



# Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Clubs

## 2023-24 Unified Champion Clubs Grant Application Question

### **About Special Olympics Unified Champion Clubs**

The Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Clubs, a program in partnership with the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, is dedicated to promoting social inclusion by joining adults with and without intellectual disabilities through shared inclusive recreational sports and activities. A simple principal that playing and competing together creates a quick path to friendships and understanding. The program serves as an extension of the Special Olympics Maine's [Unified Champion Schools](#) program which aims at promoting social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting systems-wide change (PK-College). With sports as the foundation, the three-component model offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip people with tools and training to create sports and community climates of acceptance. These are community climates where people with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities, opportunities and functions.

This is accomplished by implementing inclusive sports, inclusive leadership opportunities, and community engagement. The program is designed to be woven into the fabric of the organization, enhancing current efforts and providing rich opportunities that lead to meaningful change in creating a socially inclusive community that supports and engages all people. What a Unified Champion Club “looks like” can vary greatly from organization to organization, based on the needs, goals, schedules and other factors unique to each organization; but the basic building blocks remain the same.

Together we are creating a *Unified Generation* that **Chooses to Include**. [Join us.](#)

### **Core Beliefs of Special Olympics Maine’s Unified Champion Schools**

1. There should be more opportunities in organizations across the state for people of all ages and all ability levels to make friends, play and work together for change.
2. People with intellectual disabilities should become part of the fabric of the community and be perceived as assets in their communities.
3. People without intellectual disabilities can and should increase their knowledge, skills and comfort in forming positive social relationships with people with intellectual disabilities and should come together to address societal issues.
4. Policymakers and community leaders should develop policies and support quality practices that encourage positive community climates characterized by safe and nurturing environments for all people.

### **Unified Champion Clubs Combines Three Main Components**

Each Club must include each of the three Unified Champion Club components as part of their proposal.

1. Special Olympics Unified Sports: This means two things in Unified Champion Clubs: One, people with intellectual disabilities are provided the opportunity to participate in sports. Two, people with and without intellectual disabilities participate in sports alongside each other – inclusively.
2. Inclusive Leadership & Advocacy: Opportunities for community members with and without intellectual disabilities to fulfill meaningful roles and lead together in their Unified program, the community and within the organization.
3. Whole Club Engagement: inclusive community engagement opportunities through Acceptance and Inclusion Campaigns, Fans in the Stands, fundraising and other inclusive community engagement activities.

## Unified Champion Club Resources

For more information on Special Olympics Maine's Unified Champion Club and related initiatives visit:

- [Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Clubs](#)
- Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Club Starter Guide
- [Special Olympics Unified Sports® Educational Video](#)
- [Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools](#)
- [Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Schools](#)
- [Generation Unified](#)

## 2023-24 Grant Opportunities

This year, Special Olympics Maine has the opportunity to offer grants for projects that further promote inclusion in community organizations through Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Club strategy & programs. Grant application will be accepted until April 1, 2024 or until funding is exhausted. Projects must be completed by September 31, 2024.

## Project Funding Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for project funding:

- All Projects must occur between October 1, 2023 – September 31, 2023 (SOMaine Grant Reporting fiscal year)
- Must be an organization that provides ongoing year-round sports, health and/or fitness programs/activities

## Proposal Guidelines

- Your project must focus on all three main components of Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Club and will require your organization to meet the requirements of a Unified Champion Club by the end of their 1st year of implementation:
  - Unified Sports
  - Inclusive Leadership & Advocacy
  - Whole Club Engagement
- The project must meet a need you have identified in your organization or community.
- Partnerships with local Masonic Lodges, community groups, businesses and organizations are strongly encouraged.
- Each organization must have a Unified Champion Club Leadership Team, or demonstrate a plan to establish one within one year. The team will be responsible for establishing the vision and overarching goals for the club within the organization, coordinating early stages of implementation, and working with leaders of specific inclusive activities. The team will also monitor the success of the strategy, with an eye toward continuous improvement.
- Each organization must have at least one staff member certified in [Coaching Unified Sports](#), when Unified Sports is being offered.
- Application will be accepted until April 1, 2024 or until funding is exhausted.

