

Program Policies

- We issue vendor checks to a service provider and can issue checks directly to the transplant patient for payments such as transportation, insurance premiums, etc. These payments can be one-time or recurring. We base benefit levels on the out-of-pocket medical expenses the individual has, or expects to have, and the availability of funds.
- Individuals must complete a new application every twelve months.
- Individuals are eligible for twelve months, or until the fund runs out of money, whichever is earlier, or until they become ineligible.

Program Application

You can get a ConnTRANS application by contacting your hospital's transplant unit or social service department, or by calling the Connecticut Department of Social Services, Adult Support Unit, at:

(860) 424-5250

Send completed applications to:

**Department of Social Services
Adult Support Unit
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106**

The Department of Social Services' programs are available to all applicants and recipients without regard to race, color, religious creed, sex, marital status, age, national origin, ancestry, criminal record, political beliefs, sexual orientation, mental retardation, mental disability, learning disability or physical disability, including but not limited to blindness.

This information is available in alternate formats. Phone (800) 842-1508 or TDD/TTY (800) 842-4524.

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Facts About ConnTRANS

Connecticut Program for Organ Transplant Recipients

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About the Program

In 1993 the Connecticut General Assembly passed a bill that established a fund to help residents of Connecticut pay for medical and ancillary expenses associated with an organ transplant. Most of the money in the fund comes from Connecticut residents who donate part of their state income tax refunds.

In 1994 the Department of Social Services was given the responsibility of developing a program to help individuals pay for the medical and nonmedical costs of an organ transplant.

Program Benefits

Some of the expenses ConnTRANS will help pay for are:

- physician and hospital services
- prescription drugs
- health insurance
- medical transportation, including parking fees for patient or family
- child care expenses and lodging for patient or family members

Program Requirements

The basic eligibility requirements for the ConnTRANS program are:

- Applicants must be citizens or eligible non-citizens who have lived in Connecticut for at least 60 days.
- There are two income limits that vary according to family size:
 1. For individuals who need help in paying the initial medical expenses of a transplant, the income limit is the median family income for Connecticut established by the Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.
 2. For individuals who are transplant recipients who need help paying their ongoing medical needs, the income limit is 300% of the federal poverty level.
- To be eligible for ConnTRANS, applied income must be equal to, or less than, one of the above income limits. Applied income is gross income minus health insurance.

We do not count all income. Some examples of income we do not count are:

1. payments made to students for educational purposes
2. payments made to certain volunteers such as foster grandparents
3. JTPA earnings of a student
4. energy assistance payments

- The asset limit for an individual or a family is \$10,000. The assets we count are:
 1. cash on hand
 2. bank accounts
 3. stocks and bonds
 4. severance pay, including pay for unused sick and vacation time
- We count the income and assets of the individual who is applying and the following persons who live with him or her (we include the same individuals when we determine family size):
 1. spouse
 2. parents, if the individual is under age 18
 3. children under age 18

The ConnTRANS program has some income and asset limits exceptions:

- If the individual's income exceeds the respective limit, the individual may still be eligible for some assistance. We could pay for any medical bills that exceed the excess income. For example, if the person's income exceeds the limit by \$500, we would subtract \$500 from the total amount of the transplant related expenses and pay the difference, provided there is money available in the fund.
- If a family's assets exceed \$10,000 we may still help. We could pay the expenses that exceed the family's excess assets. For example, if a family has \$12,000 (\$2000 in excess of the limit) in the bank and \$4000 in expenses, we could pay \$2000 (\$4000 minus the \$2000 excess).