



2026 LOCAL PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

Instructions & Checklist

Click here to complete the [2026 Local Program Accreditation](#).

You will need the following information to complete your local program accreditation:

- Local Coordinator contact information
- Local Program Committee (names, email, and position)
- Budget ([Download Template](#))
- Goals
- Sports offerings and needs
- List of large donors (\$3,000+)
- Susan Saint James Endowment Request requirements:
 - Use of funds
 - Description of how your local program will benefit from funding
- Name and email of your local program social media administrator
- Links to your social media accounts

Accredited Local Programs

- Recruit, register and train Special Olympics athletes and unified teammates
- Recruit and register Class A volunteers
- Attend local, state, invitational, National and World Games competitions
- Raise needed funds to cover program costs in the name of Special Olympics Connecticut (with approval of SOCT office)
- May apply for any available SOCT and/or SOI grants
- Permission to use the official SOCT logo
- Access to Special Olympics liability insurance coverage
- Access to have a centralized Local Program account managed by the SOCT business office
- Access to information & technology training including meetings, volunteer training, coaches training and Leadership Summits

Local Program that are NOT Accredited

- Those local programs do not adhere to the Special Olympics General Rules, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules, and all other operating policies, and procedures established by Special Olympics, Inc. and Special Olympics Connecticut.
- Local Programs that fail to be accredited forfeit the right to use the Special Olympics name, logo, and other proprietary marks.
- SOCT headquarters has the power to suspend or permanently ban any Special Olympics Local Program from participating in Special Olympics, impose sanctions on a program, or suspend or revoke an accredited program's accreditation.

Susan Saint James Endowment

This endowment was established by Susan Saint James for Local Programs. Annual funding is based on the average fair market value of the endowment over the past three years and the number of local programs who submit this grant by the deadline. The Endowment will be dispersed as follows:

- 50 % of fund divided equally to all eligible accredited local programs.
- 50 % based on the # of athletes and partners registered in these eligible accredited local programs. This total will come from the previous year's Athlete Census submitted to SOI.

Local Programs from New London County who receive the Eunice Murtha Grant are not eligible for the Susan Saint James Endowment Grant

To Be Eligible to Receive This Endowment Funding, you must complete and submit the following by February 6, 2026.

1. Complete and submit your [Local Accreditation](#), including the Susan Saint James Endowment Request
2. Complete your [Local Coordinator Survey](#)