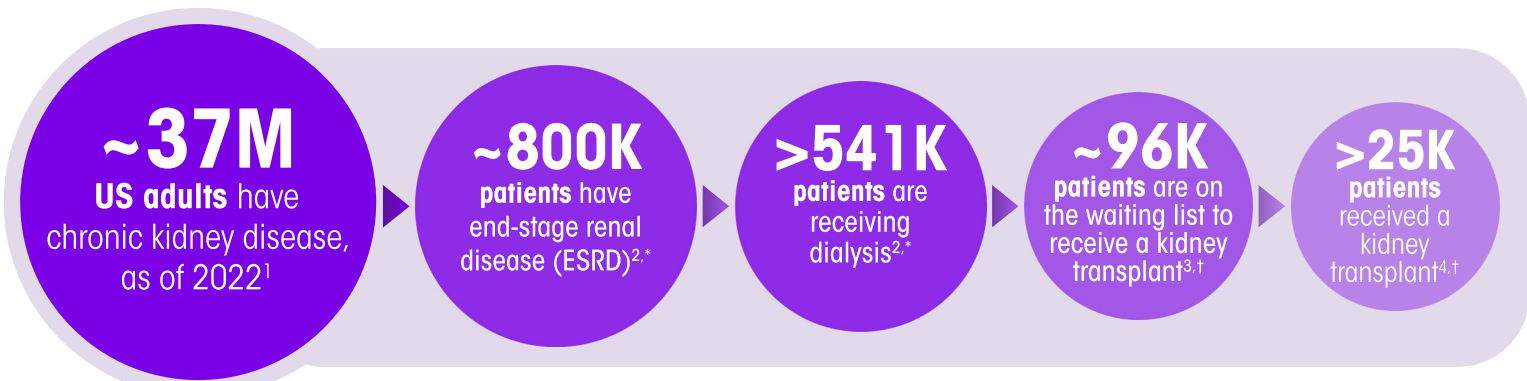


# IMPROVING EFFICIENCIES IN YOUR LIVING DONOR PROGRAM



The Advancing American Kidney Health (AAKH) Initiative aims to **double the number of kidneys available for transplant by 2030**, through strategies such as increasing available options for individuals in need of kidney transplants and reducing financial barriers to living donation.<sup>5</sup>

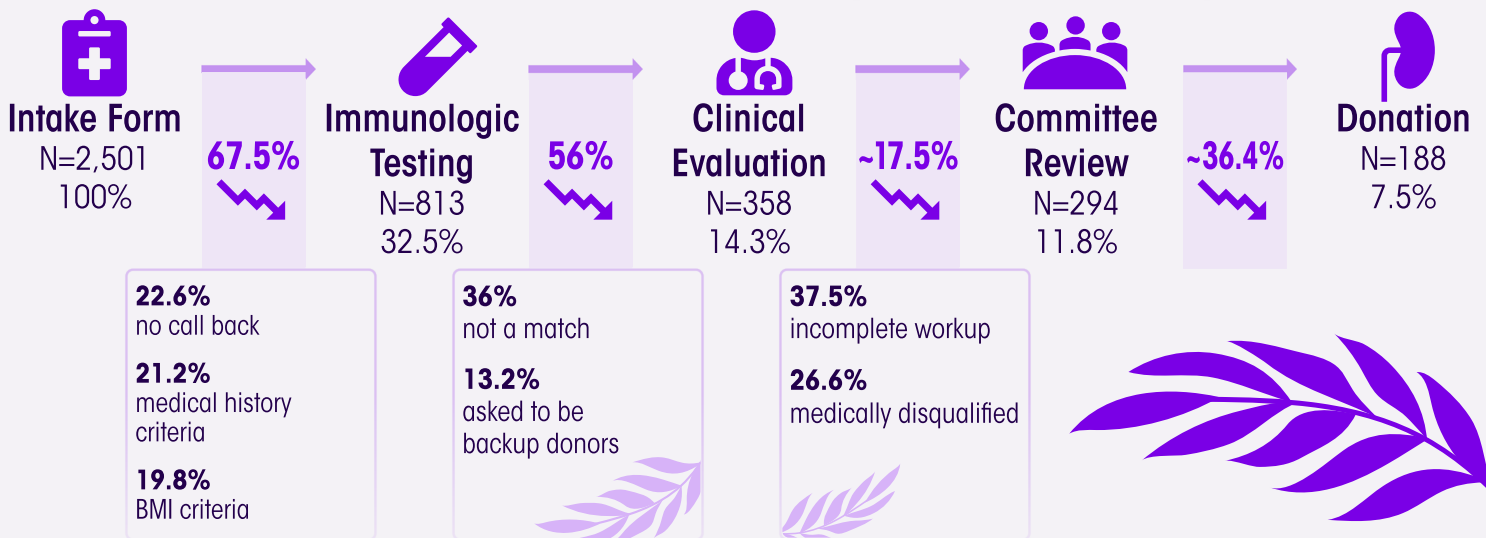
Living donation has remained flat over the past few decades<sup>3</sup>

- ▶ In 2021, living donors only contributed approximately **23%** of all transplanted kidneys in the US<sup>6</sup>
- ▶ According to a single-center, retrospective study evaluating living kidney donor (LKD) intake forms from 2016-2019, **6 LKD applicants** were needed to achieve **1 successful donation**<sup>7</sup>

## REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE OF THE LKD EVALUATION PROCESS<sup>7,‡</sup>



## Potential donors who completed each step



**FEW POTENTIAL LIVING DONORS MAKE IT TO DONATION.<sup>7</sup>**



**ONLY 7.5%** of those who start the living donor evaluation process make it to donation.<sup>7</sup>

\*As of 2021.<sup>2</sup> †As of 2023.<sup>3,4</sup> ‡From a single-center study of data obtained from Cleveland Clinic's Living Kidney Donor intake forms between December 23, 2016, and December 31, 2019. During these 3 years, 3,001 intake forms were submitted; after exclusion of 500 (duplicate/test entries or for intended recipients who were not active on the Cleveland Clinic kidney transplant waitlist), 2,501 intake forms were eligible for evaluation.<sup>7</sup>

**BMI**, body mass index.

# HOW TO INCREASE LIVING DONATION: ONE LIVING DONOR COORDINATOR'S EXPERIENCE

Between 2016-2020, one center averaged ~20 living kidney donors per year<sup>8</sup>...

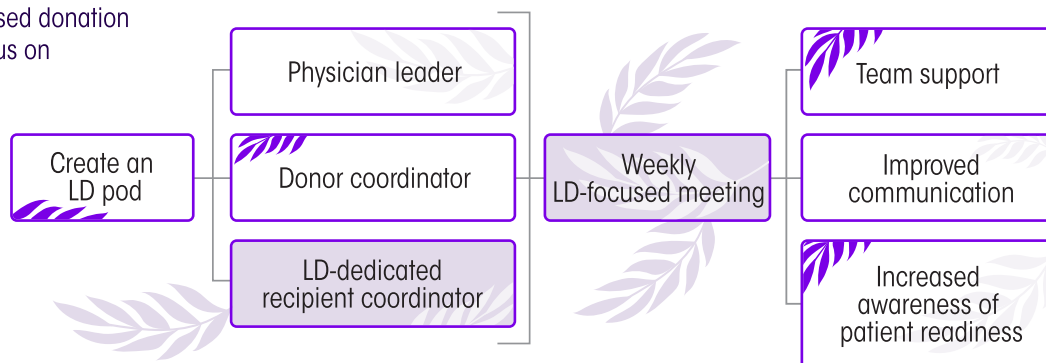
## Transplant centers may expand their living donation programs using recommended strategies

### STEP 1 Create a living donor culture<sup>8</sup>

**Challenge** | Primary focus on deceased donation

**Strategy** | Change philosophy to focus on living donation

#### Living Donor (LD) Team ▶



### STEP 2 Expand service capabilities through collaboration<sup>8,9</sup>

**Challenge** | Weak relationships with referring community and advocacy organizations

**Strategy** | Partner with an exchange program and the community to provide the following services



Online registration portal



Kidney paired exchange



Remote donation



Access to donor mentor



Donations through the voucher program



Robust outreach program

### STEP 3 Streamline the living kidney donor evaluation process<sup>7,8</sup>

**Challenge** | Extensive donor evaluation process

**Strategy** | Create a positive experience for the donor

- Return call within 24 hours of referral
- Schedule appointment within 2 weeks of initial referral
- Conduct 1-day donor evaluation with expedited review of results

- Provide resources and support (eg, access to mentor)
- Expand intake and selection criteria
- Broaden insurance acceptance

### STEP 4 Incorporate innovative surgical strategies<sup>8,10</sup>

**Challenge** | Donor preference for less invasive procedures and rapid recovery

**Strategy** | Implement the following innovative surgical strategies



Robotic donor nephrectomy



Single-port donor nephrectomy



Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocol

...After implementing new strategies, referrals increased 2-fold, and living donor kidney transplants increased 4-fold<sup>8,\*</sup>

\*There were 909 referrals in 2020 and 1,793 in 2022. Living donor kidney transplants increased from 16 per year in 2020 to 65 per year in 2021.<sup>8</sup>

**References:** 1. Chronic kidney disease basics. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <https://www.cdc.gov/kidneydisease/basics.html>. Updated February 28, 2023. Accessed November 1, 2023. 2. United States Renal Data System. Incidence, prevalence, patient characteristics, and treatment modalities. In: *2023 USRDS Annual Data Report: Epidemiology of kidney disease in the United States*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; 2023: chap 1. <https://usrds-adr.niddk.nih.gov/2023/end-stage-renal-disease/1-incidence-prevalence-patient-characteristics-and-treatment-modalities>. Accessed December 4, 2023. 3. National data. Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network website. <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/data/view-data-reports/national-data/>. Updated September 11, 2023. Accessed November 2, 2023. 4. 2022 organ transplants again set annual records. UNOS website. <https://unos.org/news/2022-organ-transplants-again-set-annual-records>. January 10, 2023. Accessed November 1, 2023. 5. US Department of Health and Human Services. Advancing American kidney health. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/aspe-files/262056/advancingamericankidneyhealth.pdf>. Accessed November 1, 2023. 6. Lentine KL, Smith JM, Miller JM, et al. OPTN/SRTR 2021 Annual Data Report: Kidney. *Am J Transplant*. 2023;23(2)(suppl 1):S21-S120. 7. Cholin LK, Schold JD, Arrigain S, et al. Characteristics of potential and actual living kidney donors: a single-center experience. *Transplantation*. 2023;107(4):941-951. 8. Data on file. sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC; 2023. 9. Paired kidney exchange. National Kidney Registry website. <https://www.kidneyregistry.org/for-patients/paired-kidney-exchange/>. Accessed November 7, 2023. 10. What to expect after donation. National Kidney Foundation website. <https://www.kidney.org/transplantation/living-donors/what-expect-after-donation>. Accessed November 16, 2023.