



Innovation Grants Information

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

For examples of approved former Innovation Grant projects visit our website [here](#).

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.

Young people from all accredited Special Olympics Programs are encouraged to apply for an 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 1 April 2020.

Applicants will be notified if their project was selected by 15 May 2020.