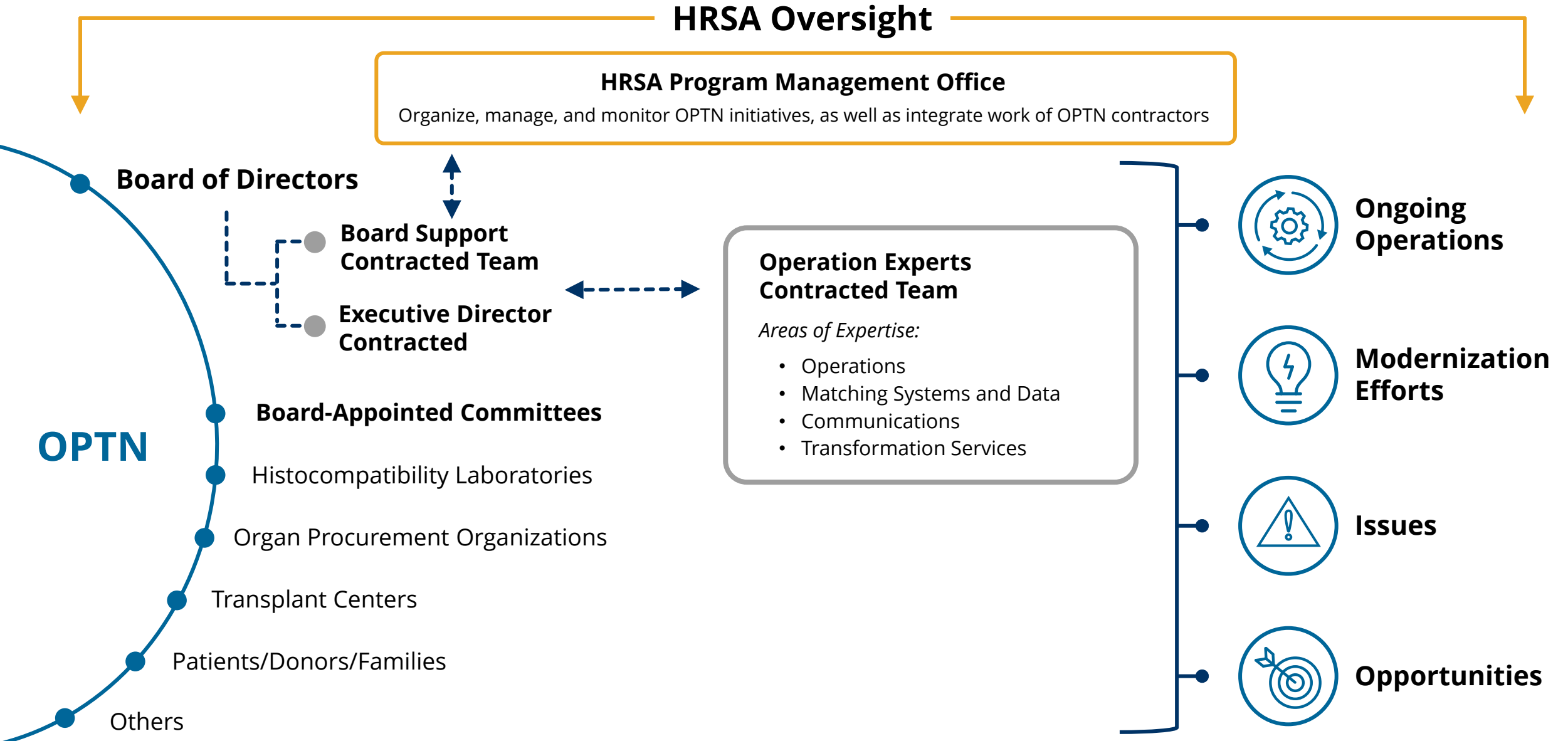
**Fairness**

**Accountability**

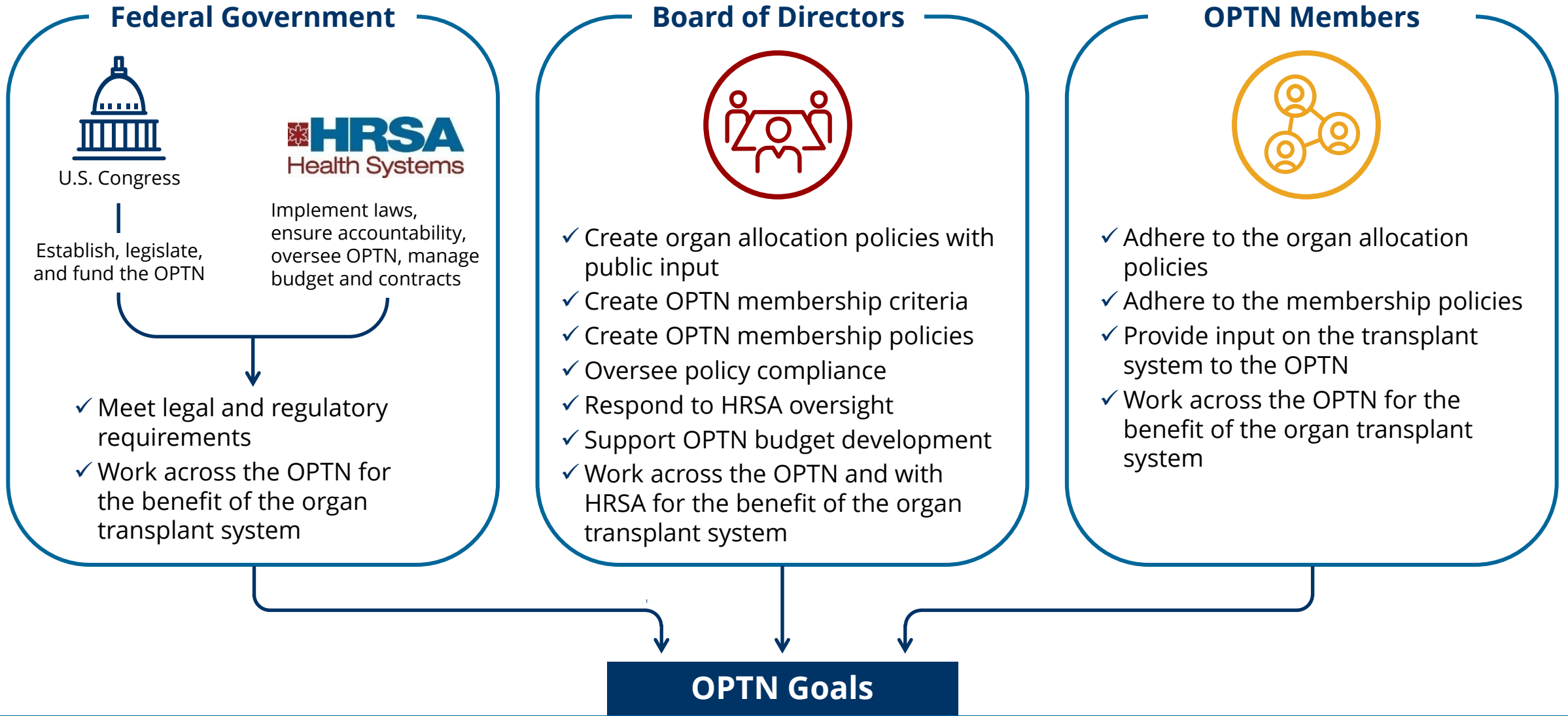
**Performance**

**of the national organ transplantation system**

# Future Operations



# How the OPTN Works Together



↑ Transplants & Donations

↑ Transplant Equity

↑ Waitlist, Donor & Recipient Outcomes

↑ Donor & Recipient Safety

# OPTN Structure



Congress

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Contractors  
Board Support  
Operations Support

### The OPTN Board Responsibilities

- OPTN Bylaws
- OPTN Membership Policies
- OPTN Allocation Policies

OPTN Board, Committees & Volunteers

Board develops, implements, and enforces Policies and Bylaws

OPTN Members comment on and ratify policies and bylaws and elect the Board

- Transplant Center
- Organ Procurement Organization (OPO)
- Histocompatibility Center
- Others



# Incorporation



# OPTN Board of Directors Incorporation

HRSA supported the incorporation of the OPTN Board of Directors as a distinct entity with the necessary resources and support to fulfill its responsibilities, that

- Ensures that the **OPTN Board is separated** from the corporate board of OPTN contractors
- **Safeguards against conflicts of interest and undue influence** from OPTN contractors or industry
- Allows the volunteers who make up the **OPTN Board to focus on their statutory responsibilities** of developing and governing organ allocation policies, membership criteria and membership standards
- Improves **HRSA's ability to maintain oversight** over the OPTN as a whole
- Facilitates **greater collaboration between the OPTN Board of Directors and HRSA** to ensure a fair, transparent, and effective organ procurement and transplantation system

