



The Healthy Athletes Special Smiles Clinical Director Role

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 for 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 Special Smiles team. Clinical Directors are responsible for working with their local Special Olympics Program and other volunteer health professionals in coordinating a Special Smiles screening event in their region.

The role of a Special Smiles Clinical Director includes, but is not limited to

1. Determining event opportunities

Identifying and scheduling the best opportunity to provide Special Smiles screenings is a joint effort between the Clinical Director and their local Special Olympics Program. Working closely with Special Olympic Programs, building professional relationships and connecting to the local community help Clinical Directors deliver successful Special Smiles screening events.

2. Recruiting and Training Volunteer Health Professionals

Clinical Directors are the best people to identify and train health volunteers to work a Special Smiles screening event, because they know their community and its local health care professionals. Potential volunteers may come from:

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

3. Capacity Grant Application

Clinical Directors will work with their local Special Olympics Program to develop a Capacity Grant application to submit to Special Olympics, Inc. These grants assist Programs in purchasing interactive educational materials, athlete giveaways, volunteer recognition, signage, and other supplies/equipment needed to conduct an impactful Special Smiles program.

4. 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 substantial donations of goods and equipment that can be made available for events if local sources are not available.

5. Healthy Athletes Venue

On the day of the event, the Clinical Director is responsible for setting up and supervising the Healthy Athletes venue and volunteers.

6. Collecting and Reporting Data

Clinical Directors use Healthy Athletes Software (HAS) to document the health status and needs of individual Special Olympics athletes, collected during the screenings. This data provides Healthy Athletes Programs worldwide with factual information to increase awareness and provide more services.

7. Program Evaluation

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

Special Smiles Clinical Director Background and Requirements:

- Current licensure as a Dentist or Dental Hygienist.
- A minimum three-year commitment to ensure quality and continuity of the Special Smiles program.
- Attendance at a SOI sponsored Train-the-Trainer session where information and training about Special Olympics, Healthy Athletes, Special Smiles specific management and clinical requirements are provided. During training Clinical Directors participate in a Special Smiles screening event. Expenses are covered by Special Olympics International.
- Online Clinical Director Training is available for those who qualify (your Program would work with SOI to determine whether online training or in-person training would be best)
- Clinical Director candidates from Canada are preferred (but not required) to be members of the Canadian Society of Disability and Oral Health