**Galway City Partnership: Community Link Worker (Fixed Term Contract)**



Community Link Worker
(Fixed Term Contract – 18 months)

Job Description

Overview

Galway City Partnership CLG is the Local Development Company for Galway City.

The Community Connection Project is a new project that will be hosted by Galway City Partnership and is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Community Connection Project (CCP) will use a community development and inclusion approach to address concerns of communities and assist them in developing constructive responses to the numbers of International Protection Applicants in their local area. The Community Link will help 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 IPAs Centres are already in use.

Role

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 Link Workers will engage with residents already living in the local community as their primary focus, rather than providing services and supports directly to IP Applicants.

Key Responsibilities

The core responsibilities of the Community Link Worker will be to:

* Operate to community development principles in supporting their community.
* Engage regularly with all relevant local voluntary and statutory organisations.
* Engage when required with the CCP Co-Ordinator and/or the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth’s (DCEDIY) Community Engagement Team to ensure work is complementing national Community Engagement efforts.
* Engage regularly with the Integration Forum and the Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) active in the locality to identify barriers to integration, knowledge gaps, service provision gaps etc.
* Establish and run a system to maintain regular communication channels with the local community, conveying information as it becomes available on the arrival of new community members, counteracting misinformation on immigration.
* Help develop leadership capacity in the community.
* Help establish, develop and/or grow relationships between the community and International Protection Applicants, with the support of other relevant stakeholders in the area.
* To work with relevant community structures and leaders in scoping out the strengths and weaknesses in the capacity of local community representative infrastructure.
* Facilitate a collaborative approach and develop a coordinated response with the community and other stakeholders in developing a clear annual plan including mapping out needs and services of the targeted area with associated resources to put required supports and structures in place to address any weaknesses and strengthen the capacity of the local community to engage meaningfully with migrant integration efforts.
* To ensure that the work plan is inclusive of all communities living in the targeted area and oversee work plan implementation, develop progress reports and flag challenges, delays and possible risk factors as they emerge.
* Share best practice with the CCP Co-Ordinator within the Local Development Company Network Formally Irish Local Development Network and engage with the Co-Ordinator where appropriate on developing situations, persistent barriers to implementation that may require Departmental input and share information with the Department on any initiatives that may be adapted for use in other localities.
* To provide reports and briefings to the LDCN Co-Ordinator for collation and onward submission to the Department.
* To collaborate with other Community Link Workers 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.

Person Specification

Required:

* At least 3 years’ experience of engaging with disadvantaged at a community/local level.
* Experience of delivering community development approaches, local needs analysis, planning
* Experience of communicating complex and frequently developing information in a succinct, easy to understand form.
* Strong communication and organisational skills, capable of liaising with a wide variety of stakeholders and conveying detailed information to relevant parties in a timely manner.
* Understanding and experience of working with statutory and local /community development infrastructure and knowledge of the national/local policy context that they work in.
* Be able to demonstrate leadership skills.
* Have excellent communication, facilitation and report writing skills.
* Proficient in Microsoft Office e.g. Word, Excel, Outlook, SharePoint.
* A full Clean Drivers licence with access to own transport.

Desirable:

* A relevant 3rd level qualification or equivalent in Community development, Political Science & Sociology, Education, Law, Human Rights or Health.
* Experience of mediating disputes, working with all parties to develop a mutually agreeable approach to resolving conflict.
* Experience in project management and delivering projects with a defined timeline and work plan.

Terms & Conditions of Employment

* The contract is for a full-time position (35 hours per week) for a fixed term of 18 months, subject to the continuation of funding, a six-month probationary period will apply.
* Annual leave entitlement is 27.5 days in year 1.
* The working hours may require some flexibility from time to time.
* The Community Link Worker will report to the CEO or other Senior Staff Member.
* Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience
* This role will be based in 3, The Plaza Offices, Headford Rd., Galway or other GCP locations in the city.
* At present this role will focus on Galway City, however, there may be a requirement within the term of the contract to work in the County as well as City.
* Travel and subsistence will be paid at public sector rates.
* A probation period of six months will apply.
* The successful candidate will be required to be Garda vetted and provide satisfactory references.

How to Apply

Selection will involve shortlisting of applicants for interview based on the criteria for this position as outlined in this job description and person specification. Please submit your Curriculum Vitae and Cover Letter by email to **recruitment@gcp.ie****by the 19th of February 2025.**