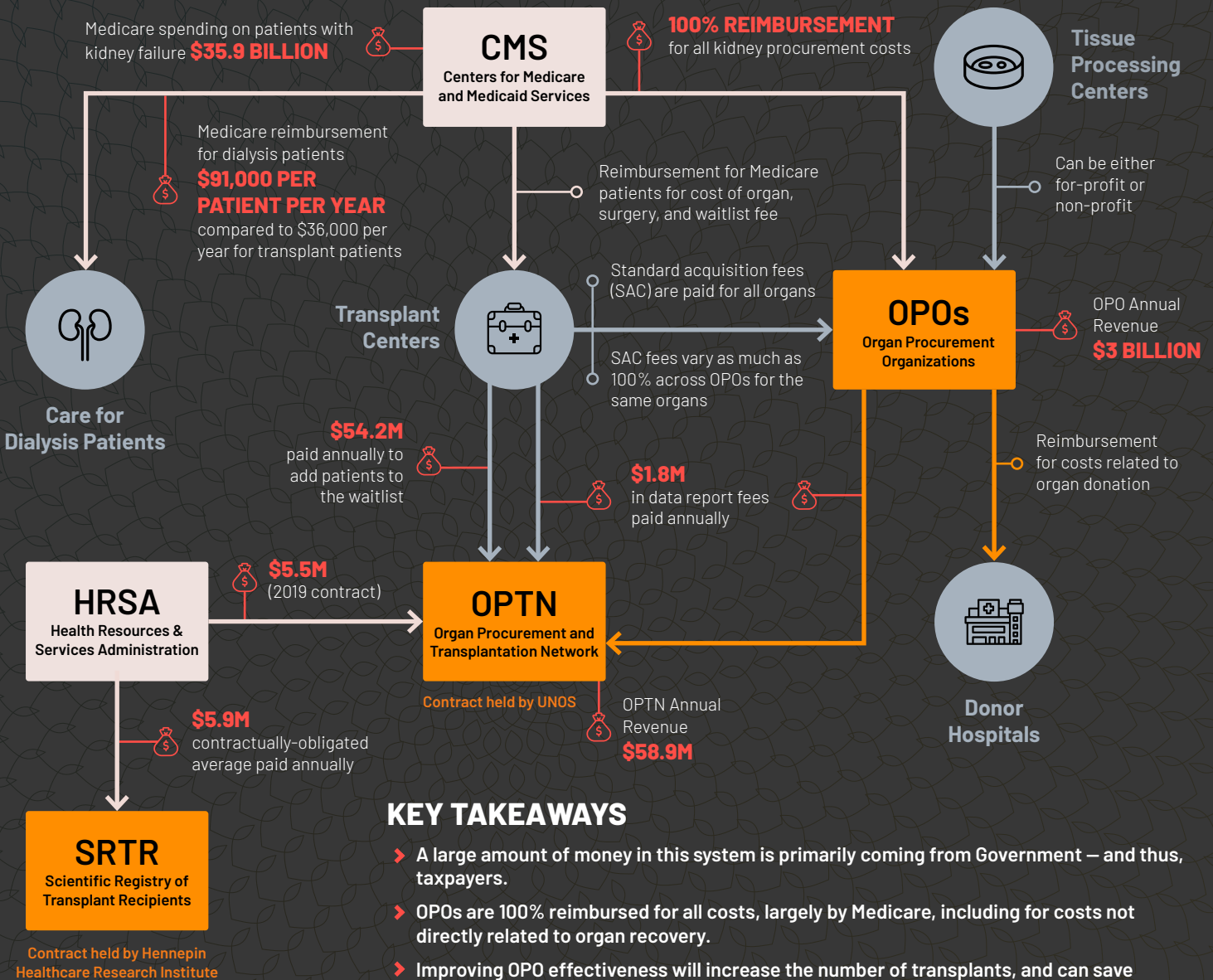


# Organ Procurement Money Flow

“The federal contract that grants control of the nation’s organ procurement system is valued at nearly \$58 million per year. Because most of that money comes from patient fees, there is more of an incentive to add patients to the wait list than to secure organs for them.” – NYTimes Editorial Board



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A large amount of money in this system is primarily coming from Government – and thus, taxpayers.
- OPOs are 100% reimbursed for all costs, largely by Medicare, including for costs not directly related to organ recovery.
- Improving OPO effectiveness will increase the number of transplants, and can save Medicare billions of dollars in dialysis costs - the largest value on this chart by far.
- Tissue processing is a multi-billion dollar industry, yet there are no prohibitions on OPO executives holding financial interests in their tissue processing partners. This has the potential to distort OPO priorities, including to divert resources away from organ recovery.
- UNOS is **DOUBLE CHARGING** transplant centers to add patients to the waitlist – as an “OPTN Registration Fee,” which is part of a mandate approved by HRSA, and a “UNOS Registration Fee,” which is not.

## Sources

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- <https://usrds.org/media/2371/2019-executive-summary.pdf>
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