



### State of South Carolina Request for Contribution Distribution

This form is designed to collect the information required by South Carolina in accordance with Proviso 1.17.21 of the appropriations act and Executive Order 2022-19. This form must be submitted to the state agency that is providing the contribution for the designated organization. The state agency providing the contribution should use this form to collect information from the designated organization. The information must be collected from the designated organization before the funds can be disbursed.

#### Contribution Information

Amount	State Agency Providing the Contribution	Purpose
\$300,000.00	J160 - Department of Disabilities and Special Needs	Special Olympics Sport and Education Outreach Initiative

Organization Information	
Entity Name	Special Olympics South Carolina
Address	109 Oak Park Drive
City/State/Zip	Irmo, SC 29063
Website	so-sc.org
Tax ID#	57-0680248
Entity Type	Nonprofit Organization

Organization Contact Information	
Contact Name	Barbara Oswald
Position/Title	Vice President of Programs
Telephone	803-404-5513
Email	boswald@so-sc.org

#### Plan/Accounting of how these funds will be spent:

Description	Budget	Explanation
State & Regional Program Events	\$210,000.00	State Fall Games; Summer Games; state-hosted competitions and sports expos including basketball, cheer, equestrian, pickleball, sailing, and tennis.
Unified Champion Schools Education Initiatives	\$5,000.00	Event/Project support with partnering Unified Champion Schools.
Youth Sports Programming	\$10,000.00	Young Athletes and other Developmental Sports events/trainings
Training & Professional Development	\$38,000.00	Annual Leadership Conference, family members, and volunteers; assistive technology for coach and athlete trainings
Local Program Sports Training & Event Support	\$32,000.00	Local program support- 16 area program funding (16 x \$2000)
Volunteer Services	\$5,000.00	Cost for state and national background checks for Class-A volunteers
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	

Please explain how these funds will be used to provide a public benefit:

\* Please see full detailed explanation of Special Olympics Sport and Education Outreach Initiative provided in separate document.

Organization Certifications

- 1) Organization hereby gives assurance that no person shall, upon the grounds of race, creed, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which this organization is responsible.
- 2) Organization certifies that it will provide quarterly spending reports to the Agency Providing Contribution listed above.
- 3) Organization certifies that it will provide an accounting at the end of the fiscal year to the Agency Providing Contribution listed above.
- 4) Organization certifies that it will allow the State Auditor to audit or cause to be audited the contributed funds.

  
Organization Signature

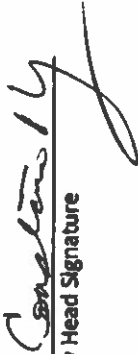
Barbara Oswald  
Printed Name

Vice President of Programs  
Title

10/12/23  
Date

Certifications of State Agency Providing Contribution

- 1) State Agency certifies that the planned expenditure aligns with the Agency's mission and/or the purpose specified in the appropriations act.
- 2) State Agency certifies that the Organization has set forth a public purpose to be served through receipt of the expenditure.
- 3) State Agency certifies that it will make distributions directly to the organization.
- 4) State Agency certifies that it will provide the quarterly spending reports and accounting received from the organization to the Senate Finance Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and the Executive Budget Office by June 30, 2024.
- 5) State Agency certifies that it will publish on their website any and all reports, accountings, forms, updates, communications, or other materials required by Proviso 117.21 of the appropriations act.
- 6) State Agency will certify to the Office of the Governor that it has complied with the requirements of Executive Order 2022-19 by June 30, 2024.

  
Agency Head Signature

Printed Name

10-19-23  
Date

**DATE:** 10/11/2023

**SPONSOR:** Senator Katrina Shealy

**PROJECT NAME:** 2023-24 Sports and Education Outreach Initiative

**AMOUNT:** \$300,000

**RECIPIENT:** Special Olympics South Carolina

**RECIPIENT TYPE:** 501c3 non-profit organization

**TAX ID:** 57-0680248

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Barry Coats

**TITLE:** President and CEO

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

109 Oak Park Drive

803-772-1555

BCoats@so-sc.org

www.so-sc.org



**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Special Olympics South Carolina engages communities across South Carolina to provide opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities in the areas of sports, health, and education. These opportunities not only engage and empower more than 30,000 Special Olympics athletes, but they bring together thousands of volunteers, families, and other community members to develop more inclusive communities throughout the state.

