



Innovation Grant FAQ

We are excited that you are interested in applying for an Innovation Grant. Please use the following information to answer basic questions about the Innovation Grant, the application process and other important items. If you still have questions, please reach out to the Innovation Grants Team at innovationgrants@specialolympics.org

What is an Innovation Grant? Innovation Grants are grants awarded to support projects led by young people with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) to promote inclusion in their school and community. Due to COVID-19, Special Olympics is offering a limited round of distance-only Innovation Grants. The upcoming round will provide \$500 USD to \$1,000 USD for projects that require no in-person programming.

Who can apply for an Innovation Grant? Young people with and without ID that are 25 years of age and below. If applying as a Unified Pair (one youth with ID and one youth without ID), both youth must be within the required age range at the time the application is submitted.

Does it have to be a Unified Pair who applies for the funding? It is not required but there will be preference placed on projects led by a Unified Pair.

How much funding is available? Innovation Grants are available in the amount of \$500 USD and \$1,000 USD.

What projects qualify for the Innovation Grant? To qualify, the project must be led by a young person(s) from an accredited Program and meet one or more of the following key objectives:

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

What is the application process? The application requires the following information:

- A narrative section
- Basic project budget
- Signed agreement form with signatures from the Special Olympics Program staff member working to ensure the execution of the project
- Photos of the Youth Leaders

Applications are due 6 July 2020. Applicants will be notified by 31 July 2020 if their project has been selected to receive funding.

How is the funding sent to the young person(s)? All funding will be sent to the applicant's accredited Program and the Program must work directly with the young person(s) to determine how the funding will be distributed to successfully completed projects.



What reporting is required? Only a final report will be required for innovation grants. A template for reporting will be provided and the following information will be required:

- 500-800 word personal blog post describing the youth leaders experience with the project
- 10 pictures and a 30 second video of the project or 15 pictures of the project
- 1 quote from a person with ID that was impacted by the project
- 1 quote from a young person without ID that was impacted by the project
- 1 quote from an adult that was involved with the project
- Metrics achieved
- Share all media links about the project (e.g. YouTube video created, online news article, etc)

How long do I/we have to complete the project? During the application process, the applicant will be asked to identify the project length based off the following choices:

- 1 month
- 2 months
- 3 months

The final report will be due 30 days after the chosen project length.

What support and resources will be available to me? All grant recipients will be required to view a series of technical assistance webinars prior to submitting their final report. Additionally, “office hours” will be available to discuss project implementation and challenges.

How much of a time commitment will the webinars be? Each required webinar is pre-recorded and is 30 minutes or less. Dependent on the length of the project, grant recipients will be required to view a total of 6-13 webinars.

Do we need to keep receipts for the items bought using the funding? Yes, receipts need to be kept and submitted to the Special Olympics accredited Program.

Where can I find examples and ideas about successful projects in the past?

Here are examples of approved former Innovation Grant projects that adapted to meet the criteria for distance-only programming:

1. Special Olympics Lithuania Youth Leaders planned to create a promotional video demonstrating how young people use art to express their unique identities. Due to COVID-19, they were unable to conduct their in-person events so they sent kits filled with activities, art supplies, and a USB to upload and share any material they create.
2. Special Olympics Romania Youth Leaders planned for their project, “Together for a Better Future,” to create an inclusive environment for youth of all abilities through educational, active, and fun activities. Due to COVID-19, schools in their country have closed from March to



September. Eager to continue their Youth activities, they used their remaining project funds to send facemasks, gloves, sports equipment to Youth Leaders through the mail. The Youth Leaders who received a care package joined together in a digital campaign to show how they stay healthy and safe during this challenging time.

Will there be other opportunities to apply? Yes, there will be two opportunities every year for young people to apply for Innovation Grants. The next cycle will be announced in the first half of 2021.

If I want to lead a project that works with a school or university, do I need the school's approval or signature? Yes, it is important to secure the school or universities approval on the project before submitting the application.

If the project is successful, what happens next? The youth leader(s) will be welcomed into the Global Youth Leadership network and have the opportunity to connect and network with youth leaders from around the world. Through the Global Youth Leadership network the youth leaders will be activated for years to come.

If a youth leader/Unified Pair has received a grant for a past project (i.e. from the Summit) are they eligible to apply again? Yes, but the proposed project must be different from the project that received the first grant.