



# 2026 GRANT DISTRIBUTION

POWER IN MOTION

*Pictured left: Oksana Masters,  
24x Paralympic medalist and CAF grant recipient*



# POWER IN MOTION

Movement is more than action; it is momentum, purpose, and possibility coming to life. Through sport, athletes discover strength they didn't know they had, independence they once thought impossible, and a community that moves forward together.

For more than three decades, the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) has helped athletes with physical disabilities pursue that momentum. What begins with access to equipment or training often becomes something much bigger: confidence, leadership, and the drive to redefine what is possible.

In 2026, CAF's Grant Program distributed **4,033 grants totaling \$7M**, empowering athletes across the country and around the world to train, compete, and pursue their goals. Every grant represents forward motion — proof that when opportunity and determination come together, powerful things happen.

Together, we are putting **Power in Motion**.

**4,033**  
Athlete Grants



**\$7M**  
In Support



## 2026 GRANT DISTRIBUTION FACTS + FIGURES

**50** States + Puerto Rico

**36** Countries

**4,033**  
Athlete Grants

Age Range Supported



**04** to **86**

**24%**

First-Time Grant Recipients

**\$7M**  
in Support

## ANNUAL GRANT OVERVIEW BY THE NUMBERS

**TOP 5 SPORTS**

**#1**  
Wheelchair Basketball

**#2**  
Sled Hockey

**#3**  
Track & Field

**#4**  
Cycling

**#5**  
Beep Baseball

### INCOME OVERVIEW

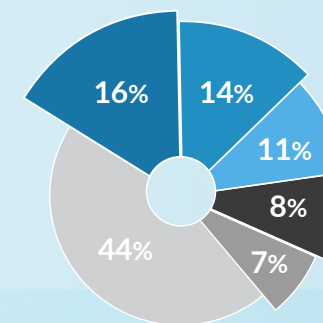


**38%**  
household incomes earned under \$20,000/year

**23%**

household incomes earned between \$20,000 - \$50,000/year

### SUPPORT BY DISABILITY



- Amputation/ Limb Difference
- Spina Bifida
- Cerebral Palsy
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Paraplegia
- Other



### SERVING VETERANS + FIRST RESPONDERS

**739** Grants Distributed

**\$812K** in Funding Support

**96%**  
Military

**4%**  
First Responders



**36**  
Purple Heart Recipients

### TOP 3 SPORTS

**#1**  
Fitness Training

**#2**  
Cycling

**#3**  
Alpine Skiing



*More than two-thirds of 2026 Winter Paralympians were supported by a CAF grant during their journey.*

# SPORT IS THE SPARK. MOVEMENT IS THE POWER.

For the next generation, sport is where confidence begins and possibility grows. Every opportunity to move builds strength, connection, and a sense of what's possible.



**ABOUBACAR // 11**  
BRONX, NY

**SPORT:** Basketball  
**GRANT:** Per4Max Thunder Basketball Chair  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Bilateral Above-Knee Amputation

Basketball gives Aboubacar the opportunity to stay active, compete, and be part of a team. As a young athlete in the Bronx, he is excited to continue developing his skills and spend time on the court. With his CAF Grant for a Per4Max Thunder basketball chair, Aboubacar will have the equipment he needs to play the sport he enjoys and continue growing as an athlete.



**ELSIE // 5**  
BRIGHAM CITY, UT

**SPORT:** Dance  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Spina Bifida

Elsie loves staying active and participating in sports alongside her peers. Because adaptive teams are not available where she lives, she joins local activities with the support of coaches and teammates who help ensure she can participate in her own way. Through these experiences, Elsie is building confidence, friendships, and a strong sense of belonging while exploring the sports she enjoys. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, Elsie will be able to continue participating in activities like dance while developing her physical, social, and emotional well-being.

**SPORT:** Goalball  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Visual Impairment

Achilleus found connection and confidence through goalball, building friendships and a strong sense of belonging within the visually impaired community. After trying multiple adaptive sports through school, joining a local goalball team gave him a consistent place to grow and set real goals. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, Achilleus will be able to compete against teams from across the country, helping him measure his progress and continue building his future in the sport.



**RYLAN // 11**  
STUARTS DRAFT, VA

**SPORT:** Baseball  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Single Below-Knee Amputation

Rylan loves baseball and has continued playing the game through his local recreation league after a lawn mower accident led to a below-knee amputation. While his family is still learning about opportunities within the adaptive sports community, Rylan is eager to explore new ways to grow in the sport he enjoys most. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, Rylan will have the opportunity to attend adaptive baseball camps, receive coaching, and connect with other athletes learning to compete with limb differences.