The **Sports and Education Outreach Initiative** will utilize programs, events, and resources in the areas of Sports and Education to maximize the reach and impact on Special Olympics athletes, their families, and members of communities, statewide.

In the area of sports, Special Olympics will build upon the foundation of year-round sports at the local and state levels to provide excellent experiences to athletes, volunteers, family members and spectators.

Special Olympics primary education initiative, Unified Champion Schools, will develop partnerships among Special Olympics and school communities to break down barriers among students of varying backgrounds and abilities, to create school communities that embrace diversity, acceptance, and inclusion.

Combining efforts in the areas of Sports and Education, Special Olympics South Carolina will further accomplish the organization's mission of bettering the lives of Special Olympics athletes, their families, and the larger community.

**PROJECT GOALS & DELIVERABLES:**

1. Increase ATHLETE & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, and SUPPORT through early invention, technology, and sports outreach.

- a. Provide high-quality Special Olympics sports training and competition opportunities at local and state levels, with year-round programs for athletes ages 2 years through older adult years.

***PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Execute at least 36 local sports competitions and 4 state-level competition events in a variety of sports.***

- b. Increase number of Special Olympics Young Athletes outreach opportunities (called Playdates") to support and engage children ages 2-7 years in inclusive play that provides fine and gross-motor skill development. Early intervention through Young Athletes Programs also provides a support system for families and opportunities for siblings to participate in inclusive play.

***PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Conduct 6 new Young Athletes Programs engaging at least 45 young athletes and their families.***

- c. Utilize technology to create an easier on-boarding process for Special Olympics athletes, unified partners, family members, and service providers.

***PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Develop digital access to program/sport registration through website, with target launch date of August 2023 for digital onboarding process. Promote new process to athletes and their families through social media, conference presentations, and other communication outlets. SOSOC will also provide opportunities for local program leaders to learn how to effectively use this new technology tool to increase their capacity at the local level.***

2. Increase VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT through technology, partnership development, and education.

- a. Engage and recruit new community organizations, corporate groups,

healthcare providers, and other service providers as volunteers and potential partners.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:** *Present Special Olympics information to a minimum of 5 new community groups statewide and develop relationships with a minimum of 3 new partner organizations or businesses who will provide volunteers for local and state events. New technology supports will provide a better, more efficient experience for these groups.*

- b. Utilize technology for effectively recruiting, on-boarding, and managing volunteers.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:** *Launch digital marketing campaign to recruit a minimum of 320 new coaches, unified partners, local program leaders, and day-of-event volunteers supporting local and state Special Olympics events.*

- c. Provide Special Olympics professional development, networking opportunities, and leadership training for athletes, families, and key volunteers through the Special Olympics South Carolina Annual Leadership Conference (January 2024).

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:** *Engage more than 150 stakeholders at the conference, with evaluation surveys reporting a 75% "excellent" rating, or higher.*

**3. Provide resources and technical support for innovative events hosted by Unified Champion Schools® and advancement opportunities through state competitions during the 2023-24 school year.**

- a. Provide professional development and Special Olympics Unified Champion School training to educators, school district leaders and other school staff to equip them with the knowledge, strategies, and skills to provide high quality Special Olympics unified programming, as well as supporting these students to transition their participation in Special Olympics beyond school.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:** *Provide professional learning opportunities to a minimum of 300 education leaders and personnel.*

- b. Support elementary, middle, and high schools with funding and technical support for schools' hosting and/or participating in Special Olympics events or projects. These events and projects will qualify for support if they (1) increase capacity to serve students with and without intellectual disabilities and are (2) sustainable.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:** Support at least 5 new unified events and projects in schools.

