

Combat Poverty
*working for the prevention
and elimination of poverty* **Agency**

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

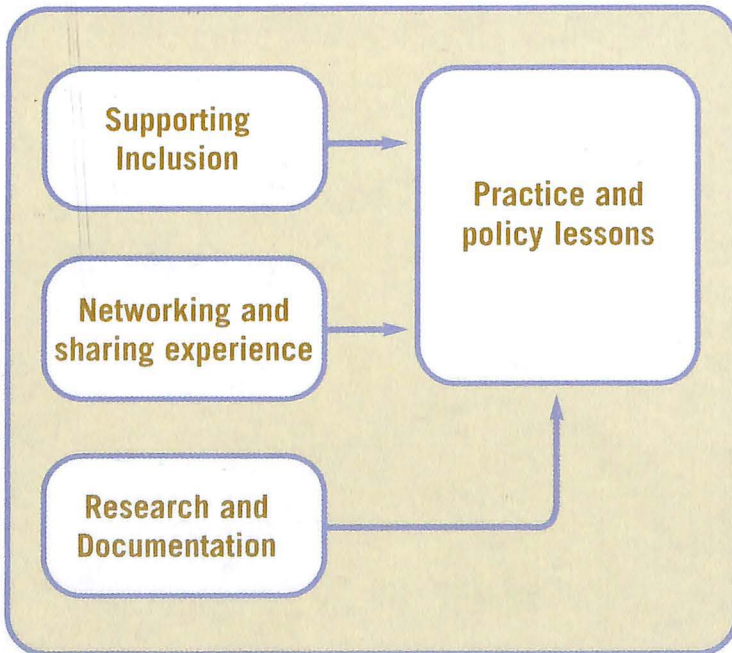
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FUNDED INITIATIVES 2003

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Under its Strategic Plan 2002-2004, the Combat Poverty Agency has developed a programme to support disadvantaged communities tackle poverty and health inequalities. The programme, Building Healthy Communities, aims to:

- Promote the practice of community development in improving health and well-being for people in disadvantaged communities;
- Inform and support policy initiatives relating to poverty and health;
- Explore mechanisms for effective, meaningful and sustainable community participation in decision-making relating to health issues;
- Build the capacity of community health interests to draw out practice and policy lessons from their work.

There are four inter-linked elements to Building Healthy Communities programme.



A community development approach to health has an important role to play in involving people who experience poverty and social exclusion in contributing to anti-poverty and health-promoting policies and practice.

Combat Poverty Agency has defined community development as 'a process whereby those who are marginalised and excluded are enabled to gain in self-confidence, to join with others and to participate in actions to change their situation and tackle the problems that face their community'.¹

SUPPORTING INNOVATION

Combat Poverty Agency granted funding in 2003 to encourage innovation and capacity building by groups in exploring the links between poverty and health and in developing community development responses to health inequalities.

Thirteen initiatives have been funded. All tackle health inequalities in strategic and innovative ways and all are embedded in community development principles and practice. The Department of Health and Children fund two of the initiatives, which focus on models of participation in the context of the Primary Care Strategy.

This brochure contains a brief description and initial contact details of the funded initiatives 2003. For further information on the overall Building Healthy Communities Programme, contact:

Liz Sullivan Tel: 01-602 6628 Email: sullivanl@cpa.ie
or
Angie Daly Tel: 01-602 6620 Email: dalya@cpa.ie

¹ *The Role of Community Development in Tackling Poverty*, Combat Poverty Agency, 2000



Development of accreditation of the Community Health Worker role (NICHE)

The Northside Community Health Initiative (NICHE) is a community health project serving the Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill area of Cork City.

The central approach used by NICHE has been the employment of Community Health Workers (CHWs) who have strong local links and involvement but who also bring key skills to the project. The CHWs act as facilitators between the community and the project, ensure that community views are central to all planning and activities, and develop locally appropriate health-related actions.

Funding will support foundation work for the development of a curriculum for accreditation for Community Health Workers (CHWs).

Contact: Margaret Curtin, NICHE,
Family Centre, Harbour View Road,
Knocknaheeny, Cork.
Tel: 021-430 0135 Email: nchi@iol.ie

Wexford Building Healthy Communities

A steering group of community organisations and agencies came together to initiate a community development approach to health inequalities within three areas in Wexford supported by the RAPID² programme.

