



Special Olympics North Dakota Unified Champion Schools®
2020 Grant Information

Grant Purpose:

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® (UCS) is a program for schools Pre-K through university that intentionally promotes social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities through sport and education-related activities. The three-component model offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip young people with the knowledge, skills, tools and training to create classrooms and school climates of acceptance, respect, and meaningful inclusion.

This is accomplished by implementing Special Olympics Unified Sports®, inclusive youth leadership opportunities (such as clubs, student organizations and leadership teams), and whole school engagement. The program is woven into the fabric of the school community, enhancing existing efforts and providing rich opportunities that empower all students to be the agents of genuine change in their schools, creating socially inclusive environments that support and engage all learners. Unified Champion Schools implementation can vary greatly from school to school, based on the needs, goals, schedules, and other factors unique to each school, but the building blocks and framework are the same.

Grant Focus Areas:

Special Olympics Unified Sports® in schools is defined as a fully inclusive sports or fitness program that combines an approximately equal number of students with and without intellectual disabilities. Unified Sports may be implemented using one of three styles: competitive; player development; and recreation, which includes Unified PE, and Unified fitness. Funds could be used for and not limited to school intramural leagues, Unified Sports Day, Unified fitness club, exhibition games, etc.

Inclusive youth leadership occurs when students with and without intellectual disabilities work together to lead and plan advocacy, awareness, and other inclusive activities throughout the school year. Funds could be used for and not limited to Unified clubs, students with ID on student council and inclusive projects, youth activation committee, school-wide fundraiser, High School sport athletes providing clinics to local SO programs, etc.

Whole school engagement consists of awareness and education activities that promote inclusion and which reach the majority of the school population. Funds could be used for and not limited to Pep rally/ general assemblies; polar plunges, implementing SO curriculums in middle or high school, Unified physical education, youth leadership academy, peer to peer curriculum, Spread the Word Inclusion campaign, Fans in the Stands, Unified Sports Day, staffing to support any unified activity or project.

Grant Objective: Meaningful Inclusion

For students to experience **meaningful inclusion**, a school must thoughtfully implement the three-component model, which fosters co-equal opportunities for students of all abilities to genuinely participate and engage as members of their communities, not as tokens or special cases to be put on a pedestal and artificially honored. The concept of meaningful inclusion promotes understanding of each student's individual value, and the mutual benefits that come from each person's contribution to the relationship. Meaningful inclusion further emphasizes



that people with intellectual disabilities should not be treated as individuals that need help and pity, but rather have as much to offer as anyone.

Grant Award usage:

School Awards can be used for the purposes of Unified Sports, Unified Clubs, and Whole School Engagement activities. They are ideally used for the resources needed to start a Unified Sports team or teams. Awards may be used as one time stipends to encourage your professional staff to engage in the valuable program. Awards may be used to purchase school uniforms for the team. To receive the grant, a school needs to identify a school liaison who will be responsible for communication with SOND, and a follow-up survey following the completion of the year.

What about Transportation and Lodging needs? SOND will assume the costs of transportation and lodging in accordance with Special Olympics policies for school-based Unified Sports teams when participating in SOND sanctioned competitions in 2020. This includes but is not limited to participation in the State Summer Games and sanctioned local, area and district events. Transportation and lodging funds are in addition to the award of the SOND UCS grant.

Grant Application:

Grant applications will be accepted beginning March 1, 2020 and will be closed by May 1, 2020 or when the allocated funds for the grant are exhausted, whichever comes first.

Grant applications need to be submitted using the **Unified Champion Schools Award Grant Application**. There may be only one grant application per school. A school district may apply for district dollars or designate towards any of the schools within that district.

Upon acceptance of a grant, SOND will notify the recipient and award the payment within two weeks of notification. Award payments will be in the form of a check made payable to the school, school district, etc. not an individual.

Grant recipients will be asked to complete a short survey for Special Olympics North America.

Application form: page 3 of 3



Unified Champion Schools (UCS) Award Grant Application

School Awards may be used for implementing any of the three components of UCS: Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement. Unified Sports may be Unified Flag Football and/or Unified Volleyball. School Awards may be used as stipends in your school's UCS program.

Please check one of the categories that your school would request to be awarded:

- \$1-\$500 for the resources needed to further Unified Champion School efforts.
Amount Requested _____
- \$501-\$1000 for the resources needed to further Unified Champion School efforts.
Amount Requested _____
- Other amount (please attach separate page with detailed explanation)
Amount Requested _____

In the space provided, please give a brief description of how you intend to use the grant award (Unified Club, Unified Sports Day, Spread the Word Inclusion Campaign, Pep Rally, etc.). If additional space is needed, please attach documents to application.

Beyond the request listed above, Special Olympics North Dakota will assume any reasonable costs associated in equipping, transporting, feeding and lodging a Unified Flag Football and/or Unified Volleyball team when participating in a SOND sanctioned competition(s). These costs must comply with Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and Federal Granting Guidelines and be made known to SOND in advance. Expenses will be paid directly by SOND to the vendor.

- Our School will provide a Unified Flag Football and/or Unified Volleyball Team (circle all that apply) at the SOND Summer Games in Fargo, ND June 4-6, 2020.
- Other

Upon receipt of this form at Special Olympics ND, expect about a **two-week time frame** to receive notification regarding your school's grant award acceptance.

School: _____

Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

School Liaison: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Signature & Title of School Official: _____

SOND Office Use Only – Date Received: _____

This document may be faxed or scanned and emailed to Special Olympics North Dakota.

Email: info@specialolympicsnd.org

Fax: 701-772-1265