- c. Equip elementary, middle, and high schools to provide opportunities for inclusive youth leadership where students with and without intellectual disabilities lead inclusive activities, plan Unified Champion Schools programming, and coordinate advocacy campaigns, while developing leadership skills in an inclusive environment.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:** Provide at least 320 schools with turnkey resources and trainings to support inclusive youth leadership on a regular basis through Unified Champion Schools strategies.

### **ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND:**

Special Olympics South Carolina was a charter member of the first Special Olympics event hosted by Eunice Kennedy Shriver at Soldier Field in Chicago in 1968, with a contingent of six athletes. The organization now reaches athletes in over 180 countries, serving as the world's #1 healthcare provider for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics is the only organization that also addresses social inclusion, and the sports needs of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics aims to better the lives of all individuals with intellectual disabilities through **Sports, Health, Education and Community Engagement**.

Special Olympics South Carolina (SOSC) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves more than 30,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities throughout South Carolina, making it the sixth largest state Special Olympics program in the nation. The organization trains athletes who compete in twenty-seven different sports, with opportunities provided through more than 400 Special Olympics events that take place across South Carolina in a typical year. To provide these services, SOSC engages over 10,000 trained and monitored volunteers. This community outreach not only provides sports opportunities for Special Olympics athletes, but it also provides an opportunity to break down barriers and promote more inclusive communities.

### **POPULATION SERVED (PUBLIC SERVICE) & COMMUNITY NEED:**

Special Olympics athletes, as with many youth, often begin their sports participation during school. More than half of the athletes served by SOSC are school-aged children (16,000), representing all demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds. These formative years provide a foundation for sports participation and community inclusion. The Unified Champion Schools program engages children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 4 years to 21 years. Approximately 4500 youth with intellectual disabilities are currently served through Unified Champion Schools and 5,000 students WITHOUT disabilities who serve as leaders, advocates, mentors, unified partners, and

event volunteers. Through these opportunities, students from general education develop and enhance their ability to be an inclusive leader, teammate, and advocate in a diverse environment.

Unified Champion Schools have become a primary strategy for Special Olympics South Carolina in promoting inclusion in communities throughout the state. Studies show that in schools, youth face tremendous challenges that can be addressed through unified strategies. Studies conducted by the National School Climate Center indicate that **academic performance, personal development, and overall wellbeing** of students with and without disabilities are hampered by several key concerns of school leaders.

### ***Bullying & Safety Concerns***

For all students today, feeling unsafe has a negative impact on learning:

- 28% of students say they were bullied at school within the last 6 months
- 35.5% of students reported being in a physical fight within the previous year

For students with disabilities, bullying is the norm:

- 1 in 10 students with intellectual disabilities are bullied or victimized **at least once a week**
- Students with disabilities are 2-3 times more likely to be bullied than their non-disabled peers

### ***Isolation & Disengagement***

Students who feel connected to their schools and engaged in their learning are more successful academically and have healthier behavior, yet:

- 40-60% of students in high school are chronically disengaged from school
- only 50% of high school students feel they are an important part of their school community

For students with intellectual disabilities:

- only 10% of youth say they have a friend with intellectual disabilities; isolation is the norm.

### ***Emotional Distress & Unhealthy Behavior***

Students need to be healthy, safe, and ready to succeed; yet many are struggling:

- only 34% of students engaged in enough regular physical activity
- 44% of children report stress-related sleeping difficulties
- 15% of high school students say they have seriously considered suicide within the last year
- 11% of high school students have made plans for suicide; 7% have actually attempted to take their own lives

A socially inclusive school climate fosters inclusion, acceptance, respect, and human dignity for ALL students and is based on the foundational belief that the school's purpose is to educate, motivate and activate all students. The strategies utilized by Unified Champion Schools provide opportunities for reforming school cultures to be more socially inclusive and to repair these broken areas of the education community.

