

Our State of Donation

In Nebraska, we work hard, bleed red and show up for our friends and neighbors in need. It's the Nebraska way — the good life. Today, hundreds in our state and more than 100,000 across the U.S. are in need of a lifesaving transplant. We *all* can help.

The waiting list

Organ	National	Nebraska
Kidney	90,448	197
Liver	11,648	92
Heart	3,496	24
Kidney/Pancreas	1,799	2
Lung	1,014	1
Pancreas	845	12
Intestine	203	17

Every **10** minutes

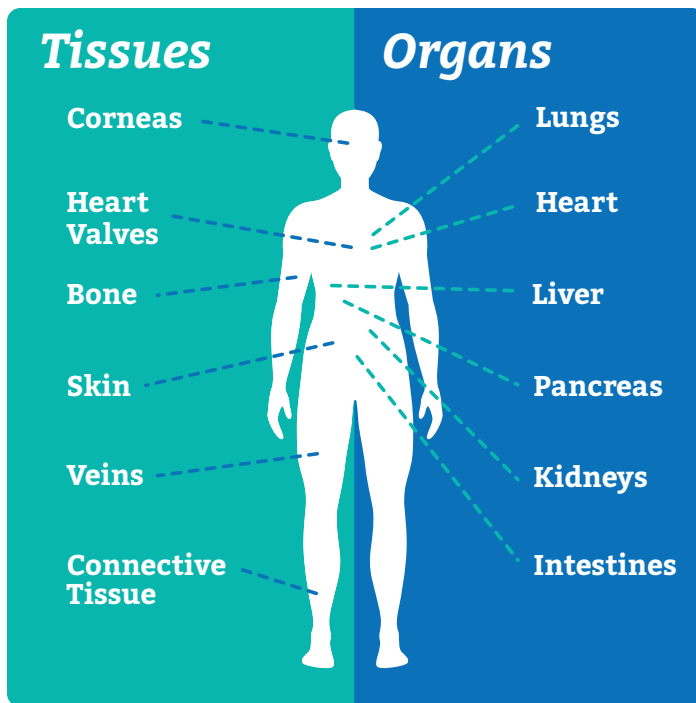
another name is added to the waiting list

Each day **20** people die

waiting for an organ transplant

Gifts given & received

2020 statistics	Organ transplants	Deceased organ donors	Living organ donors	Deceased tissue donors	Birth tissue donors
Nebraska	339	72	22	670	264
United States	39,036	12,588	5,730	~39,000	N/A



1 donor = 100 lives healed

By donating organs and tissues, one person has the ability to save eight lives and provide a better quality of life for 100 additional people.

In Nebraska, **anyone age 16 or over can register** as an organ, tissue and eye donor regardless of age or health.

***98%** of Nebraskans support organ and tissue donation, but only **58%** of eligible Nebraskans are registered as donors.

Working together to save lives



WHAT CAN BE DONATED

Organs

- **Lungs** can save up to two people affected by cystic fibrosis or emphysema
- **Heart** saves individuals affected by heart failure or cardiomyopathy
- **Liver** replaces damaged liver caused by hepatitis or birth defects
- **Kidneys** can save two lives affected by hereditary conditions, diabetes or high blood pressure
- **Intestines** help restore digestion to those with intestinal issues
- **Pancreas** often transplanted along with kidneys in diabetic patients

Tissues

- **Corneas** help restore sight lost to accidents or disease
- **Heart valves** replace damaged valves caused by age, disease or birth defects
- **Skin** is used to heal burn victims and aid in breast reconstruction
- **Bone** can prevent amputation and help regain lost mobility
- **Veins** help restore circulation in the heart or veins
- **Connective Tissue** repairs sports injuries and aids in cleft palate reconstruction

HOW DONATION WORKS

Every donation is different, but the organ donation process may take up to a few days. Tissue donation is completed within 24 hours after an individual's death.

Notification

Live On Nebraska is notified when an individual has died or their family has made the difficult decision to end life-sustaining care.

Donation Authorization

The Donor Registry is checked to see if the patient is registered. If not, Live On Nebraska will discuss the opportunity for donation with his or her family.

Medical Evaluation

The donor's medical history is screened for organ and tissue viability. Donors with pre-existing conditions are often still able to donate.

Finding Recipients for Organ Donation

Organ recipients are determined based on blood type, size and distance between the donor and the recipient. Matches are never determined by race, gender or income.

Recovery Surgery

The donation surgery take place in an operating room. A moment of silence is observed prior to the surgery to honor the donor's generosity.

Transplantation

The recovered organs and transplanted into the previously identified recipients. Donated tissues can be stored longer and recipients are identified after recovery.

Caring for the Donor's Family

During the donation process, Live On Nebraska provides support of the donor's family, assists with end-of-life planning and creates donor keepsakes. Our aftercare program also provides grief support for 13 months following donation.

DONATION FACTS

- *Anyone* age 16 or over can register as a donor. Nebraska's oldest donor was 103.
- Donation does not interfere with the donor family's desired funeral plans. Following recovery, the donor is released to the funeral home and prepared for burial or other end-of-life wishes.
- Donation is free for the donor's family. All costs associated with the donation process are paid by Live On Nebraska.
- Donation is kept anonymous to respect the privacy of the donor family and the recipient. Donor family members and recipients may write to each other at any time, but the identity of all parties involved is not revealed until everyone has agreed to share this information.
- Patients with chronic medical conditions and serious health concerns can still be considered for donation. There are very few medical rule-outs for organ donation.
- Throughout the United States, all major religions support donation. Specific cultural practices may affect burial but can still be honored for donors.
- Like other medical directives, organ and tissue donor registration is legally binding. If donation becomes a possibility for a registered donor between the ages of 16 and 18, parental approval is required.

DONATION LANGUAGE

When discussing or writing about organ and tissue donation, word choice is important. Please use the following guidelines to show respect for donors and sensitivity to their family:

- Use the word “recover” instead of “harvest” when referencing the donation surgery.
- Use “deceased donor” and “deceased donation” instead of “cadaver” or “cadaveric donation”.

ABOUT LIVE ON NEBRASKA

Live On Nebraska is one of 57 organ procurement organizations (OPOs) throughout the country. We are an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to saving and healing lives through organ, tissue and eye donation. Our service area includes all of Nebraska and Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

As an OPO, we have three main responsibilities:

- Recover organs and tissues for transplantation
- Maintain the Donor Registry of Nebraska
- Provide education on the importance of donation and grow the donor registry