## The Project

Your project must include the following:

1. **Project Plan:** a written plan describing the implementation of your project within your organization
2. **Leadership Team:** The team will be responsible for establishing the vision and overarching goals for the club within the organization, coordinating early stages of implementation, and working with leaders of specific events. The team will also monitor the success of the strategy, with an eye toward continuous improvement.
3. **Budget:** What expenses do you anticipate and how much will you spend on each? What is the total budget for your project? What expenses can be donated or shared?
4. **Project Documentation:** photos, video, written updates/journal, Facebook posts, receipts

5. **Project Evaluation:** Completion of National and State level survey capturing what worked. What would you change? What improvements would you make? What challenges did you face? How did you overcome them?
6. **Final Report**, including receipts, unused funds and any post-project action plan, must be submitted to Special Olympics Maine no more than thirty (30) days after the project concludes.

### **Proposal Review Criteria**

- Complete entire Unified Champion Clubs funding application
- Merits/quality of proposed project
- Concise, clear and straightforward answers to the proposal questions
- Written sections show attention to spelling, grammar and punctuation
- A clearly-defined, appropriate budget

### **Notification**

Organizations will be notified within 2 week of their grant submission

### **Grant Awards**

Awards will range from \$1-\$10,000.00. See funding levels below:

- 1 Quarter (3 months) project - \$2,500 max
- 2 Quarter (6 months) project - \$5,000 max
- 3 Quarter (9 months) project - \$7,500 max
- Year (12 months) project - \$10,000 max

### **Grant Application**

*Review Special Olympics Maine's 2023-24 Unified Champion Clubs Grant Application questions to draft your community organization's proposal. When your draft is completed, submit your responses through the [online application](https://forms.gle/vDYBZyWjkcejLA7a9) (<https://forms.gle/vDYBZyWjkcejLA7a9>) process by the deadline on April 1, 2024.*

*Approved community organizations are required to become a Unified Champion Club by the end of the calendar year (October 2023-September 2024) by involving all 3 Unified Champion Clubs components (Unified Sports, Inclusive Leadership and Whole Club Engagement) within their organization.*

### **Component 1 - Unified Sports**

In this section you will be asked to provide answers for your organization's plans for involvement in Unified sports opportunities for people with and without intellectual disabilities. Unified Sports can be accomplished through participation/involvement in but not limited to:

- Special Olympics Unified Sport (i.e., Bocce, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming)
- Unified Fitness (i.e., spin, yoga, walking)
- Unified Activities (i.e., gardening, hiking, climbing, cornhole)

Unified Sports coaches/directors are asked to complete the [Coaching Unified Sports course](#) through the NFHS prior to the start of their Unified Sports program.

1. What Unified Sport opportunities will your organization be involved in?
  - Special Olympics Unified Sports
  - Unified Fitness & Health
  - Young Athletes Program
  - Unified Activities (activities not recognized as a SO Sport)
  - Other:
2. Describe your organization's Unified Sports plan. Include Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of your organization's Unified Sports plan.
3. Who will support you in the development and execution of the Unified Sports opportunities and how? (i.e., Faculty members, Community members, Family members, Masonic Lodges, Community Partners etc.)
4. How will you promote your Unified Sports opportunities to your members & other community members? (i.e., organization website & social media, club rally, newsletters etc.)
5. Projected # of athletes and unified partners engaged in your organization's Unified Sports plan.

## **Component 2 – Inclusive Youth Leadership**

In this section you will be asked to provide answers for your organization's plans for involvement in Inclusive Leadership opportunities for people with and without intellectual disabilities. Inclusive leadership can be accomplished through participation/involvement in but not limited to:

- Unified Club
  - Unified Youth Council
  - Partners Club
  - Already established groups with members with and without ID.
1. What Inclusive Leadership opportunities will your organization be involved in? (Inclusive leadership opportunities are where people with and without intellectual disabilities work together, as a team, to provide awareness and advocacy for all people while promoting respect and inclusion. Check all that apply)
    - Unified Club
    - Inclusive Club Council
    - Partners Club
    - Other:
  2. Describe your organization's Inclusive Leadership plan. Include the Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How of your organization's Inclusive leadership plan.
  3. Who will support you in the development and execution of your organization's Inclusive Leadership plan and how? (i.e., Faculty Members, Community Members, Community Partners etc.)
  4. How will leadership be shared among people with and without intellectual disabilities?
  5. What leadership roles will participants assume through Unified Champion Club program?
  6. How will you promote your Inclusive Leadership plan to your organization? (i.e., Organization's website & social media, club rally, newsletters etc.)
  7. Projected # of athletes and unified partners engaged in your organization's Inclusive Leadership plan.