**BEYOND SCHOOLS:** Special Olympics South Carolina recognizes that engaging school communities is an investment in developing more inclusive larger communities for Special Olympics beyond their school years. Through 14 years of engaging youth and adults through Unified Champion Schools, Special Olympics is improving the livelihood of Special Olympics athletes in the following ways:

- Developing a generation of young people without intellectual disabilities who are more inclusive, therefore more likely to befriend, employ, and interact with our population as throughout their adulthood.
- Empowering Special Olympics athletes to see themselves as leaders and learn to self-advocate as inclusive youth leadership activates young people of all abilities to lead Unified Champion Schools together.
- Activating young people, with and without intellectual disabilities, to spread the message of inclusion beyond their campus, changing perspectives of not only their school-aged peers, but also influencing the adults in their families, their homes, and their larger communities.
- Developing young people who want to stay involved with Special Olympics Unified Sports and other programs beyond their school years, increasing the number of volunteers supporting community-based programs.

#### **MEASURED SUCCESS:**

Special Olympics inclusive strategies through Unified Champion Schools are not new to South Carolina. These initiatives began in 2008 as a partnership was formed between Special Olympics and the US Department of Education. The program (known then as Project UNIYF) was immediately adopted in South Carolina as SOSC's primary education outreach initiative. During the 2008-09 school year, SOSC engaged 11 schools across the state through inclusive sports and advocacy activities. The program quickly involved into what is now Unified Champion Schools, engaging nearly 300 schools statewide. Each Unified Champion School provides unique combinations of activities to engage students in furthering inclusion in their school community.

The reach of Unified Champion Schools expands and deepens each year with consistent development of new school and district partnerships. Most importantly, involvement with Unified Champion Schools has proven to have a positive impact on students with and without disabilities, as revealed in a national study conducted by the University of Massachusetts-Boston:

- 96% of educators felt that the UCS program has created a more socially inclusive environment
- Educators indicated an **increase in attendance** of students with intellectual disabilities (85%) and students without intellectual disabilities (81%)
- 99% also felt the program is valuable for the school
- 95% of school reported increased participation of students with disabilities in school activities and **more inclusive attitudes school-wide**



- 64% of students with disabilities and 37% of students without disabilities reported a significant **increase in self-esteem and self-confidence**
- Students who participate feel more supported by their teachers and peers, have higher levels of grit, receive better grades, and are **more empathetic and compassionate**
- 76% became **more patient** and 76% **learned to compromise**
- Schools implementing Unified programming also reported positive impacts on academic outcomes including:
  - High schools that implement Unified Champion Schools had a 2.6% **increase in graduation rates** for students with intellectual disabilities and 1.3% increase for students without intellectual disabilities
  - Long term exposure to the program is associated with **increases in standardized test scores and GPA** for middle and high school students with and without intellectual disabilities.

**Additionally, teachers reported the following improvements for ALL participating students:**



92%- Relationship Skills



89%- Social Awareness



89%- Responsible Decision-Making

**FUNDING HISTORY:**

Funding appropriated for Special Olympics South Carolina's Sports & Education Outreach Initiative began in 2015, with funding amounts and dates as follows:

2022	\$250,000
2021	\$250,000
2019	\$250,000
2018	\$250,000
2016	\$100,000
2015	\$100,000

Funding supported inclusion programming and education reached more than **200,000 K-12 students** in South Carolina, sports training and competition opportunities were provided for more than **30,000 Special Olympics athletes**, and various events engaged **10,000 volunteers** across the state.

