



Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Fit Feet Clinical Director Role

Founded in 1968, Special Olympics is a global movement to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities. We foster acceptance of all people through the power of sport and programming in education, health and leadership. With more than six million athletes and Special Olympics Unified Sports® partners in over 190 countries and territories and more than one million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers more than 30 Olympic-type sports and over 100,000 Games and competitions every year.

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® offers free health screenings and education to Special Olympics athletes in a welcoming, fun environment. The impact of these screenings on the health and wellness of Special Olympics athletes around the world is significant. Healthy Athletes discovers undetected health problems, aids in pain alleviation pain and connects athletes to health services that otherwise may not be available.

Healthy Athletes is not only a program for athletes. Through training and hands-on experience at screenings, it is a program for healthcare students and professionals to learn best practices in communicating and caring for people with intellectual disabilities. To ensure these programs can be executed effectively, while providing high quality care, Clinical Directors for each discipline are utilized. Fit Feet Clinical Directors are responsible for working with their local Special Olympics Program and other volunteer health professionals (i.e students) to coordinate and oversee the screening.

Fit Feet Clinical Director Background and Requirements:

- Certificate and current licensure as a Podiatrist or other licensed foot health care provider
- A minimum three-year commitment to the Fit Feet program role ensures quality and continuity of the FUNfitness program.
- Complete Clinical Director training including online and in-person mentorship opportunities where information and training about Special Olympics, Healthy Athletes, Fit Feet specific management and clinical requirements is provided. Part of this training will include Clinical Directors participating in a Fit Feet screening event either locally or at a Special Olympics International supported training hub location.

The role of a Fit Feet Clinical Director includes, but is not limited to:

1. Identifying and Scheduling Fit Feet Screenings

Identifying and scheduling the best opportunities to provide Fit Feet screenings is a joint effort between the Clinical Director and their local Special Olympics Program. Working closely with a Special Olympic Program, building professional relationships and connecting to the local community help Clinical Directors deliver successful Fit Feet screening events.

2. Recruiting and Training Volunteer Health Professionals

Clinical Directors are best positioned to identify and train volunteers for a Fit Feet screening, because they know their community and its local health care professionals. Potential volunteers may come from:

- Private practices
- Universities and colleges
- Professional associations
- Medical facilities
- State and local public health agencies

3. Obtaining Equipment and Supplies

Needed supplies, equipment and athlete giveaways may be available to Clinical Directors through sponsor donations or loans obtained by networking with local sponsors and health services. Clinical Directors will need to work with their local Special Olympics program in order to coordinate specific funding to help in obtaining equipment and supplies.

4. Setting Up and Supervising Venues during Screenings

On the day of the event, the Clinical Director is responsible for setting up and supervising the Healthy Athletes venue, and overseeing Fit Feet volunteers.

5. Program Evaluation

Evaluation gives Clinical Directors the opportunity to continuously improve and adapt their screenings to the needs of the athletes.

6. Collecting and Reporting Data

Clinical Directors use Healthy Athletes Software (HAS) to document the health status and needs of Special Olympics athletes during the screening. Clinical Directors work with SO programs to develop plans for data entry either locally or by contracted data entry consultants. This data provides Healthy Athletes Programs worldwide with information to increase awareness and provide more services.

7. Capacity Grant Application

Clinical Directors will work with their local Special Olympics Program to develop a Capacity Grant application to submit to Special Olympics, Inc. These grants assist Programs in purchasing interactive educational materials, athlete giveaways, signage, and other supplies/equipment needed to conduct an impactful Fit Feet program.