

Direct Aid Guidelines

Basic Information:

- Due to limited funding, all applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Social workers must conduct a needs assessment, complete an NKF *Application for Financial Assistance* and provide written endorsement/justification for all requests. **A detailed description of patient's need must be included.**
- Patients are eligible to receive a maximum of \$450 in a calendar year, from any combination of grants. (See individual grant guidelines)
- A patient may only apply for one type of grant at a time.

Types of Grants Available:

- There are three types of grants: Emergency Grants, Assistance Grants and Disaster Relief Grants. Disaster Relief is only available in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.
- Patients may receive an Emergency Grant once each calendar year. Assistance grants (which include Medication, Transportation and Food) can be received no more than four times per calendar year.

Patient Eligibility:

- Patient must be on dialysis or a transplant recipient .
- All other funding sources should be exhausted — the NKF should be considered “last resort” funding. Applications should list other attempts and denials for other types of assistance.
- A patient's liquid assets may not exceed \$1,000
- The NKF of Florida does not fund doctor/hospital fees, dialysis treatment costs, transplantation surgery, or insurance premiums.

Direct Aid Guidelines

Applications:

- A new application must be completed for each submission.
- Once an application is funded (for any type of grant), that patient is not eligible to reapply until two full months have passed. Use the following chart as a guideline.

Approved for aid in:	Eligible to apply in:
January	April
February	May
March	June
April	July
May	August
June	September
July	October
August	November
September	December
October	January
November	February
December	March

Deadlines:

- All applications must be received by the 10th day of the month to be considered and funds are distributed after the 20th day of the month.
- Applications received past the deadline will not be reviewed until the following month.



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®

of Florida

Patient Services

Direct Aid Program

**Financial assistance for
eligible dialysis and
transplant patients**

National Kidney Foundation of
Florida

5756 S. Semoran Blvd
Orlando, FL 32822
Fax 407-895-0051
www.kidneyfl.org

General Guidelines for Medication, Food and Transportation Assistance Grants

- Grants are approved for a maximum of \$100 at a time.
- Each approved grant is counted towards the patient's \$450 calendar year limit.
- Patients are eligible to receive one type of assistance at a time.
- Patients who are approved for a grant, regardless of the amount, are not eligible to apply for additional assistance of any kind until two full months have passed. See the Direct Aid Applications Guidelines
- A notice of grant approval will be sent to the patient's social worker who must then forward information on to the patient.

Medication Grants

The Medication Grant Program enables qualified kidney patients to receive urgently needed medications, nutritional supplements, and durable medical supplies.

The following guidelines apply:

- Medication grants must include a list of all needed medications and their cost.
- Checks are made payable to the pharmacy. No checks will be written to the patient.

Transportation Grants

The Transportation Grant Program assists eligible dialysis patients with the costs of transportation not covered by other sources.

Grants are limited to travel to and from treatment, travel to a doctor's appointment once a month, or for the purposes of a transplant work-up.

The following guidelines apply:

- Applications must include the name and address of the transit provider, as well as the cost of the service,
- Checks are made payable to the service provider. No checks will be written to the patient.
- Patients driving themselves to and from treatment will be eligible to receive a gas gift card.

Food Grants

The Food Grant Program assists eligible dialysis patients with the costs of food not covered by other sources.

The following guidelines apply:

- Patients will receive gift cards to either Winn Dixie or Publix Supermarkets.

Emergency Grants

The Emergency Grant program provides financial assistance to dialysis and transplant patients who need assistance with mortgage/rent payments, utility bills, or costs for medical supplies ONLY. Please explore other agencies first, as the NKFF should only be a last resort for assistance.

The following guidelines apply:

- Patients may apply for an emergency grant only if they have an urgent need.
- All applications require supporting documentation such as rent/lease agreement or previous month's receipt, current utility bill, or an estimate for supplies or service.
- Doctor/hospital fees, insurance premiums, car payments, car repairs or hotel stays are not funded.
- Checks are made payable to the service provider, not the patient.
- The maximum amount for an emergency grant is \$300 within one calendar year and will be granted only if all other resources have been exhausted and denials are listed on the application.
- Patients may only receive one emergency grant in a calendar year, regardless of the amount of the grant.

Disaster Relief Grants

Patients may qualify for disaster relief. Please contact the National Kidney Foundation of Florida for further details.