## **Component 3 - Whole School Engagement**

In this section you will be asked to provide answers for your organization's plans for Whole Club Engagement. Whole Club Engagement can be accomplished through participation/involvement in but not limited to:

- Spread the Word Inclusion Campaign
  - Respect Campaign/Rally
  - Fans in the Stands (organization and community member attend and cheer at Unified Sports activities)
  - Host a Special Olympics Maine event/competition
  - Participate in Special Olympics Maine fundraiser
  - Host a fundraising event to benefit Special Olympics Maine's Unified Champion Clubs
1. What Whole Club Engagement opportunities will your organization be involved in?
    - Spread the Word Campaign
    - Respect Campaign/Rally
    - Fans in the Stands
    - Host a Unified Sports events
    - Fundraising supporting Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Club Program
    - Other:
  2. Describe your organization's Whole Club Engagement Plan. Include the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of your organization's Whole Club Engagement plan.
  3. Who will support you in the development and execution of the Whole Club Engagement plan and how?
  4. How will you promote your Whole Club Engagement plan within your organization?
  5. Projected # of people engaged in your organization's Whole Club Engagement plan.

### **Unified Champion Club – Club Leadership Team**

In this section we will ask you to provide information about your Unified Champion Club Leadership Team. This team will be responsible for establishing the vision and overarching goals for the organization, coordinating early stages of implementation, and working with leaders of specific events. The team will also monitor the success of the strategy, with an eye toward continuous improvement.

1. Provide information on your organization’s Unified Champion Club Leadership Team. Does your organization currently have a Leadership Team established and if so who is apart of the team? If not, please explain how your organization will work to establish one and who will your organization target to be a Club Leadership Team.

### **Unified Schools - Budget Proposal**

In this section you will enter dollar amounts regarding your organization's Unified Champion Club budget. The budget must reflect spending associated with your Unified Champion Club project proposal. Budget proposals should reflect only cost for items that will be paid for with the awarded funds, if approved.

Awards will range from \$1-\$10,000.00. See funding levels below:

- 1 Quarter (3 months) project - \$2,500 max
- 2 Quarter (6 months) project - \$5,000 max
- 3 Quarter (9 months) project - \$7,500 max
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<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Salary Budget (cannot exceed 33% of total request)		
Equipment (Sports Equipment)		
Membership		
Provisions (Competition meals)		
Supplies (Uniforms, T-shirts, Classroom supplies)		
Transportation		
Other		
<b>Total Funding Request</b>		

1. Will your organization support the Unified Champion Club program with funding and/or materials to your project? Please describe. Provide any financial or in-kind support from your organization. In what ways will they help?
2. Describe any community, parent or local business support of the project. Include signed statements or letters of support from each.

### **Unified Champion Clubs - Putting it all together**

In this section we will ask you to provide information about your Unified Champion Club plan as a whole and how you will incorporate all three components within your organization.

1. Please explain your organization's inclusion strategy and goals and how Unified Champion Clubs can help your organization achieve them.
2. Who will participate in and be impacted by Unified Champion Clubs' initiatives?
3. Describe how you will document your organizations Unified Champion Club programs from the beginning to the end. (Will you use photos, video, develop PSAs, utilize the web or any social media?)
4. Describe your organization's sustainability plan for Unified Champion Clubs programs within your organization after grant funding is exhausted, if approved.

**Questions? Need some more information?** Contact Sawyer Boulette, [sawyerb@somaine.org](mailto:sawyerb@somaine.org) or 207-879-0489.