

2024-2025 Setting Description

Placement Setting: **Community Development (CD)** 社區發展/ 社區工作

Target Group(s):

1. Geographical communities

Geographical communities can be engaged in public housing estates, old urban areas, or remote villages with non-indigenous villagers, etc. to organize the residents in tackling community problems and common concerns. Target groups may include grassroots residents from CSSA recipients and low-income groups such as Mainland new arrivals & ethnic minorities.

2. Functional Communities

Functional communities are formed by those who share similar characteristics that connect themselves with collective identity, and belongingness: living style, religion, functions and problems. Target groups may include working low-income hawkers, CSSA recipients, women new arrivals, grassroots elderly, parents with SEN children, South Asian residents, etc.

Unique Learning Opportunities:

1. Meet with people from different walks of life
2. Core value reflection and consolidation on promoting social justice and human rights
3. Build up analytical and critical thinking from a macro-perspective
4. Gain unique learning exposures to community/ social problems and service/ policy advocacy via social actions and political lobbying
5. Practice resident engagement, community building and organizing skills to empower individuals, groups and institutions under macro social work intervention
6. Work alongside with Community/ Resident Groups
 - ◇ Work with existing resident groups, or form a new concern group under CD project

Possible Placement Agencies (to be confirmed):

A. Advocacy-based Organization / Pressure Group (AG)

- 1.1 Concern for Grassroots' Livelihood Alliance Limited Community Development Alliance
- 1.2 Society for Community Organization (SoCo)
- 1.3 Catholic Diocese of HK Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Kowloon)

1.4 Health in Action

B. Community Centre (CC)

- 2.1 Caritas Community Centres
- 2.2 HKSKH Lady MacLehose Community Centre
- 2.3 Yan Oi Tong Community Centre

C. Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project (NLCDP)

- 3.1 Christian Family Service Centre - Lei Yue Mun Community Development Project
- 3.2 Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association Y.W.C.A – Kwun Lung Lau Community Work Office

D. People in need of housing or accommodation (PHA)

(i.e. Social Housing Project, community support services for residents of new public rental housing estates, Urban Renewal Social Service Team, services for homelessness, etc)

- 4.1 St. James' Settlement – Social Housing Project
- 4.2 Society for Community Organization (SoCo) – Social Housing Project

Working Hours & Workload:

- Daytime, occasionally with evening and weekend shifts (e.g. Community Centres)
- Sometimes irregular hours (e.g. civil groups)
- Workload: 1 CD Project with 1 Group + Social Action(s) + community outreaching
- The exact workload will be confirmed with fieldwork and agency supervisors
- Possibly co-work in a joint project, but each student should be in charge of certain program planning, implementation and evaluation duties

Examples of Core CD Work:

- Home visits, street counters & welfare promotion
- Form and run resident/ service user concern groups for problem-solving
- Run volunteer training workshops for community care or building
- Conduct action surveys, press conference and do media coverage
- Organize community forum or LegCo/ DC district election forum
- Organize public campaign and education activities
- Empower residents to voice out concerns to policy makers (e.g. LegCo public hearing, Redress Division)
- Collaborate with civil groups to consolidate collective power in Alliances
- Lobby lawmakers, government officials and public bodies
- Organize protests, demonstrations within and outside the system
- Organize community exhibition or human library

Basic CD Requirements, Knowledge and Skills:

- Be Flexible and independent to work shift duties under dynamic, less structural & less resourceful settings, and sometimes work under irregular hours.
- Be Keen or Passionate to learn upholding social justice, human rights and advocating social changes (policy/ community/ political), as an enabler, educator & advocate
- Be Proactive & Courageous in engaging & reaching out disadvantaged or marginalised communities
- Be Sensitive to social, and political issues, and learn to be Knowledgeable and Critical towards unjust issues and policy analysis
- Be Skilful in empowering, organizing marginalised/ grassroots to raise social consciousness, build up self-help and mutual support in the community
- Be Outspoken to work with service user leaders and civil groups voicing out minority concerns via action surveys, political lobbying, social actions & media pressure for distributive justice

CD Nature and Community Organizing's Essence:

- Macro perspective and structural orientation
- Work with Grassroots and/or Marginalized/ Oppressed from Functional and/or Geographical Communities
- Identify community affairs, social issues faced and underlying structural problems
- Consciousness-raising, community building and public education
- Mutual support, self-help and community networking
- Utilise community assets, and resident strengths and develop social capital
- Promote welfare resources and community relations as engagement points, or sometimes make crisis intervention
- Task goals and process goals in community organising are both important
- Emphasis on people's collective actions and power via individual/ group/ community/ institution empowerment and service/ policy advocacy
- Macro intervention dimension: influencing societal norms, social institutions and/or social policies;
- Grasp invaluable opportunities to work with media strategically, and lobby lawmakers and government officials for rights-based advocacy

CD Setting Coordinator:

Mr LO Kai Chung

Email: chunglo@hku.hk

Tel: 3917-1161

updated in Sept 2023