**ACHILLEUS // 14**  
SAN DIEGO, CA



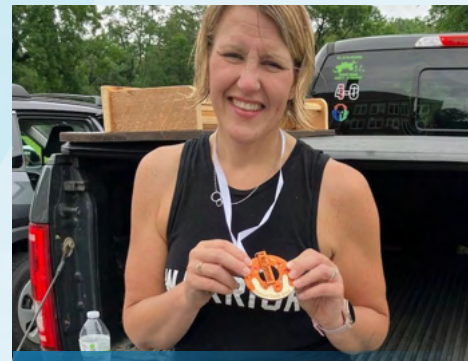
**JACOBE // 39**  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

**SPORT:** Running  
**GRANT:** Össur Flex Run with Nike Sole  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Below-Knee Amputation

Jacobe's life changed after a near-fatal motorcycle accident resulted in a below-knee amputation, but his commitment to staying active has remained constant. A husband and father of three, Jacobe continues to prioritize movement as part of his everyday life—from weightlifting to traveling and staying engaged in sport. With his grant for an Össur Grant for a Flex Run with Nike Sole, he will be able to return to running and rebuild strength, endurance, and confidence as he continues moving forward.

**SPORT:** Spartan Racing  
**GRANT:** GRIT Spartan Chair  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Multiple Sclerosis

Amy lives with Multiple Sclerosis and has stayed fiercely active through Spartan and DEKA competitions. For Amy, sport is more than fitness. It is confidence, identity, and a way to keep pushing forward. With support from a CAF Grant for a GRIT Spartan Chair, Amy will be able to conserve energy during races and focus on the obstacles that define the sport. The equipment will help remove barriers so she can compete in longer Spartan events and continue working toward goals like earning multiple Spartan Trifectas closer to home.



**AMY // 48**  
CHESTER, VT

**SERVICE BRANCH:** U.S. Army  
**SPORT:** Surfing  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Multiple Sclerosis

Ned discovered adaptive surfing while spending time in San Diego for medical treatment. Through the CAF-San Diego VA Surf Clinic, he found a powerful outlet for connection, confidence, and competition in the ocean. Surfing quickly became an important part of Ned's recovery and athletic journey. With support from a CAF Operation Rebound Grant for sports expenses, Ned competed in the Hawaii Adaptive Surf Championships and continues working toward new goals in the sport.



**EDWARD "NED" // 60**  
DERRY, NH

# EMPOWERMENT. INCLUSION. POWER IN *MOTION*.

Access to sport removes barriers, creating opportunities for independence, health, and community.



**HAILEY // 13** TWIN FALLS, ID

**SPORT:** Alpine Skiing  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Cerebral Palsy

Hailey discovered adaptive downhill skiing for the first time this winter and quickly found a sense of freedom on the mountain. Using a borrowed bi-ski during her first experience, she gained confidence, independence, and a new excitement for sport. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, Hailey will be able to continue building her skills through lessons and time on the mountain while exploring the equipment that works best for her. This opportunity helps ensure her first experience with adaptive skiing is only the beginning.



**MARÍA // 22**  
MONTEBELLO, CA

**SPORT:** Wheelchair Basketball  
**GRANT:** Top End Pro Basketball Chair  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Paraplegia

María describes sport as the turning point that helped her rebuild confidence after a car accident resulted in paraplegia. Through wheelchair basketball, she discovered strength, purpose, and a renewed belief in what she is capable of achieving. María has competed in the NWBA for the past three years and recently represented her team internationally at the 2025 Parapan American Games in Chile. With support from a CAF Grant for a Top End Pro Basketball Chair, she will have the properly fitted equipment needed to perform at her best and continue growing in the sport.



**ROBERT // 45**  
PLYMOUTH, MA

**SPORT:** Triathlon  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Spinal Cord Injury

Robert turned a spinal cord injury in 2019 into a renewed pursuit of endurance sport. Beginning with push-rim racing, he qualified for the Boston Marathon before shifting his focus to triathlon and IRONMAN® competition. Robert has steadily built toward the IRONMAN® World Championships while balancing life as a father of three and a youth sports coach. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, Robert will continue training and racing as he works toward qualifying again for the IRONMAN® World Championships and demonstrating perseverance to the athletes he coaches and his own children.



**ANDREW // 60**  
MENIFEE, CA

**SPORT:** Surfing  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Quadriplegia

Andrew's life changed instantly after a spinal cord injury resulted in C6-7 quadriplegia and separated him from the movement and competition that once grounded him. Through adaptive surfing, Andrew rediscovered a sense of freedom in the ocean and a community that helped him reconnect with sport. Now surfing multiple times each week and ranked among the top adaptive surfers in the world, Andrew continues to compete and mentor others. With a CAF Grant to support sports expenses, he will travel to competitions and keep building toward goals like competing in Hawai'i.

## WHERE **POWER** MEETS PURPOSE

Building momentum—training, competing, and pushing toward what's next. With the right support, performance continues to grow and expand what's possible.

# WE **MOVE** DIFFERENTLY, BUT TOGETHER WE **MOVE** THE WORLD.

Through elite competition, these athletes expand what's possible and help shift perceptions of disability worldwide.



