

Special Olympics Healthy Hearing



The Healthy Athlete Clinical Director Role : Healthy Hearing Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place -- one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.

The Healthy Athletes program is dedicated to providing health services and education to Special Olympics athletes, and changing the way health systems interact with people with intellectual disabilities. Through free health screenings, training of healthcare professionals, and evaluation of the health status of people with intellectual disability, Healthy Athletes has become a powerful public health organization worldwide.

Clinical Directors are an important part of the Healthy Athletes Healthy Hearing team. Clinical Directors are responsible for working with their local Special Olympics Program and other volunteer health professionals in coordinating a Healthy Hearing event in their region.

The role of a Healthy Hearing Clinical Director includes, but is not limited to:

1. *Determining event opportunities*

Identifying and scheduling the best opportunity to provide Healthy Hearing screenings is a joint effort between the Clinical Director and their local Special Olympics Program.

2. *Recruiting and Training Volunteer Health Professionals*

Clinical Directors are the best people to identify and train health volunteers to work in the specific areas that will be offered in the Healthy Hearing venue, because they know their community and its local health care professionals. Potential volunteers may come from:

- Private Practices
- Universities/Colleges/Schools
- Health and Professional Associations
- Medical Facilities
- Government Medical Facilities (Military/VA/State/National/Local) and
- State or Local Public Health Agencies

3. *Obtaining Equipment, Supplies and Athlete Giveaways*

Needed supplies, equipment and athlete giveaways may be available to Clinical Directors through donations or loans obtained by networking with local sponsors and health services. Special Olympics headquarters also receives donations of goods and equipment that can be made available for events, if local sources are not available. It is possible to obtain hearing equipment through Special Olympics International if not found at the local level.

4. *Capacity Grant Application*

Clinical Directors will work with their local Program to assure that supplies and equipment needed to deliver the core components of HH are included in the Healthy Athletes' Capacity Grant application. These grants assist Programs in purchasing interactive educational materials, athlete giveaways and incentives, volunteer recognition, signage and other supplies/equipment needed to conduct an impactful Healthy Hearing program.

5. *Setting Up and Supervising the Healthy Athletes Venue*

On the day of the event, the Clinical Director is responsible for supervising the set-up, delivery of screening, interactive education services by trained volunteers, and break-down/wrapping up.

6. *Collecting and Reporting Data*

Clinical Directors use Healthy Athletes Software (HAS) to document screening data collected during the event. Data are used to determine need for health care provider referrals, and to assess the health status and needs of individual Special Olympics athletes. This data provides Healthy Athletes Programs worldwide with factual information to increase awareness and provide more services. Additionally, the Clinical Directors are responsible for writing a post-event summary reports.

7. *Program Evaluation*

Evaluation gives Clinical Directors the opportunity to continuously improve and adapt their programs to the needs of the athletes.

Health Hearing Clinical Director Background and Requirements:

- Certificate and current licensure as an Audiologist and/or ENT specialist;
- A minimum three-year commitment to ensure quality and continuity of the Healthy Hearing program;
- Attendance at a SOI sponsored Train-the-Trainer session where information and training about Special Olympics, Healthy Athletes, Healthy Hearing, specific management and clinical requirements are provided. During training, Clinical Directors participate in a Healthy Hearing screening event. Expenses are covered by Special Olympics International.