

Special Olympics Florida Martin County

Program Overview

Special Olympics
Florida



Special Olympics Florida



Founded in 1972, Special Olympics Florida strives to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people with intellectual disabilities.

Through the power of sports, our athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment -- on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people to open their hearts, to a wider world of diverse human talents and potential.

There are 200 million people with intellectual disabilities (ID) around the world, as 1 – 3% of the population has an ID. Our goal is to reach the 200,000 children and adults with an intellectual disability in Florida. We are asking for your help, to reach those who reside in Martin County, estimated at 1,600 to 4,800 people.



Martin County Sports



Athletics	Cheerleading	Golf	Stand Up Paddle
Basketball	Cycling	Gymnastics	Swimming
Bowling	Equestrian	Soccer	

There is **no cost to any athlete** or their caregivers.
Expenses for competitions, meals, awards, health screenings, equipment, uniforms and travel are covered by Special Olympics Florida.

Special Olympics does not pay coaches salaries or stipends, which can negatively impact our ability to serve more athletes.

The cost to Special Olympics Florida per athlete, per year, is \$350.

Average athlete participates in (1) sport per season	4 sports per year
Athletes have 10 weeks of training per sport plus 1 week of Competition	44 out of 52 weeks a year
Each sport offers 1 regional competition, athletes may advance to State Games	4 Competitions minimum

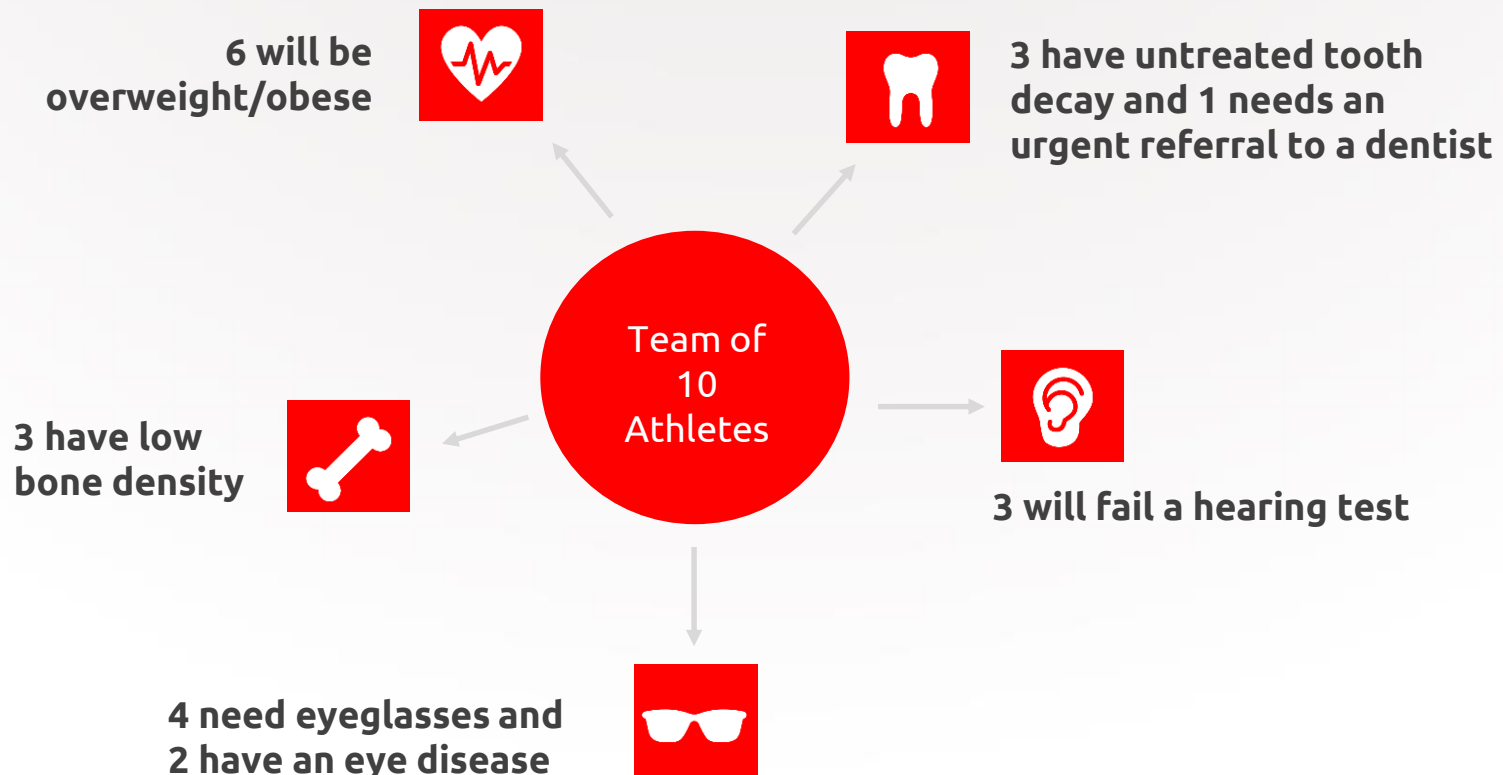
Health Disparity



Despite a mistaken belief that people with ID receive the same or better health care than others, Special Olympic athletes are amongst the most medically underserved groups in the world.

They typically receive sub-standard care or virtually no health care at all.

Out of a team of 10 athletes:



Healthy Athletes – Medical Care



In 1997, Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® began offering free health screenings and education to athletes in a welcoming, fun environment.

Since then, we have delivered over 2 million free health screenings and trained more than 280,000 health professionals to treat people with intellectual disabilities. This is critical to our success, as athletes need a valid medical to participate.

We offer health screenings in eight disciplines:

- MedFest (physical exam)
- Opening Eyes (vision/eye health)
- Healthy Hearing (audiology)
- Special Smiles (dentistry)
- Health Promotion (prevention and nutrition)
- Strong Minds (emotional health)
- FUNfitness (physical therapy)
- Fit Feet (podiatry)



Developmental Sports Programs



Young Athletes

An innovative sports play program for children, ages 2-7, with ID and their peers. The benefits have been proven worldwide, helping the children improve physically, cognitively and socially. This program raises awareness of Special Olympics services and the resources available to families, agencies, and schools.

Little ELITES

Little ELITES (Elementary Level Introduction To Entry-level Sports) is a sports program that bridges the gap between Young Athletes (ages 2-7) and competitive Special Olympics sports (ages 8+). The program is ideal for children in 2nd - 5th grade, who have a developmental disability diagnosis.

Motor Activity Training Program

Designed for those athletes with severe disabilities, whose physical and behavioral limitations prevent participation in Special Olympics team and individual sports. The athletes experience skills training, with culminating events, to display learned talents.

Requested Support



Special Olympics Florida currently serves 232 Athletes and 53 Young Athlete Participants in Martin County.

Our organization would like to partner with Martin County, to provide services to the growing population of people with ID in the County, which is estimated at 1,600 to 4,800.

We request financial support, through the funding of a new County employee, whose role is to oversee and lead a Special Olympics delegation of athletes. We ask that the new County employee and delegation would have access to Parks & Rec venues for training and equipment storage.

This partnership will allow intellectually disabled residents of the community to participate year-round in the opportunities they deserve.

*Special Olympics Florida
strives to provide quality programs
that enrich the lives
of athletes with intellectual disabilities
in Martin County.*

*On behalf of Special Olympics Florida and our Martin County athletes,
thank you for your consideration of our proposal.*

*Should you have any questions or require additional information,
please contact ErinKozlowski@sofl.org*

Special Olympics
Florida

