

ENABLING SPORTS FUND

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This FAQ answers common questions about the Enabling Sports Fund (ESF) and is meant to help applicants better understand whether their project may be suitable. For full details on the grant requirements, funding support, application process and reporting requirements, please refer to the ESF Grant Application Guide before submitting your application.

A. About the Enabling Sports Fund

Who can apply for the Enabling Sports Fund?

The Enabling Sports Fund (ESF) is open to eligible individuals, organisations, informal groups, schools (including SPED schools and Institutes of Higher Learning), National Sports Associations, and other groups with suitable proposals that meets the objectives of the ESF.

For-profit entities, including social enterprises, may apply if they partner with a non-profit entity that serves primarily persons with disabilities, such as a Social Service Agency or an organisation with Institution of a Public Character status. Proposals from for-profit entities that primarily repackaged existing commercial activities will not be eligible for funding.

To check if one is eligible to apply for the ESF, you can use the ESF eligibility checker here: <https://go.gov.sg/esf-eligibility-checker>.

Which funding category should I apply for?

Applicants should apply under the category that best reflects their experience and profile. See table below for examples on which category to apply under.

Category	Who Should Apply	Examples
Category A	Applicants with experience in organising sports and fitness activities for the target group of persons with disabilities.	• A Social Service Agency that has been running weekly sport programmes for persons with disabilities. • A disability sport organisation that regularly organises sport programmes for persons with disabilities.

		• An organisation with an established track record of delivering inclusive or disability sport programmes.
Category B	Applicants with limited experience in running disability sports programmes or fitness activities for persons with disabilities, but have either: a) Run a sport programme or fitness activity before; or b) Experience serving the disability profile. Applicants should clearly explain their experience, proposed role, and how they will ensure safe and meaningful participation for persons with disabilities.	• A sport club that has experience running community sport programmes but is organising its first programme for persons with disabilities. • An organisation that serves persons with disabilities but has not previously organised sport programmes. • A community organisation looking to introduce a new disability sport initiative.
Category C	Private entities and social enterprises with a formalised partnership with organisations that primarily serve persons with disabilities (e.g. Social Service Agencies). Category C applicants should provide proof of the partnership as part of their application and clearly explain how the project benefits persons with disabilities through sport, fitness or physical activity. Proposals that primarily repackage existing commercial activities will not be eligible for funding.	• A private gym partnering with a Social Service Agency to deliver an adaptive fitness programme. • A social enterprise working with an organisation that serves persons with disabilities to organise an inclusive sport programme.

Can SPED schools and Institutes of Higher Learning apply?

SPED schools and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) may apply if the proposed project is aligned with ESF's objectives. However, the proposal should not be for regular or supplementary school programmes that are intended solely for students, as there are already sources of funding available for such programmes (e.g. Sports Education Programmes). Such programmes should continue to be funded by the school's usual sources of funding. Applicants will have to show strong reasons why the school or IHL is not able to fund the proposed programme.

Does the ESF support projects targeting persons with mental health conditions?

ESF will not support projects that are solely designed for persons with mental health conditions. The Disability Sports Master Plan (DSMP) 2024 aligns with Enabling Masterplan 2030, and defines persons with disabilities as individuals whose prospects of securing, retaining places and advancing in education and training institutions, employment and recreation are substantially reduced as a result of **physical, sensory, or intellectual disabilities**, as well as **autism**.

For mental health programme support, applicants may wish to approach other relevant agencies or funders.

Does ESF support senior-focused programmes?

ESF does not support senior-focused programmes that are primarily for active ageing, frailty management or general wellness.

For initiatives targeting seniors, applicants may wish to explore working with the Agency for Integrated Care which supports active ageing efforts.

B. Project Scope

Do proposals need to involve persons with disabilities as direct participants?

Yes, the objective of the ESF is to provide more sporting opportunities for persons with disabilities. Proposals should involve persons with disabilities as direct participants and aim to increase their access to and participation in sport, fitness or physical activity. A mandatory

criterion is for proposals to clearly articulate how it will reach or be expanded to new groups of persons with disabilities through the programme.

Proposals that promote inclusive sport, where persons with and without disabilities participate together meaningfully, are also encouraged.

Does ESF support an existing programme?

ESF may support existing programmes if the proposal can demonstrate how ESF's support will meaningfully expand the initiative's reach to more persons with disabilities. This could mean improving accessibility to disability sports programmes, strengthening inclusive participation, building new partnerships, improving outcomes, or scaling the initiative to more locations or communities.

ESF does not support existing programmes on a business-as-usual basis or fund costs that would have been incurred regardless of ESF support.

What does the new or expanded reach requirement refer to?

ESF supports both new and existing (i.e. programmes that are currently ongoing but looking to expand) local community-initiated disability sport initiatives. Applicants should demonstrate how the proposal will reach or will be expanded to new groups of persons with disabilities (e.g. through an increase in access, participation, capability or impact, such as serving more persons with disabilities, reaching a new beneficiary group, or adding a stronger delivery model).

Are non-sport programmes eligible?

No. ESF only supports disability sport initiatives where projects have a clear link to sport, fitness, physical activity or disability sport participation.