## Liability Insurance Coverage for Volunteers

The **Board has liability insurance** as the governing body that makes policy decisions for the OPTN



# Independent Network of Volunteers for Equitable and Safe Transplants, Inc. (INVEST)

- INVEST is a nonprofit corporation whose sole purpose is to serve as the Board of Directors of the OPTN through the HRSA designation contract
- Incorporated in Delaware on May 23, 2024
- Members and officers of the current OPTN Board are now members and officers of the new entity INVEST
- The OPTN members will elect the OPTN Board of Directors



# Designation and Ongoing Governance



# Bylaws and Policies

- HRSA worked with the OPTN officials to align existing bylaws and procedures
- INVEST is required to have bylaws as an incorporated 501c3
- The existing OPTN bylaws were split into bylaws and policies
  - OPTN management and membership policies
  - OPTN organ allocation policies
- INVEST bylaws and policies became OPTN bylaws and policies when the INVEST was designated as the OPTN Board of Directors

# Designation of New Entity

- The government uses contracts to work with other organizations in a formal capacity
- As the federal designee to oversee the OPTN, HRSA issued a “designation contract” to formalize the relationship with the nonprofit entity INVEST
  - Designated INVEST to operate as the OPTN Board of Directors
  - Defines roles and responsibilities
- HRSA will meet with Board on a quarterly basis
  - Review operational support Board receives from contractors
  - Enhance collaboration in the multi-vendor environment
  - Work collaboratively on the implementation of NOTA requirements, directors of the Secretary, and other applicable laws



# Next Steps

- Select an interim OPTN Executive Director
- Award a Board Support contract in Fall 2024
- Recruit a new OPTN Executive Director
- Develop a new process and hold a special election for OPTN Board members



# Help Shape the Future of OPTN

- **Stay informed** – Get updates on the OPTN Modernization
  - Online at <https://www.hrsa.gov/optn-modernization>
  - Email through a request form at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHSHRSA/subscriber/new?qsp=HRSA-subscribe>
- **Attend a Regional Meeting** – Influence policy, prepare for system changes, share best practices, provide feedback and ask questions. Find an upcoming meeting at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/about/regions/regional-meetings/>
- **Inform Policy** – Help research, develop, and draft transplant policy through participation on an OPTN committee
- **Share Your Experience** – Apply your expertise and lived experience as a volunteer on ad hoc workgroups, and task forces

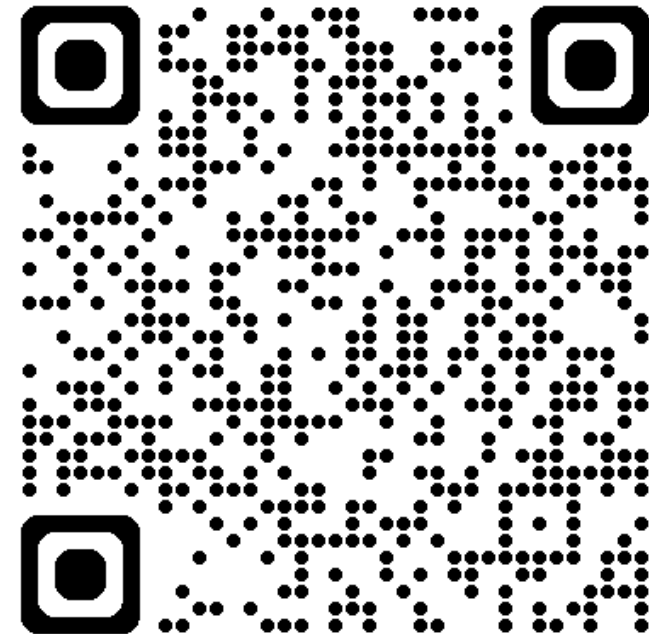




# OPTN Regional Meetings

- Regional meetings are open to the public
  - Free registration
  - In person or virtual option
- 2024 Summer regional meetings run August 6-September 20
- Hear from OPTN Board leadership and HRSA representatives
- Schedule, agendas, and registration: [Regional meetings - OPTN \(hrsa.gov\)](https://www.hrsa.gov/regional-meetings)

Scan for additional regional meeting information



# Thank you

