



COLLECTIVE ACTION IN AN ERA OF SOCIAL DISTANCING: COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO COVID-19

Community Work Ireland invites you to participate in a Peer-Led Capacity Building Programme to reflect on and strengthen community work practice

Background

The Collective Action in an Era of Social Distancing initiative has been developed in response to the changed context, created by the COVID-19 pandemic, for community work and community work approaches in marginalised communities. The project aims to stimulate a rethink about community work practice to match the demands of this context and its aftermath, and to deepen a capacity to take up and achieve gains from new approaches. Values Lab were commissioned by Community Work Ireland to support the project.

Values Lab facilitated two listening circles of community work practitioners to explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the objectives and practice of community work, the opportunities and challenges this crisis poses, and the future perspectives for and demands on community work practice in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. These discussions shaped the parameters for a rethink of community work practice and have informed the development of this peer-led capacity building programme.

The crisis has shown that things can change. It has demonstrated how things that were deemed impossible have suddenly become possible. (Listening Circle participant)

Purpose

The Programme consists of three two-hour workshops and is framed by the All Ireland Standards for Community Work that defines community work as: "A developmental activity comprised of both a task and a process. The task is social change to achieve equality, social justice and human rights, and the process is the application of principles of participation, empowerment and collective decision making in a structured and co-ordinated way".

The Programme will enable participants to:

- reflect on and learn from the challenges and opportunities in the current context of COVID-19 and its aftermath for community work practice; and
- deepen knowledge and skills to pursue new approaches within community work practice that respond to these challenges and build on these opportunities.

In a crisis such as this, public discourse shifts with a focus on solidarity, advocacy breakthroughs can be achieved, and new work processes emerge that have new potential. (Listening Circle participant)

Who should attend?

We hope to have a broad participation from community workers working in diverse settings, with diverse communities and groups, and from a range of experiences in implementing community work approaches.

A Programme in Three Workshops

The Programme consists of three two-hour workshops and will be delivered online. The methodology will include input, discussions, and group work. To facilitate access, there are three options available for the Programme - one in May and two in June - see below for dates, times, and registration.

1. Workshop One: A Time to Reflect

This workshop will explore participants' experiences of and learning from community work practice in a context of crisis and systems required for ongoing reflection.

2. Workshop Two Community Work Values Driving New Practice

This workshop will explore: the values of collectivity, participation, and community empowerment; what these values currently mean for community work priorities and practices; and the knowledge and skills to establish and pursue new priorities and practices suggested by these values, in the context of COVID-19 and its aftermath.

3. Workshop Three: New Social Change Agendas for Community Work

This workshop will explore the change agenda of equality, human rights, social justice, and sustainable development established for community work, the implications of the current context for this change agenda, and the knowledge and skills to define and progress this change agenda in the context of COVID-19 and its aftermath.

There is a lack of a wider vision regarding the alternative that we seek. There is a danger that we go back to 'business as usual'. We need to develop and project a vision for the change we want. (Listening Circle participant)

Registration and Dates

The Programme is free of charge but registration is essential as each option will be limited to a maximum of 15 participants to ensure inclusive participation and discussion. If you are interested please commit to attending each of the three workshops associated with your option of choice. The workshops are not interchangeable.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Dates	Thursday 13th May Thursday 20th May Thursday 27th May	Thursday 3rd June Thursday 10th June Thursday 17th June	Wednesday 9th June Wednesday 16th June Wednesday 23rd June
Time	11am to 1pm	11am to 1pm	2pm to 4pm
To register follow one of the links	Register here	Register here	Register here

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