Funding will enable outreach and capacity-building work to facilitate local people to analyse health issues affecting their communities. This analysis of health issues will be represented creatively via a community arts project. A local health forum will be established through which the communities can define their own health needs, develop collective action to address health inequalities, and engage in policy, decision-making and partnership processes.

Contact: Wexford Building Healthy Communities,
c/o Paul O'Brien,
FAB Community Development Project,
Coolcotts Shopping Centre,
Coolcotts, Wexford.
Tel: 053-42018
Email: fabcdp@eircom.net

Cross-border networking on health issues for older people (Community Connections CDP – The Active Age Project)

The Active Age Project is a vibrant network of nine older people's groups in north Leitrim and west Cavan, who are facilitated by Community Connections Community Development Project. Over 200 older people are involved in the groups and make an important contribution to the life of their communities.

The funded initiative will enable members of the Active Age Project to look at the connection between poverty and health and to network locally and cross-border on issues of health and well-being for older people. Key elements will be creating forums for discussing health issues, developing meaningful participation in decision-making and visits to health promotion projects in Fermanagh.

Contact: Brenda Whitley,
Community Connections
Active Age Project, Killycarney,
Blacklion, Co. Cavan.
Tel: 071-985 3321
Email: info@communityconnections.ie

Inter-agency strategies on health, poverty and social exclusion (Blackhall Community Forum)

Blackhall Place/Marmion Court is a flat complex of 125 units in Dublin's north-west inner city, which is currently being refurbished and rebuilt. The Blackhall Community Forum works from the premise that improving the health of local residents must be connected to improving overall quality of life and access to resources.

An audit of existing health status and the factors causing ill health is being funded, plus the development of strategies for inter-agency work to address health problems created by poverty and social exclusion.

Contact: Fidelma Bonass,
Blackhall Community Forum,
c/o 51C Queen Street, Dublin 7.
Tel: 087-231 9070
Email: fidelma.bonass@erha.ie



The Western Region Traveller Health Network

The Western Region Traveller Health Network (WRTHN) is an alliance of community development Traveller projects in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.

Funding will support the Network build a strong collective Traveller voice on health issues in the Western region. Through partnership with relevant bodies, the Network will impact on health policy and practice with a focus on equality of outcome and equality of access to health services for Travellers. The Network will support meaningful Traveller participation in the Traveller Health Unit of the Western Health Board and in other health related decision-making bodies.

Contact: The Western Region Traveller Health Network
C/O Clionadh O' Keeffe,
Galway Traveller Support Group,
78 Prospect Hill, Galway;
Tel: 091 562 530

And

C/O Ann Griffen,
Mayo Traveller Support Group,
Church Lane, Westport, Co. Mayo;
Tel: 098 55182.

Primary Health Care Group Mulhuddart (Greater Blanchardstown Development Project)

The need for a primary health care facility has been identified as a priority in Mulhuddart, whose population is expected to exceed 10,000 over the next three years.

Statutory and community groups have come together to seek a primary health care facility and to develop ways in which local residents and communities can take action on poverty and health issues.

Funding will help the Primary Health Care Group Mulhuddart to set up a process whereby the community can participate in the development of services. It will explore how community development approaches can improve health and well-being in disadvantaged areas and share this experience with other communities.

Contact: Ann Losty,
Primary Health Care Group,
c/o Greater Blanchardstown
Development Project,
Ladyswell Road,
Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.
Tel: 01-820 1745
Email: gbdp@eircom.net

National Lesbian Gay and Bisexual (LGB) Community Development Network

The National Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Community Development Network (NLGBCDN) comprises six NGOs throughout the country working in the area of LGB health and equality.

The Network facilitates the exchange of information and good practice between gay and lesbian organisations in Ireland and works to influence national and European policy.

The Network has been granted funding to host a national seminar on community development, social inclusion and health equality, targeting the community and voluntary sector and health service providers.

Contact: David Roche,
Cork Gay Community Development Ltd,
The Otherplace,
8 South Main Street, Cork.
Tel: 021-427 8470
Email: info@gayprojectcork.com

Training for Trainers on community development and health (Sláinte Pobal/ Clondalkin Partnership/ Quarryvale CDP)

Sláinte Pobal promotes an holistic approach to health and living and seeks to empower people so that they can act as a resource for health in their own communities.

