



Dublin City Community Cooperative, Register Number 5628 R, Registered Charity Number (RCN) 20107079, Unit 1
Killarney Court, Buckingham Street, Dublin 1

Community Connector Programme (CCP)

Community Connector Role

The Community Connection Programme (CCP) will use a community development and inclusion approach to address concerns of communities and assist them in developing constructive responses to arrivals of International Protection Applicants in their local area.

The Community Connector will engage and work with local communities across Dublin's north and south inner-city over an 18-month period, helping build community resilience against misinformation and prejudice by working with the local community before, during and after the arrival of International Protection Applicants (IPAs) and where IPA Centres are already in use.

The Community Connector will work with local communities, in accordance with community development practice, to learn about the facts and realities of the International Protection System and the challenges faced by people seeking asylum, in the context of communities with their own pressing needs and challenges. The Community Connector will be a support to local communities in identifying, articulating and addressing their needs and concerns.

Overall Purpose

The focus of the work will be to directly engage with local communities to understand and tackle challenges and concerns in the context of migrant integration locally. Distinct from other roles operating in this space, the Community Connector will engage with residents already living in the local community as their primary focus, rather than providing services and supports directly to International Protection Applicants. The Community Connector will do this by utilising a community development approach to strengthening the capacity of the community to work together and with key voluntary and statutory organisations and structures, with a focus on establishing facts, counteracting misinformation, and working to develop inclusive responses to migrant integration. The Community Connector will support local communities to advocate with relevant authorities, statutory agencies and elected representatives. In addition, the Community Connector will support communities to mobilise around addressing the specific needs of their respective localities.

A key duty of the Community Connector under the CCP will be to liaise closely with the relevant structures of the State overseeing migration and integration such as the Community Engagement

Team of the Department overseeing migration and integration, along with other key stakeholders, including the Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITS) where appointed and Community Integration Forums where they are operational. Furthermore, the Community Connector will liaise closely with the CCP Coordinator who is hosted by the Local Development Companies Network (of which the Co-op is a member organisation).

The Community Connector will report directly to the Co-op's Programme, Monitoring & Development Coordinator.

Core Responsibilities

- Operate to community development principles in supporting local communities
- Establish and run a system to maintain regular communication channels with the local community
- Support the development of leadership capacity in the community if and where required
- Help establish, develop and/or grow relationships between local communities and International Protection Applicants, with the support of other relevant stakeholders in the area.
- To work with relevant community structures and leaders to ensure differing voices and views are heard, listened to and engaged with.
- Facilitate a collaborative approach and develop a coordinated response with local communities and other stakeholders including –
 - mapping out needs and services of targeted areas with associated resources
 - advocating for supports and structures to be in place to address any weaknesses and strengthen the capacity of the local community to engage meaningfully on issues of concern they have and to engage appropriately with migrant integration efforts.
- To ensure that work plans are inclusive of all communities living in targeted areas and oversee work plan implementation, develop progress reports and flag challenges, delays and possible risk factors as they emerge
- To prepare 6-monthly and annual narrative reports and financial reports (in collaboration with the Co-op's Finance Officer) for onward submission to the Department.
- To collaborate with other Community Connectors and the CCP at a national level in the researching, developing and expanding of good practice, contributing to the overall development of community integration work across Ireland and in empowering communities to develop positive responses to migrant integration challenges.

Experience Required

- At least 5 years' experience of engaging with communities at a local 'on-the-ground' grassroots level
- Experience of delivering community development approaches, local needs analysis, empowerment through participation, planning and addressing social exclusion issues
- Experience fostering dialogue, critical thinking, and collective action
- Experience teaching, supporting and engaging in collaborative problem-solving and critical reflection.

- Extensive knowledge, understanding and experience of Theatre of the Oppressed and related methodologies. This is a pre-requisite for the role and should be elaborated on in the applicant's Cover Letter.
- Understanding and experience of working with statutory and local /community development infrastructure and knowledge of the national/local policy context that they work in.
- Significant understanding and experience of using social media including TikTok to tell stories, communicate and interact with targeted cohorts of people.
- Experience in project management and delivering projects with a defined timeline and work plan
- Experience of designing and delivery of capacity building supports within the community sector
- Experience of mediation, conflict resolution and negotiation in complex situations
- Be able to demonstrate leadership skills
- Have excellent communication, facilitation and report writing skills.
- Must be fluent English speaker and writer
- Demonstrable evidence of a commitment to social & economic justice and community empowerment
- Proficient in MS packages e.g., Word, Excel, Outlook, programme databases, SharePoint portals

Qualifications

In addition to the above:

- Have achieved Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications or equivalent relevant training or professional experience, in a discipline appropriate to the role.
- A minimum of 5 years direct experience working with marginalised individuals and/or communities impacted by poverty, exclusion and disadvantage.
- The position is being offered on a full-time basis 35 hours per week for an initial 18-month period and will be subject to continued government funding.
- The salary for this position will be discussed at interview stage. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
- If you are interested in applying for this position please e-mail your CV (max 4 pages) and cover letter marked **Community Connector** to info@dublincitycommunitycoop.ie
- Closing date for receipt of applications is 14th February 2025

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