Government & Partner Relations Building Block

Our Government & Partner Relations quality standards relate to:

- **Government & Political Relations** – including engaging governments to influence policy, receive funding and services
- **Public Sector Partnerships** – including partnering with non-government, non-corporate entities (e.g. Lion's Club International, UNICEF)

For standards related to fundraising, see the Raising Funds Building Block. For standards on Marketing, see the Brand Awareness & Communications Building Block.

Program Quality Standards

The Program Quality Standards are a tool to help Programs develop and grow. They were a 'ground-up' initiative - created with input from Programs in all Regions. The standards are for Special Olympics Accredited Programs, specifically for Program Leaders. They enable Program Leaders to understand, manage, support and deliver activities to a high level of quality.

Using the standards:

The standards are grouped into 10 'building blocks'. Within each building block, most standards have three stages. Read them from left to right – starting with Stage 1 and moving in the direction of Stage 3.

You can use the standards to conduct a self-assessment, help set goals for your strategic and operational plans, track your progress and celebrate your growth.

The standards can help you set goals in your plan, but do not replace your Program's plan which should outline specific growth goals. You may also consider using the self-assessment tool we have created to help you.

Gov't & Partner Relations	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Government & Political Relations	Program has identified and documented a list of influential political stakeholders	Program has a system or tool to monitor changes in politics and policy that impact Special Olympics	Program has a written strategy that aligns Special Olympics initiatives with political structures and priorities
	Program provides relevant political leaders with status updates on Special Olympics at least once a year	Program makes proactive and sustained efforts to educate and engage relevant political leaders	Program utilizes internal stakeholders at all levels of the Program to influence policy
	Relevant political leaders attend Special Olympics events	Program has cultivated political leaders who use their influence to advance Special Olympics	Relevant political leaders utilize influence to advance the rights of people with ID
	Program understands best potential chances to get Government grants/funds and actively pursues them	Program secures budget relieving cash or in-kind support from Government	Program secures multi-year budget relieving cash or in-kind support from Government to support operational and programmatic costs
	Program is actively developing relationships with government ministries and agencies	Program collaborates with various ministries and government agencies to provide services	Program has formal partnership(s) with national/state political institutions that leads to direct support
	Relevant political leaders in Program's jurisdiction understand Intellectual Disability and Special Olympics	Relevant political leaders in Program's jurisdiction understand how Special Olympics fosters inclusion in sport, education, health, and communities	Relevant political leaders involve Special Olympics in policy setting related to inclusion and diability
Public Sector Partnerships	Program knows who the potential public sector partners are, including SOI partners, and has made clear attempts to engage them	Program is working with at least one public sector partner whose work is complimentary and beneficial to Special Olympics	Public sector partnerships are delivering support and resources that is making a significant difference to implementation of Special Olympics program
	Program has a system for finding out about public sector grant opportunities	Program submits public sector grant applications that meet criteria	Program secures grants from public sector sources