Non-sport programmes, such as general enrichment activities or heritage tours, will not be considered.

Does ESF support recreational sports that includes competitions? What about high-performance sports?

ESF may support recreational sport projects, including those that incorporate competitions, where they promote community participation and are aligned with ESF's objectives.

Projects that focus solely on high-performance sport would generally not be supported, as there are already other sources of funding available including from the Government in support of Team Singapore and high-performance disability sports.

Does ESF support adaptive fitness or strength and conditioning programmes?

Adaptive fitness or strength and conditioning programmes may be considered if they support participation by persons with disabilities and are aligned with ESF's objectives.

Applicants should explain how the programme increases access, participation, inclusion or disability sport development.

Is there an approved list of sports?

There is no fixed list of approved sports. ESF may consider a range of sports, fitness and physical activities that enable persons with disabilities to be physically active and participate meaningfully.

Does ESF support technology or digital solutions?

Technology or digital solutions may be considered if they are clearly linked to improving access to disability sport or inclusive sport.

Applicants should explain how the technology can benefit the disability sport ecosystem beyond the immediate project; whether the idea can be replicated, adapted or scaled to benefit more persons with disabilities over time; and whether there is a credible implementation plan.

Proposals should also clearly demonstrate the problem or gap being addressed, why the proposed approach is suitable, and how the impact will be measured.

Can activities be conducted overseas?

No, ESF only supports initiatives conducted locally in Singapore.

Overseas travel and associated costs, including overseas trips to study or procure items, will not be supported.

Can programmes have different difficulty levels for participants with different abilities?

Applicants may design disability sport programmes with different difficulty levels to cater to participants with varying abilities. This is encouraged where it improves accessibility, safety, participation and meaningful engagement.
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C. Funding and Costs

Can ESF support the purchase or rental of equipment?

ESF may support the purchase and/or rental of sport or adaptive sport equipment if the equipment is necessary for the proposed project.

Applicants should explain how the equipment will be used, who will benefit from it, and how it supports sport participation for persons with disabilities. Where relevant, applicants should also explain what will happen to the purchased equipment after the project.
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Can ESF support venue and transport costs?

Venue and transport costs may be considered if they are necessary for the delivery of the proposed project.

For transport, applicants should explain why the support is needed for persons with disabilities and, where relevant, caregivers to participate in the project. Applicants should also justify the type of transport used.
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Can funding be used to train coaches?
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Coaching and training fees may be considered if they are directly tied to the delivery of the proposed disability sport programme.
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For proposals mainly focused on coach training, applicants should provide stronger justification, including how the trained coaches will be deployed to support disability sport programmes.
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What are other programme-related expenses?

These are necessary and reasonable expenses that directly support project delivery, but do not fall under the standard categories such as coaching, equipment or venue costs.

Such expenses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

What costs are not supported?

ESF does not support costs that are not directly related to the project.

Examples include start-up costs, general operating costs, general capital expenditure (e.g. office equipment), manpower costs not directly tied to programme delivery, expenses related to fundraising or crowdfunding events, religious or political activities, and costs already funded by another source for the same project component.

Cash prizes, vouchers, honorariums, overseas travel and associated costs are also not supported.

Can applicants charge registration fees?

Applicants are strongly encouraged not to charge registration fees, especially if this may affect programme outreach.

If applicants choose to charge fees, these should be nominal or token amounts, and should be clearly justified. Registration fees will be considered income and will be offset from the qualifying costs.

What happens if the programme receives sponsorship, donations or other income?

Applicants must declare all other sources of funding or income, including registration fees, cash or in-kind sponsorships, grants and donations.

There should be no double funding for the same project component. Income generated from the project will be deducted from the final qualifying costs.

D. Application Process**Can applicants submit more than one proposal?**

Yes. There is no limit to the number of proposals that an applicant may submit.

Each proposal should be clearly scoped and submitted with the relevant project details, budget, outputs and outcomes.

When does the application open?

Applications open annually in August.

Applicants should check the OurSG Grants Portal and ESF website for the latest application details and deadline.

Can applicants seek feedback before submitting their application?

Yes. Applicants may seek input and feedback on their proposal before final submission by emailing EnablingSportsFund@sport.gov.sg.

Any feedback provided is advisory and does not constitute endorsement of the proposal or guarantee of funding support.

To ensure fairness and transparency, consultation or amendment requests will not be entertained after the final submission deadline.

What are my chances of getting funded?

Funding is awarded based on the merit of the proposal and subject to evaluation and approval.

Applicants should ensure that their proposal is clear, complete, aligned with ESF's objectives, and shows how the project will benefit persons with disabilities through sport, fitness or physical activity.

What information should applicants prioritise in their application?

Applicants should focus on clearly explaining the project's purpose, the gap it addresses, and how the proposed activities will help address this gap. They should also describe the project's key area of focus, its expected reach, the role of key partners and/or volunteers, and how it will be sustained after the ESF funding period.

Who can applicants contact for enquiries?

For enquiries on the Enabling Sports Fund, applicants may contact:

EnablingSportsFund@sport.gov.sg