



Innovation Grants are project-based grants of \$1000-\$2,000 USD awarded to young leaders with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) so they can promote inclusion in their school and community. Through Innovation Grants, Special Olympics will boldly empower a Unified Generation of youth, ushering in a worldwide revolution for inclusion. Innovation Grants will be awarded to individuals and Unified Pairs (one youth with ID and one without) to marry grit and urgency with aspiration and determination, fostering inclusion for ALL both on and off the playing field. These projects will each meet one or more objectives of the Special Olympics Global Youth Plan, such as:

- Create new or expand existing Unified Schools and Universities
- Engage new inclusive youth leaders
- Drive sustainability and quality in youth/school-based programming

The success of Innovation Grants is rooted in seeding experiments among youth and flipping the power paradigm in instituting radical social change so youth with and without ID directly drive change. Special Olympics will provide direct support and technical assistance opportunities to all grant recipients and Programs to position them to become entrepreneurs of inclusion in their school and community.

Through an informed network of inclusive youth leaders, we will create scalable solutions to end discrimination against people with ID. By engaging young people in a lifetime of inclusion and appreciation for people with differences, Special Olympics can effect change to global social norms. Young people seek to understand and embrace differences. This Unified Generation is our way forward.

Here are examples of approved former Innovation Grant projects:

1. The Special Olympics Primary School Inclusion Project was established to promote an atmosphere of friendship and to popularize Special Olympics among young students with and without intellectual disabilities. Throughout the project, the youth leader fostered an inclusive partnership between a special school and a mainstream school. Together, students in 3rd grade from both schools participated in a Unified floor hockey match and a coloring workshop.
2. The Leo-Special Olympics Fun Fair was held to spread awareness of individuals with intellectual disabilities in the community through Unified Sports and recreational fitness activities. Over 300 participants including Leos (members of the youth branch of Lions Club), students from Special Schools, and Special Olympics athletes came together to participate in Unified activities including tug of war, Zumba, 5-a-side soccer, egg races, and painting.
3. Allow the Bond-Play Unified was started to strengthen the national youth leader network and raise awareness of Unified Schools. Over 100 youth with and without intellectual disabilities planned and took part in Unified fun days, Unified Sports events, and school workshops. These Unified activities included a movie outing, drawing session, and tennis lesson.



Young people from all accredited Special Olympics Programs are encouraged to apply for the Innovation Grant [here](#).

Please keep in mind that you can start the application and then save and finish the application at another time.

Applications are due 9 October 2019.

Applicants will be notified if their project was selected by 9 November 2019.