

REPORT 2018 April Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Special Olympics Texas, Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 74-1998367	
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Website: http://www.sotx.org/about/areas/area20/calendar/		Fax: (512) 835-9873	

Head Of Organization

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Application Contact

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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2018 April Cycle	Report Date: 03/18/2019 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 15,000	Date: 04/10/2019
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

The funds requested were to support 100 San Antonio children with intellectual disabilities participating in Special Olympics Texas programs and services. SOTX was successful in this endeavor, providing numerous opportunities for youth to train with SOTX-certified coaches in order to partake in local and area competitions. Sports that athletes could participate in included aquatics, athletics (track and field), basketball, bocce, bowling, cycling, equestrian, flag football, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, roller skating, softball, soccer, tennis, table tennis, triathlon, and volleyball. In addition to providing opportunities for youth to remain physically active, the San Antonio Area program also offered over a dozen Athlete Leadership Program and families' meetings in order to support leadership and socialization skill-building.

The funds were also requested to expand SOTX programming in the San Antonio Area. In 2017, Special Olympics Texas had over 14,000 athletes participating in the San Antonio Area program, and while this Area program did not see any growth in terms of total athlete participation, the number of school-aged children involved in SOTX programs remained steady at about 5,000 for the Area. In addition, the number of youth athletes participating in the Young Athletes Program also remained steady. The San Antonio Area continued to provide local independent school district competitions for schools offering SOTX programming as well as Future Stars Days, which are events celebrating young athletes participating in the Young Athletes Program.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

Special Olympics Texas did not make any changes to the original proposal and thus made no modifications to the objectives for this project.

4: What needs were addressed?

Special Olympics Texas provides services and programs to individuals diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. As a community that is frequently discriminated against and excluded, children and adults with intellectual disabilities face isolation and loneliness. This can be compounded for youth with disabilities—they face internal and external obstacles when attempting to fit in academically and socially, as school can be an unforgiving atmosphere for many.

In addition, youth with disabilities generally tend to be more sedentary and have a higher risk for health problems. There is a crucial need for youth with disabilities to have access to a network that provides both social and health-related services, and Special Olympics Texas is able to do so at no cost to families. Through their time with SOTX, participating in trainings and competitions, athletes improve their self-confidence, self-esteem, and socialization skills, while also building their knowledge about exercise and wellness. Athletes are able to lower blood pressure and body fat percentages with continued participation.

Addressing these needs, and the right to social inclusion, is the ambitious goal that Special Olympics Texas has set out to achieve. Special Olympics utilizes sports as a tool to foster meaningful connections and bridge differences, creating a positive attitude change within communities. Through a broad range of programs, SOTX seeks to build and strengthen the network of health, education, and social support for individuals with disabilities, so that each person has the opportunity to share their unique talents with the world.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

Special Olympics Texas collects data on each Area office regarding the number of sports offered, the number of competitions and events held, the total number of participating athletes in the Area, the number of athletes in each individual SOTX program, and the number of coaches and volunteers participating in the Area. According to records, the San Antonio Area ended the 2018 year with 10,776 total athletes, with 4,926 youth participating in traditional training and competitions and 2,572 of those participated in the Young Athletes Program (ages 2-7). The Area also held over 30 local and Area competitions, include a Halandale ISD basketball competition, an Area cycling competition, a New Braunfels athletics competition, an Area flag football competition, and a triathlon competition, among others.

For each competition, athletes were required to train for a minimum of eight weeks in order to participate. During this time, athletes continued to learn about nutrition and the importance of improving and sustaining healthy habits. While participating in the San Antonio Area program, youth developed friendships and continued to be part of a supportive community that pushes the idea of inclusion forward. Altogether, athletes and their families reported improved health, self-confidence, family and social relationships, community involvement, and more advanced adaptive, language, and social skills.

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

Special Olympics Texas has provided services and programs to individuals with intellectual disabilities for 50 years and will continue doing so well into the future. By moving to a regional structure, SOTX will decrease costs, as competitions will be offered at the local level and regional collaboration will allow Area offices to share resources. In addition, SOTX plans to implement a 2020 annual campaign that will raise a per capita amount to pay for travel, hotels, and games experiences for teams across the state. SOTX will expand sponsorship opportunities for businesses--allowing for more personalization and customization--and increase the capacity of fundraising events. SOTX is already creating new and exciting events that will encourage more athlete and community involvement. SOTX will continue to seek support from foundations and foster relationships with partners and co-sponsors, such as H.E.B. Tournament of Champions, United Healthcare, and food Town. Cause-related and co-branding opportunities will also remain a focus, such as those we have with 7-Eleven, Coca Cola, Toyota, Texas Roadhouse Restaurants, Learfield, and Cavenders Western Wear retailers to name a few.

7: Please provide any other comments of information relevant to this grant.

The challenges posed by providing services to the entire state of Texas, which include many rural communities, gives Special Olympics Texas room to grow and provide services to more individuals. A new statewide SOTX initiative aims to strength local programs through improve mobility, frequency, and accessibility of local opportunities; develop year-round, equitable healthcare and health education access for individuals with intellectual disabilities; create local inclusive opportunities through partnerships with schools, universities, businesses, and community members; and increase capacity so that more people have the opportunity to participate. To accomplish these ambitious endeavors, Special Olympics Texas has devoted added manpower and resources to the state. This has resulted in an organizational shift from an Area model to a regional model., with regional staff available to help Area offices with recruiting, administration, and program development. One indicator of this effort is the promotion of several Area directors to the positions of Regional Executive Director. These localized efforts to strengthen leadership throughout the state allows for stronger local programs and regional collaboration that will ensure programs are accessible to participants in rural areas, where transportation can be a barrier to receiving services.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Area Competitions	\$25,000	\$7,500	\$18,429	\$7,500
Program Materials	\$7,000	\$2,500	\$18,961	\$2,500
Young Athlete's Program	\$500	\$200	\$4,167	\$200
Volunteer travel, meals, mileage, awards, meeting	\$700	\$0	\$1,238	\$1
Occupancy rent & warehouse	\$32,882	\$2,000	\$32,451	\$2,000
Equipment rental copier & postage	\$4,851	\$0	\$3,971	\$1
Insurance	\$477	\$0	\$414	\$1
Telephone (base/local, long dist., cell, internet)	\$7,413	\$800	\$3,408	\$800
Salaries & Benefits (4 full-time staff)	\$161,073	\$2,000	\$155,720	\$2,000

Staff travel (meals, rental, mileage, gas/oil)	\$3,875	\$0	\$7,367	\$1
Office supplies	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,339	\$1
Copier overage	\$80	\$0	\$48	\$1
Postage regular/shipping/express	\$600	\$0	\$314	\$1
Cost of fundraising	\$31,706	\$0	\$32,180	\$1
Athlete Leadership Program	\$100	\$0	\$176	\$1
Property Tax	\$100	\$0	\$142	\$1
Centralized Chapter Supported Services for Program	\$1,894,343	\$0	\$1,382,859	\$1
TOTAL:	\$2,171,700	\$15,000	\$1,663,184	\$15,011

Signature

Melissa Reed