In collaboration with Clondalkin Partnership, it aims to raise awareness of how low income and disadvantage can affect people's health.

Funding has been awarded for a 'training for trainers' course based on community development principles up to Level 2 of the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) accreditation. The course will be provided in the Quarryvale area of Clondalkin with the support of Quarryvale Community house.

Contact: Patricia Cooke, Sláinte Pobal,
c/o 31 Walnut Close,
Kingswood Heights, Dublin 24.
Tel: 01-244 6647
Email: patriciacooke@ntlworld.ie

Public Health Alliance Ireland

The Public Health Alliance Ireland (PHAI) works to improve health and to challenge health inequalities in society by advocating equitable public policies and actions.

PHAI will use its funding to encourage greater participation by under-represented groups, including ethnic minorities and users of mental health services, in PHAI. It will use community development approaches to enhance and strengthen the voice of these groups in the Alliance and it will incorporate their views into its agenda on health inequalities and influencing policy initiatives.

Contact: Owen Metcalfe or Sara Burke,
Public Health Alliance Ireland,
c/o Institute of Public Health in Ireland,
5th Floor, Bishop's Square,
Redmond's Hill, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01-478 6300
Website:
www.publichealthallianceireland.org

Linking social development, health and physical regeneration (Fatima Groups United)

Fatima Groups United is a representative group of residents and community groups who are working to ensure that social regeneration is integral to the overall regeneration of Fatima Mansions in Dublin.

The group has been funded to help empower the local community to play a central role in the development of a new Community Health and Well-Being Centre. It will also promote understanding of the links between poverty, environment and health, and encourage continuing community responses to health issues and to the regeneration of Fatima Mansions. In the context of the Primary Care Strategy, the initiative aims to model community involvement on community development practice and principles.

Contact: Róisín Ryder, Fatima Groups United,
18J Fatima Mansions, Rialto, Dublin 8.
Tel: 01-453 4722
Email: fgu@oceanfree.net

Lifford/Castlefin Primary Care Initiative (Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre)

The Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre is a Community Development Project established in 1992. In partnership with the North Western Health Board, it has received funding for the Lifford/Castlefin Primary Care Initiative. This is to facilitate meaningful participation of the communities in Castlefin and Lifford in the Primary Care Team implementation project based in Lifford

In the context of Primary Care Strategy, the initiative aims to explore and model community development processes underpinning community involvement in Primary Care Teams.

Contact: Brid McMenamin,
Lifford/Castlefin Primary Care Initiative,
Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre,
Croaghan Heights, Lifford,
Co Donegal.
Tel No: 074-42109 / 41773
Email: liffclonrc@eircom.net

Building healthy ethnic minority communities (Cáirde)

Cáirde is a non-government organisation working to reduce health inequalities among ethnic minorities. It facilitates ethnic minorities to identify and address their health needs and to influence policy and practice.

Funding has been given for a series of training workshops for a number of ethnic representative groups that attend the Ethnic

Minority Health Forum. Workshops will deal with community development principles and practice, ethnic minority health and rights, influencing change, and evaluation. They will also work on broader health determinants such as housing, income, employment, community participation, equality and racism.

Contact: Yvon Luky, Cáirde,
19 Belvedere Place, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01-855 2111
Email: info@cairde.ie

Women's Health Forum (Clondalkin Women's Network)

A needs analysis study, carried out by Clondalkin Women's Network, identified women's health as a priority for Clondalkin women. The Network aims to build the capacity of women's groups to respond to their health needs and to the recommendations in the needs analysis study.

Clondalkin Women's Network has been funded to develop a Women's Health Forum with representatives from local women's groups. Training and capacity building will facilitate the Women's Health Forum to develop lobbying, media and communication skills and to articulate women's health issues.

Contact: Valerie O'Connell,
Clondalkin Women's Network Ltd,
Unit 3, Westward House,
Main Street, Clondalkin,
Dublin 22.
Tel: 01-405 6796
Email: cwn@indigo.ie



Combat Poverty
*working for the prevention
and elimination of poverty* Agency

Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8

Tel: 01 670 6746 Fax: 01 670 6760 Email: info@cpa.ie Website: www.combatpoverty.ie