

Expression of Interest

Community-based Researchers for the Evaluation of the Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) - Role Description

Background

The Centre for Effective Services (CES), with support from colleagues at the University of Limerick, is carrying out an evaluation of the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) initiative. The LSCPs are being piloted in three areas between 2021 and 2023: **Dublin North Inner City, Waterford, and Longford**. Find out more about the LCSP initiative [here](#).

We are now seeking expressions of interest in the role of a community-based researcher in each of the three locations.

We are looking to contract, on a temporary basis, between 3 and 5 community-based researchers, who will provide research support, on the ground, in each location.

The community-based researchers will have an interest in and good understanding of the local communities, the people, the neighbourhoods and environment of the area that they will be working in. It would also be an advantage to have a good understanding of community development approaches and how these work in practice. Research and evaluation experience is desirable and yet not necessary.

This is an opportunity for someone interested in developing their research and evaluation skills. Training for the role will be provided. The community-based researchers will be paired with another researcher on the project, and they will support the researcher to gather data on the local experience of the LSCP.

Role

The community-based researcher, in each location, will support the researcher to conduct the evaluation in the following ways:

1. Support the researcher to establish relationships with community members and stakeholder groups in the communities of that area.

2. Respond to queries from community members about the evaluation.
3. Support the researcher to distribute and collect information materials and consent forms from people from the area who are taking part in the evaluation.
4. Support the researcher to schedule appointments for interviews and focus groups with stakeholders in the area.
5. Take notes at local stakeholder interviews and focus groups.
6. Support the researcher to distribute surveys to various stakeholder groups and communicate with community members about the completion of survey(s) at specific time points during the evaluation.
7. Contribute to the evaluation team's understanding of the research findings by participating in meetings about the analysis of the data.

Duration of role

The evaluation is being conducted over a two-year period, starting in July 2021. The research will be carried out at three different timepoints in each area, depending on when the LCSP begins. For example, for the Dublin North Inner City LCSP, it is likely that we will begin to carry out the first phase of the research from September – November 2021 when the LCSP is in the early stages. We will then carry out the second phase of research when the LCSP has been up and running for approximately one year, around July-September 2022 and then we will carry out the final research towards the end of the LCSP, in July-September 2023.

Community-based researchers may already be working within their community and will need to be available for research activities over a period for 9-11 days of work at each time point, spread out over 1-3 months. There is flexibility within this range in terms of when and how long the work will take and there is also **flexibility in the number of hours worked each day**, up to a maximum of 7.5 hours per day. The community-based researcher will work in partnership with the researcher in their area to schedule the research work. The duration and timing of the work at each phase will be agreed with the researcher and may depend on the availability of the people taking part in the evaluation and community activities and events organised by the LCSP.

Management and support

Each community-based researcher will be supported by the researcher working in their area and will be line managed by a member of the CES evaluation team. The CES team will provide training and orientation to all community-based researchers before they begin any data gathering activities.

Requirements for the role

1. Good communication skills.
2. Experience of working with others and as part of a team.
3. Ability to engage with community members and local stakeholders.
4. Flexibility, with a willingness to travel and be able to work evenings and weekends, if necessary. Access to personal transport is a requirement for the community-based researcher roles outside of Dublin.
5. An interest in and understanding of community development principles and approaches and how these work in practice.
6. An understanding of the local communities, people, and environment of the area that they will be working in.

Remuneration

Community-based researchers will be paid an hourly rate. Please contact Claire Hickey to express your interest and for further details of the remuneration package for the role: chickey@effectiveservices.org. Successful applicants will enter into a contract for services with CES and will be responsible for their own tax arrangements.

How to apply for the community-based researcher role(s)

To apply for the role of community-based researcher, please send a cover letter/ email, expressing your interest and outlining what attracts you to this role and your experience of being involved in community-level initiatives/projects to Claire at the above email address.

The closing date for applications for this role is Friday 3rd September 2021.

In your cover letter/ email, please include and sign the following declaration in relation to the personal information you provide for application purposes, in line with GDPR requirements.

I agree to CES processing and retaining the personal information contained in this application for a duration of 12 months for any purposes connected with my application for a community based researcher role.	
Signature:	Date:

If you have any queries about the role, contact Claire Hickey at chickey@effectiveservices.org