Social Development Centre Waterloo Region

Kitchener

Funding Partner:

Community Housing Transformation Centre
Centre de transformation du logement communautaire

Housing Lived Expertise Working Group

The City of Kitchener and the Social Development Centre Waterloo Region (SDCWR) are recruiting members for a 2-year pilot project called the Housing Lived Expertise Working Group.

What will the working group do?

- Support the implementation and monitoring of the City's Housing For All Strategy. **READ IT HERE!**
- Advocate for the priorities of underrepresented communities in the City's decision making around housing and homelessness.
- Co-create a more ethical model of community engagement that centres lived-expertise.

What does it mean to centre lived-expertise?

- Your lived-experience will be treated as expertise and you will be compensated for your time and knowledge.
- All processes and outcomes will be created in collaboration with you, your communities, SDCWR, and the City.
- You will have access to supports to remove barriers to participation. (eg. acces to technology, bus/taxi fares, childcare, disability supports)
- This is a long-term project that prioritizes building trusting relationships with you and the rest of the working group.
- The layers of your lived-experience and how they impact housing will be incorporated through an intersectional approach.

What does an intersectional approach look like?

Intersectionality describes how experiences of oppression, discrimination and privilege combine together to create unique impacts for individuals and communities. The working group will bring together diverse voices to highlight how these intersections impact housing and to counter systemic imbalances in power, privilege and access.

12 Community Connectors Needed

The Housing Lived Expertise Working Group will be comprised of 12 community connectors representing underserved groups and communities.

What will Community Connectors Do?

- Attend three 2-hour meetings per month to share lived expertise and collaborate with other local advocates.
- Participate in two-days of orientation plus ongoing training opportunities, skill building, and supports.
- Community building work as needed between meetings to advance grassroots housing priorities.
- Share your voice and help the City of Kitchener better incorporate lived expertise into decision making.

All work will be recognized but you will have choice on what recognition is most meaningful to you (eg. money, gifts or other honours equivalent to $40/meeting and $100/full day activities)

How to apply? *(Applications due April 1st, 2022)*

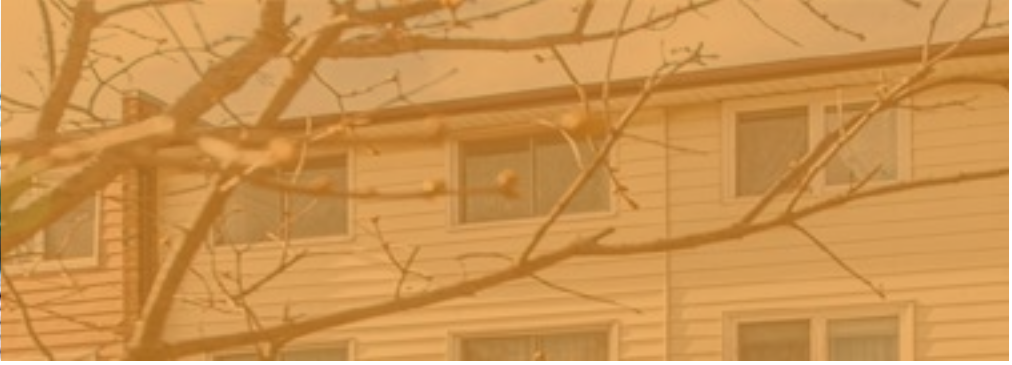
1. Fill out the attached form and mail to:
   Social Development Centre Waterloo Region
   23 Water St N, Kitchener, ON, Canada
   N2H 5A4

2. Fill out online form:
   CLICK HERE

The Nominating Committee is composed of leaders in lived expertise groups and outreach workers who have done advocacy with lived experience groups and individuals.

If you have any questions or need support to complete your application please contact David Alton at SDCWR.

Email: david.alton@waterlooregion.org Phone: 226-507-8964



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Group Form

The Housing Lived Expertise Working Group is seeking to work closely with advocacy and housing justice groups. If your group is not selected to have a representative, our team will make sure your group is kept informed and involved in other ways.

Contact Info

Group Name: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

If you are applying on behalf of a group or a community, please make sure you have the group's consent.

Advocacy

What is your group's area of advocacy? _____

_____

_____

Which underserved or underrepresented groups does your group serve?

_____

_____

_____

What does your group do that touches upon housing? _____

_____

_____

Group Form *(continued)*

Please have your representative fill out the attached individual form.
To accommodate the longer-term nature of the working group, please prepare a secondary representative who can fill in when needed.

Representative Info

Representative Name: _____

Representative Email: _____

Representative Phone: _____

Secondary Representative: _____

Secondary Email: _____

Secondary Phone: _____

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Individual Form

In order to ensure the working group is representative of underserved communities in the City of Kitchener, some personal questions will be asked to assist us in assessing the composition of the group.

Contact Info

First & Last Name: _____

Pronouns (eg. she/he/they): _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

What is the best way to contact you? _____

Do you reside in Kitchener? **YES / NO**

(To apply you must reside in the City of Kitchener)

I identify as...

(Check all that apply or write at bottom in your own words)

- ☐ Person with a physical or developmental disability
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Indigenous
- ☐ Person of Colour
- ☐ Immigrant/Refugee
- ☐ Member of a religious minority *(Feel free to specify)* _____
- ☐ 2SLGBTQIA+ *(Feel free to specify)* _____
- ☐ Youth (16-29) ☐ Adult (30-59) ☐ Senior (60+)
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ I prefer to say in my own words _____

_____

Individual Form *(continued)*

Lived Expertise

I have lived expertise with:

(Check all that apply or write at bottom in your own words)

- ☐ Ontario Works (OW)
- ☐ Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- ☐ Canadian Pension Plan (CPP)
- ☐ Employment Insurance (EI)
- ☐ Part time low-wage work
- ☐ Full time low-wage work
- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ Homelessness
- ☐ Temporary shelters
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ I prefer to say in my own words _____

_____

Advocacy

What types of advocacy have you done before? *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Advocate for change to a program/service
- ☐ Advocate for a change in policy
- ☐ Advocate to support myself/my family/friend
- ☐ Other..._____

What are some actions you have taken as an advocate?_____

_____

_____

_____

Individual Form *(continued)*

Advocacy *(continued)*

What have been your barriers to advocacy?_____

What are your hopes for the working group?_____

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