**PROJECT BUDGET:**

<b>SPORT &amp; EDUCATION OUTREACH LINE ITEMS</b>	<b>SPECIAL OLYMPICS TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>PROPOSED STATE FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	<b>BUDGET JUSTIFICATION</b>
<b>State &amp; Regional Program Events</b>	\$395,000	\$210,000	State Fall Games- \$115,000; Summer Games- \$65,000. Other state-hosted competitions and sports expos including basketball, cheer, equestrian, pickleball, sailing, and tennis- \$30,000.
<b>Unified Champion Schools Education Initiatives</b>	\$750,000	\$5,000	Event/Project support: 5 events/projects x \$1000 per = \$5000.
<b>Youth Sports Programming</b>	\$50,000	\$10,000	Young Athletes and other Youth Developmental Sports events/trainings: 5 events x \$2000= \$10,000
<b>Training &amp; Professional Development</b>	\$75,000	\$38,000	Annual Leadership Conference for 250 athletes, family members, and volunteers (venue, meals, hotels, and speakers)- \$28,000; Assistive Technology for Trainings- \$10,000
<b>Local Program Sports Training &amp; Event Support</b>	\$500,000	\$32,000	Local Program support- 16 area programs x \$2,000 towards local opportunities= \$32,000
<b>Volunteer Services</b>	\$57,000	\$5,000	Cost for state and national background checks for Class-A volunteers (those working closely with athletes, coaches, chaperones, etc.): \$5,000

The mission of Special Olympics is closely aligned with the populations served by the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN). In addition to the state funds allocated for the above referenced project, SCDDSN provides support to Special Olympics to promote services across the state for individuals with disabilities. The state funding specifically allocated to Special Olympics is separate and distinct from other funding sources.

South Carolina  
**Secretary of State**  
(<https://sos.sc.gov/>)  
Mark Hammond

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## Search Charities

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**Special Olympics South Carolina**

Public Id: P4041


Mr. Barry Coats , CEO

109 OAK PARK DR

IRMO, SC 29063-6105

**Status:** Registered. Information from this organization's annual financial report is listed below.

The following financial information has been provided to the Secretary of State's Office by the above named organization. The Secretary of State's Office has not independently verified this financial information. If a charity has recently registered with the Secretary of State's Office for the first time, there may not be any financial data available. Below are figures for the organization's fiscal year **1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021**.

<b>Financial Report</b>	
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$3,774,841.00
PROGRAM EXPENSES:	\$2,192,291.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$2,548,923.00
NET ASSETS:	\$6,313,027.00
FUNDRAISER COSTS:	\$459,408.00
<b>Financial Report File</b>	
	<a href="#">p4041.pdf (/DisplayFinancialReport.aspx? ReportType=Charity&amp;CopyID=158455)</a>
Next Report: 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022 Due Date: 11/15/2023	

According to the financial information filed with this office, this organization devoted **86.0%** of its total expenses to program services during the year reported.

**Disclaimer: The South Carolina Secretary of State's Charities Search Webpage is provided as a service to customers to research charitable organizations on file with our office, or that have been the subject of an administrative action. Users are advised that the Secretary of State, the State of South Carolina, or any agency, office, or employee of the State of South Carolina do not guarantee the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of the information provided, as it is the responsibility of the charity to inform the Secretary of State of any updated information. Furthermore, the information provided does not constitute legal advice.**

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**South Carolina Department of Disabilities & Special Needs**  
**Special Grant Award for Pass-Through State Contributions**

**Provider Name:** Special Olympics South Carolina      **Vendor Number:** 7000026965  
**Grant Name:** Sports and Education Outreach Initiative      **Funds Reservation #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Grant Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Grant Period:** 7/1/2023 though 6/30/2024      **Amount:** \$300,000.00

Disbursement request in accordance with Proviso 117.21 and 118.19 of the FY2023-24 Appropriation.

Amount: \$ 300,000.00  
 General Ledger Code: 5180750000  
 DDSN Funded Program: 9818.230000X000

Fund Code	Cost Center	Functional Area	G/L Account
10050024	j160q50010	j160X31SO	5180750000

FINANCIAL SERVICES  
 10/23/23 10:15 AM  
 10/23/23 10:15 AM

Payment Approved by: Bruce C. Butler

Date: 10/20/2023

AS 10/23/23