

The mission of the Marion County Kidney Foundation (MCKF) is

to help individuals affected by chronic kidney disease and to combat its spread. We do this through **financial support** to patients, as well as **education** for patients, their families and the community. Through **empowerment** and **innovation**, we are committed to **improving** the well-being of persons with chronic kidney disease and our community, while being **responsible stewards** of our resources.

For more information and to donate, please call (352) 671-5013 or visit www.ocalamarioncountykidneyfoundation.org

Marion County
Kidney
Foundation

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about the
Bridge 
to **Transplant**
award



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The Marion County Kidney Foundation (MCKF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) Organization, Bridge to Transplant Award was developed with the intent of helping residents of Marion County, Florida with advanced kidney disease to qualify for a kidney transplant.

In Marion County, there are more than 500 patients receiving life-saving kidney dialysis and about 10,000 more who are dealing with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). According to a research report published by Milliman*, the average total first-year billed charges for a kidney transplant are more than \$334,000.

The Need

Transplant programs require patients to provide Financial Proof of Affordability that ranges upward from \$3,000. Additionally, this step often needs to be completed before they can be activated on a waiting list.

The Problem

These funds are to be designated for post-transplant care, including medications, co-pays for appointments and tests, lodging while visiting the transplant hospital, and travel expenses.

Many patients become discouraged because they do not have this amount of money and fundraising efforts can be difficult due to a variety of reasons. Many CKD and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients are on fixed incomes and some may be too ill to work. It becomes too stressful and often they withdraw their referral from the Transplant Program.

Our Solution

The MCKF is now able to offer an opportunity for assistance for these CKD and ESRD patients who are struggling to raise the funds needed.

How to Qualify

A process for determining transplant assistance eligibility has been created and includes an application that requires the specific letter from the transplant program stating needed financial proof of affordability, patient's financial information, an explanation of how this award would help them, their future plans, and a letter from the patient's nephrologist indicating that the patient is a suitable candidate for renal transplantation.

Applications are available on the MCKF's website, ocalamarioncountykidneyfoundation.org, at the Ocala Kidney Group Clinics, and through your Dialysis Social Worker or Dialysis Clinic.

Please fax completed applications and letters to (866)671-7131.



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* Milliman Research Report. 2014 U.S. organ & transplant cost estimates & discussion. Dec. 2014