



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 in your Region or at the Headquarters. A list of contact persons is provided at the end of the document.

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. Youth are able to apply for a grant of \$500 USD, 1,000 USD, \$1,500 USD or \$2,000 USD for the projects.

Who can apply for an Innovation Grant?

Young people with and without ID that are 14 – 25 years of age. 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 usually available in the amount of \$500 USD, 1,000 USD, \$1,500 USD and \$2,000 USD.

What projects qualify for the Innovation Grant?

To qualify, the project must be led by a young person(s) from an accredited Special Olympics Program and meet one or more of the following key objectives:

- Create new or further expand existing Unified Schools, Universities and communities
- Engage new inclusive Youth Leaders from schools or communities
- Drive sustainability and quality in digital youth/school or community-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



Application open dates and process time may vary. Specific details will be provided as each cycle begins.

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. However, there are exceptions, please check "Grant Process" page for details to confirm.

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:

- At least one 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, such as teacher, administrator, parent, local authority, officer, etc.
- 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:

- 6 months
- 9 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, as well as, the completion of the Project Management E-Learning Course. On Youth Innovation Project page, there are general resources and Region-specific information for your reference as well.

Do we need to keep receipts for the items bought using the funding?

Yes, the receipts are not required to be submitted with final report to SOI, but they should be given to Programs to keep for two years.



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

On the [Special Olympics Global Youth](https://www.specialolympics.org/what-we-do/youth-and-schools/youth-leaders/innovation-projects?locale=en) website, you will be able to see some of the approved projects. Please follow the link: <https://www.specialolympics.org/what-we-do/youth-and-schools/youth-leaders/innovation-projects?locale=en> for these successful examples. Additionally, on the resource page, there are some of the successful projects categorized by project types for your reference.

Will there be other opportunities to apply?

Yes, there will be two opportunities every year for young people to apply for Innovation Grants.

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 and/or school leader's signature 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.

What if I need to make some changes?

If any of the following happens:

- significant change in project description/goals
- change in Youth Leaders
- Program desires to withdraw from grant
- extension is required

Please contact your relevant Regional staff in advance so that you could get approval or suggestions from SOI and your Regional Office as soon as possible.



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