



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Planning Grant

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF) seeks to improve the lives of individuals by strengthening our social, governmental, and economic systems. Organ donation is an emerging area of interest for LJAF. We support initiatives aimed at permanently ending the nation's organ waiting list in order to save lives and reduce unnecessary health care spending. As part of this effort, LJAF invites proposals from organizations interested in applying to operate the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN). LJAF funding would cover expenses related to the planning and development of an application for the next OPTN contract, which will be awarded in 2018.

Background: In 1984, Congress passed the National Organ Transplantation Act (NOTA) to address the critical shortage of organ donations and improve the organ matching process. This act established OPTN, which manages the nation's organ donation and transplantation system. According to law, OPTN must be operated by a private, nonprofit organization under contract with the federal government through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. OPTN is responsible for the following key activities:

- Developing a national organ waiting list;
- Building and operating the data systems that match donors with transplant candidates;
- Collecting and reporting national transplant data;
- Developing standards for transplant institutions to promote quality and safety;
- Educating and informing patients, payers, physicians, researchers, the general public, and other stakeholders in an effort to improve decision making.

Over the last several decades, the organ waiting list in the United States has ballooned to more than 100,000 individuals. Fresh thinking and new approaches to organ donation policies and practices could produce much-needed progress on this critical health issue.

Opportunity: The current contract for the OPTN will expire in 2018.¹ The OPTN contract can be operated by a single contractor or by a prime contractor who ensures that subcontractors fulfill certain requirements. LJAF invites all organizations interested in applying for the next OPTN contract to submit a proposal for a planning grant to develop that application. Proposals submitted to LJAF must demonstrate the organization's capability, experience, and ability to perform each of the above tasks effectively and efficiently.

¹ According to a 2017 solicitation sought notice from HRSA about OPTN—Solicitation Number: 17-250-SOL-00041—"a contract is anticipated for one (1) 12-month base period and four (4) 12-month option periods. Funding will be provided from appropriated funds and patient registration fees. The NAICS Code is 541611, with a small business size standard of \$15 million."



Requirements: Organizations submitting a proposal to LJAF must meet the requirements set forth below.

- The organization must be a private nonprofit entity that meets the requirements set forth in NOTA.
- Members of the team must have relevant expertise in organ procurement and transplantation or have a partner organization with experience.
- Members of the team or partner organizations must have prior technical experience storing, managing, and analyzing large databases of sensitive health care data, such as a patient registry.

Components of the Proposal: Proposals should be no longer than five pages (with additional appendices only if needed) and must include the following sections:

- *Name of the organization and contact information.*
- *Description of the team:* Describe key members of the management team and their backgrounds.
- *Evidence of relevant work and expertise:* Demonstrate that the team has relevant experience that could reasonably lead to a successful application for the OPTN contract. This evidence may include, but is not limited to, prior work in organ donation or transplantation; technical data management and matching expertise; prior government contracts; or other relevant work.
- *Description of activities:* Outline specifically what your organization plans to achieve in order to deliver a high-quality application for the OPTN contract. Activities may include, but are not limited to, stakeholder interviews, legal analysis, financial planning analysis, and other research activities.
- *Improvements over the status quo:* Our goal is to save lives and permanently end the organ waiting list. Please describe how your organization will help meet this goal. Explain how your organization will improve current operations, governance, transparency, technology, or other functions and attributes of OPTN.
- *Budget for the planning grant:* The budget does not have a specified amount or range of funding. Organizations should specify the amount of funding and resources required to develop a high-quality application for the OPTN contract. If LJAF awards a planning grant, it will only cover direct expenses.
- *Timeline of activities:* Provide a schedule of key activities to be completed within the duration of the planning grant, with the ultimate deliverable of a finalized application for the OPTN contract, and/or publication of findings for the good of the field.

Timeline:

- Responses must be received by February 28, 2018.
- Award recipients will be notified no later than March 28, 2018.

Selection Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality of the team, the viability of a successful application and the team's ability to improve OPTN operations, and the proposed budget.

Contact: Please submit final proposal materials and direct any questions to OPTNRFP@arnoldfoundation.org.

Please note that planning grants awarded by LJAF offer no guarantee of securing the next OPTN contract.