



The Community Social Work Program

The City of Calgary has community social workers in over 20 neighbourhoods across the city. Community social workers support residents to identify social issues and work together towards neighbourhood-based solutions. They prioritize working with community members who have experienced social and/or economic marginalization.

Community social workers help residents contribute to their communities through leadership and volunteer opportunities, building individual skills and experience, and by connecting community members.

Areas of Neighbourhood Work

Using a community development approach, community social workers partner with residents and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for increased social inclusion and economic participation in their neighbourhoods.

Social Inclusion: Neighbourhoods are stronger when everyone can be included. Through building relationships and working together, community social workers ensure that people who have often been excluded from community life are supported to participate, volunteer, and take on leadership roles in their neighbourhood.

Economic Participation: Increasing economic participation is an important way to increase social inclusion. Community social workers help remove financial barriers to participation and support community activities that will help keep money in people's pockets.

What do Community Social Workers do?

- We connect community members with one another to increase a sense of belonging
- We encourage opportunities to value and celebrate diversity
- We work with community members to build their awareness on social issues that impact their neighbourhood
- We collaborate with community members to work on practical initiatives and projects
- We create opportunities for networking, conversation, and skill building
- We support community members to be leaders of their neighbourhoods, by offering leadership training and meaningful volunteer opportunities

Simple Ways to Make your Neighbourhood a Welcoming Place

There are many ways to bring about a sense of belonging and help everyone to participate. Here are some examples:

- Make eye contact or say hi! to people as you walk down the street
- Organize a community project or event (once we can do so again safely) where community members can work together and get to know one another
- Learn about some of the ways people may feel excluded from your community: homelessness, poverty, racism, homophobia, ageism, ableism, and others
- Support a local business

Getting involved

Everyone has something that they can contribute to their neighbourhood. Maybe it's something you're good at or that you like to do? Perhaps it's something you're interested in learning more about? Or maybe you have time that you'd like to share?

When we bring together our skills, interests, knowledge, and time, we can collectively create the neighbourhood we want to be a part of.

You're welcome to share an idea for a project that you'd like to see happen or join in on something that's already in motion. If you have one hour or many hours to share, Community social workers are here to help find opportunities that fit with how you want to be involved!

Contact your Community Social Worker!

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