



Innovation Grants are project-based grants awarded to young leaders with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) so they can promote inclusion in their school and community. The upcoming round will provide \$500 USD, \$1,000 USD, or \$1,500 USD for projects. Innovation Grants will be awarded to individuals and Unified Pairs (one youth with ID and one without) to marry grit and urgency with aspiration and determination, fostering inclusion for ALL during this challenging time. These projects expand on inclusion in a variety of ways, such as:

- Create new or expand existing Unified Schools and Universities
- Engage new inclusive youth leaders
- Drive sustainability and quality in youth/school-based programming

The success of Innovation Grants is rooted in seeding experiments among youth and flipping the power paradigm in instituting radical social change so youth with and without ID directly drive change. Special Olympics will provide direct support and technical assistance opportunities to all grant recipients and Programs to position them to become entrepreneurs of inclusion in their school and community.

Through an informed network of inclusive youth leaders, we will create scalable solutions to end discrimination against people with ID. By engaging young people in a lifetime of inclusion and appreciation for people with differences, Special Olympics can effect change to global social norms. Young people seek to understand and embrace differences. This Unified Generation is our way forward.

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this round of Innovation Grants will be closely aligned with the 3-phased approach Special Olympics has adopted for returning to activities.** Please refer to the [Innovation Grants COVID-19 Memo](#) for examples of approved Innovation Grant projects that adapted to meet the various requirements of the 3-phased approach Special Olympics has adopted for returning to activities.

Young people from all accredited Special Olympics Programs are encouraged to apply for an Innovation Grant.

Please keep in mind that you can start the application and then save and finish the application at another time.

The application is available online [here](#).

Applications are due **15 April 2021**.

Applicants will be notified if their project was selected by **3 May 2021**.