

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Rates of living kidney donation, an important source of kidneys for transplant, have stagnated in recent years. Living kidney donation should not be a financial burden to donors, but costs related to the process may pose a barrier for individuals considering donation. The authors conducted a prospective cohort study to investigate such costs, finding that living kidney donors incurred a median (75th percentile) of \$1254 (\$2589) in out-of-pocket costs and \$0 (\$1908) in lost productivity costs. On average, total costs (out-of-pocket and lost productivity) were significantly higher for spousal donors compared with emotionally related (non-spousal, nonpartner) donors and for directed donors compared with nondirected donors. This information can help inform strategies to minimize the financial burden to living kidney donors.