Key Questions to Consider when Applying for a Government Funding

Purpose for Applying for Government Funding

o What is the purpose for pursuing this funding? It is important your Program pursues government funds that can truly help your Program (as opposed to adding a project because your Program can get government funding for it).

You may consider the following questions as part of the process for determining your Program's purpose for applying:

   o Would the funds relieve you of any costs and/or allow you to free up staff time?

   o Would the funds help you do existing work better?

   o Would the funds help you advance programming or begin new initiatives in a way that is helpful to your Program?

Staffing Structure

In determining if your Program's current staffing structure would allow you to properly manage government funding, you should consider:

   o Your Program's capacity to execute the project's activities with your Program's current staffing structure, or with additional staff should the government's funds allow;

      ▪ For example, if you are applying for a project for Unified Schools, do you have a staff that is responsible for reaching out to and working with schools?

   o Your Program's capacity to have staff monitor and evaluate government funding;

      ▪ Government grants have very strict reporting requirements. Do you have the ability to keep detailed records of metrics and administer surveys of project outcomes (or work with a university to do so)?

Reporting

   o Does your Program have the capacity to do all reporting required by the government for funds received?

   o Does your Program have a track record of on-time reporting for other types of funding or grants? Most times, when a government provides funding, there is a required

reporting process with deadlines so it is important to ensure that, if this is the case, your Program can submit necessary reports on time.

Developing Partnerships with Government Entities and Officials

- o Does your Program have the partnerships and relationships with government entities needed to successfully execute an initiative with government funding?

  Relationships with governments and government officials are important to helping your Program obtain government funding. These relationships can take on many different forms. You may consider the below questions to assist you as you thinking through this topic:

  - o Has your Program ever engaged government officials in your Program's country at any level (locally or nationally)?

  - o Even if your Program has never received government funding, have representatives from your Program ever met with government officials about Special Olympics?

  - o Has your Program ever invited government officials to your Program's events? If, so have any government official attended a Special Olympics event?

  - o Has your Program signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or agreement with a ministry, department or agency?

  - o Has the government in your Program's country ever provided VIK services (for example, allowing your Program to use a government-owned stadium for an event at no cost to your Program, or lending equipment for a Healthy Athletes event)?

Political Factors

- o What is the political climate in your Program's country?

- o Is the government in your Program's country in a position where they have the capability to provide funding if your Program requests it?

- o To the best of your knowledge, are there any political factors that could be a threat to your Program's proposed project?

Time Frame

- • How much government funding can your Program can reasonably receive and spend in the required time period?

- Has your Program considered the timeframe of the grant and how it fits into your Program's overall calendar?

    o Are there other events happening during that time (i.e. Special Olympics World Games, National Games, other non-sports events).

    o Will the timing be right for your Program to receive these funds and adequately execute project(s) as the funds require?

- Has your Program pre-planned for potential government funds?

    o If needed, has your Program established relationships with other organizations who may be part of your project(s)?

        ▪ It is often beneficial to establish these relationships in advance of the project start date.

    o If needed, has your Program set groundwork for both how the funds would be spent and how the funds would be managed internally?

    o If needed, has your Program obtained proper permissions to work in a specific area to implement programming (i.e. permissions to work in schools or medical facilities)?