



The Rosemary Collaboratory Initiative

Global effort to improve the health and well-being of people with intellectual & developmental disabilities

The Rosemary Collaboratory is a global initiative aimed at enhancing policies, systems, and environments to improve the health and well-being of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) is proud to be selected as one of eleven Rosemary Collaboratory sites, marking a significant expansion of our mission to change systems in addition to delivering programs and supporting our athletes.

Over the coming years, SOWI's team will focus its efforts on three long-term objectives:

- 1) Enhance **training** for health care providers in how to care for people with IDD.
- 2) Increase **access** to healthcare for people with IDD who are insured by Medicaid.
- 3) Improve **system navigation** for people with IDD.

Changing systems is a team sport. SOWI looks forward to partnering with self-advocates, organizations, and policymakers across our state to amplify existing work and build momentum toward change. We appreciate all those who have been leading this work and are grateful for the opportunity to meaningfully add SOWI's platform, resources, and voice to our shared mission.

About the Rosemary Collaboratory

[Rosemary Kennedy](#) inspired [Eunice Kennedy Shriver](#) to establish Special Olympics, and the organization is proud to further honor her memory with the Rosemary Collaboratory. This initiative seeks to accelerate efforts to address inequalities that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) face in health systems worldwide—issues Rosemary Kennedy experienced 60 years ago that still exist today.

The Rosemary Collaboratory comprises eleven teams representing eight countries and three U.S. states—Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin will join India, Ireland, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, South Africa, and Taiwan as host sites in 2025. With funding support from the Golisano Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control, these teams are working to foster the collaboration and action needed to strengthen health systems and make health equity a reality for people with IDD. Read more about the project and sign up for future updates on the [Special Olympics Wisconsin website](#).

About Special Olympics Wisconsin

Special Olympics Wisconsin has empowered people with intellectual disabilities for more than 50 years, providing year-round sports training and competition, health and wellness programs, school-based inclusion initiatives, and leadership development. Learn more about how together we can create a more inclusive Wisconsin at [SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org](#).

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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.