**JOSHUA // 45**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

**SPORT:** Rock Climbing  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Cerebral Palsy

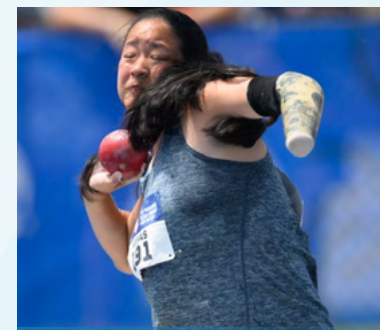
Joshua is an active member of the Bay Area adaptive sports community, with rock climbing at the center of his training and competition. Over the past several years he has earned multiple top-three finishes at Para-Climbing Nationals, continuing to push himself against the best athletes in the sport. Joshua's focus now is competing at the international level and representing what elite adaptive performance can look like. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, he will be able to travel to major competitions in Europe and continue advancing toward the highest levels of para-climbing.



**KATIE // 27**  
NEWMARKET, NH

**SPORT:** Sled Hockey  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Single Above-Knee Amputation

Katie began adaptive sports shortly after her leg was amputated at age 13, exploring multiple disciplines before focusing on sled hockey. Today she competes internationally as a member of the U.S. Women's National Sled Hockey Team and was part of the gold medal-winning squad at the inaugural Women's Para Ice Hockey World Championships. Off the ice, Katie works as a recreational therapist, helping introduce others to adaptive sport and its benefits. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, Katie will continue strengthening her training as she prepares for international competition with Team USA.



**DANIELLE // 20**  
LUTZ, FL

**SPORT:** Track & Field  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Single Below-Elbow Amputation

Danielle has been involved in adaptive sports since childhood, eventually focusing her talents on track and field throwing events. Over the past decade she has competed at national and international levels, earning medals at IWAS competitions and representing Team USA at the 2023 ParaPan American Games. Now a junior studying mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama and training with its Adapted Athletics program, Danielle continues pursuing new milestones in sport. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses and an EoS Fitness Grant for a gym membership, she will have the resources to train consistently, purchase competition-approved equipment, and travel to major meets as she works toward goals like LA28.



**OLIVIA // 22 CEDAR FALLS, IA**

**SPORT:** Swimming  
**GRANT:** Sports Expenses  
**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Visual Impairment

Olivia is a world-class para swimmer who has quickly risen to the top level of international competition. After joining the para swimming circuit just a few years ago, she earned multiple medals at the World Para Swimming Championships and went on to win gold and two silvers at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. Olivia continues to train and compete as a member of the U.S. Para Swimming National A Team. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, she will travel to qualifying meets needed to maintain her place among the world's best athletes.

# MOMENTUM THAT MATTERS.

**KYLER // 23**  
JAMUL, CA

**SPORT:** Sitting + Beach Volleyball

**GRANT:** Sports Expenses

**PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** Single Below-Knee Amputation

Kyler is a competitive volleyball athlete who has trained with Team USA coaches and competed internationally. After a below-knee amputation, he continued pursuing high-level competition and became a resident trainee with the U.S. Sitting Team. Kyler recently helped Team USA earn its first-ever medal in para-volleyball at the Ability World Championships in Turkey, laying the foundation for future international success. With support from a CAF Grant for sports expenses, Kyler will continue traveling to competitions and training opportunities as he works to build momentum and elevate U.S. para-volleyball.



*Pictured above: Kyler, age 11, with his first CAF grant, an Össur running prosthetic.*



## MORE ABOUT CAF'S GRANT PROGRAM

### ATHLETES START YOUR JOURNEY

CAF supports athletes of all ages across 105 different sports and fitness activities, from recreation to elite competition. The Grant Program is comprised of six different support opportunities offered throughout the year.

**ANNUAL GRANTS** // Our largest grant category, supporting athletes with equipment and sports expenses. Applications are accepted September–November, with grants distributed the following March.

**ÖSSUR** // Grants for Össur sports prostheses that help athletes return to running and high-impact sports. Available year-round.

**OPERATION REBOUND** // Grants supporting military veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders pursuing sport and fitness. Available year-round.

**EÖS FITNESS** // Grants providing complimentary gym memberships to support year-round training and fitness. Available year-round.

**IDAHO GRANTS** // Grants supporting athletes living in Idaho, funded by the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation. Available year-round.

**DISCRETIONARY** // Grants designed to address urgent or unexpected athlete needs outside the annual grant cycle.

LEARN MORE: [CHALLENGEDATHLETES.ORG/GRANTS](https://challengedathletes.org/grants)

DONORS  GIVE TODAY



Pictured on front:

**Chase,**  
*CAF-Northeast athlete  
and CAF grant recipient*

## THANK YOU TO OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS + CAF ENDOWMENTS



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