



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Community Engagement Worker (Ballinasloe)

The Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) uses a community development approach to address social exclusion and the impacts of poverty in specific geographic areas. The approach is driven by Community Engagement Workers.

The Ballinasloe Community Engagement Worker will strengthen, develop, and facilitate relationships between the existing community stakeholders and between community groups and statutory agencies and structures with the aim of addressing exclusion and lack of meaningful and effective engagement with community and local services.

The Community Engagement Worker is responsible for ensuring that the core work of ECP is informed by and driven by the community. To facilitate effectiveness and efficiency in this role, the Community Engagement Worker position will be based, in so far as is possible, in the Ballinasloe community and employed by Galway Rural Development.

Overall Purpose

The focus of the work will be to directly address social exclusion and the negative impacts of poverty and marginalisation within the communities. The Community Engagement Worker will do this by utilising a community development approach to strengthen the capacity of the community, and will work together with key voluntary and statutory organisations and structures.

Core Responsibilities

- Engage regularly with all relevant local voluntary and statutory organisations,
- Run a system to regularly consult with the local community,
- Development of leadership capacity in the community together with the team leader,
- Help develop and grow relationships between the community and the relevant local and statutory organisations,
- 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 work plan –
 - 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 existing community structures and the ECP.
- 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,
- Report directly to team leader and provide briefings to local and national programme structures in a timely manner and as required,
- To collaborate with other Community Engagement Workers and ECP at a national level.

Experience Required

- At least 3 years' experience of engaging with disadvantaged at a community/local level,
- Experience of delivering community development approaches, planning and addressing social exclusion issues,
- Understanding and experience of working with statutory and local /community development infrastructure and knowledge of the national/local policy context that they work in,
- Experience in delivering projects with a defined timeline and work plan,
- Experience of designing and delivery of capacity building supports within the community sector,
- Have excellent communication, facilitation and report writing skills,
- Proficient in MS packages e.g., Word, Excel, Outlook, programme databases.
- Have a good understanding of the Ballinasloe municipal district and be able to utilise data and information from resources such as CSO.

Qualifications

- Relevant Third Level qualification (e.g. diploma, degree) or equivalent in Community Development is desirable.

Additional

This is a fixed twelve-month contract with extensions subject to funding.

Must be a car owner with a clean driving licence.

The candidate must be flexible and willing to work hours suited to the community sector.

GRD is an equal opportunities employer.

Canvassing will disqualify.

Email CV with a cover letter to James Applegate, Empowering Communities Network Team Leader, at japplegate@grd.ie.

Closing date for applications is 12.00pm Friday, 24th May 2024.