

2012 Olympic Opportunity Fund applications now being accepted

\$1.6mm in grant funding available to sports organizations serving disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, is currently accepting proposals for the 2012 Olympic Opportunity Fund. The program will provide \$1.6 million in grants to community-based organizations to create and expand Paralympic sport and physical activity programs for disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.

Through this program from funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the USOC and partner organizations will collaborate to increase the number and quality of opportunities for physically or visually impaired veterans to participate in physical activity within their home communities and in more advanced Paralympic sport programs at the regional and national levels.

“We’re pleased to roll out the Olympic Opportunity Fund again this year, thanks to our partner, Veterans Affairs,” said Scott Blackmun, chief executive officer of the USOC. “Veterans Affairs and the USOC are working together toward the common goal of advancing sport and recreation opportunities for veterans and service members with a disability, and this funding will have a profound effect on programs across the country.”

“This grant funding is an integral key to the rehabilitation and health of our disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces,” said Chris Nowak, director, VA National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events. “Organizations providing adaptive sport opportunities and programs for veterans can stretch their resources further and serve more veterans. We are pleased to partner with the USOC to offer this funding.”

The USOC will award community-based programs with grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000 (up to \$1.6 million total). Organizations eligible to apply for the Olympic Opportunity Fund include Paralympic Sport Clubs, USOC member organizations, military and veteran organizations, universities and other community-based organizations that provide Paralympic sports programming or opportunities to disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.

The request for application (RFA) documents can be found online at <http://bit.ly/H94bBf> as well as details about two online training sessions (April 12 & 19) intended to help interested parties with the application process. All completed applications are due by May 11, 2012.

For more information on the OOF, please contact Tim Willis, Manager Paralympic Grants, USOC, at 719-866-4536 or tim.willis@usoc.org.