



## Special Olympics Healthy Athletes FUNfitness 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 has discovered undetected health problems, alleviated pain and provided health services that otherwise would not be available.

Healthy Athletes is not only a program for athletes but, 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. Clinical Directors are an important part of the Healthy Athletes FUNfitness team. Clinical Directors are responsible for working with their local Special Olympics Program and other volunteer health professionals to coordinate FUNfitness screening.

### The role of a FUNfitness Clinical Director includes, but is not limited to:

#### 1. Identifying and Scheduling FUNfitness Screenings

Identifying and scheduling the best opportunities to provide FUNfitness 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 FUNfitness screening events.

#### 2. Recruiting and Training Volunteer Health Professionals

Clinical Directors are best positioned to identify and train health volunteers for a FUNfitness 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. Special Olympics headquarters also receives donations of goods and equipment that can be made available for events if local sources are not available.

### **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 FUNfitness 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 our contracted data entry consultants. This data provides Healthy Athletes Programs worldwide with factual 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 FUNfitness program.

## **FUNfitness Clinical Director Background and Requirements:**

- Obtain current licensure as a Physical Therapist, Physical Therapist Assistant or any other deemed relevant professional qualification in countries outside the United States.
- A minimum three-year commitment to the FUNfitness program role ensure quality and continuity of the FUNfitness program.
- Complete the Special Olympics-sponsored Train-the-Trainer program, where information and training about Special Olympics, Healthy Athletes, FUNfitness specific management and clinical requirements are provided. During this training, Clinical Directors participate in a FUNfitness screening event. Expenses are covered by Special Olympics International.