



The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness

Social Connectedness Fellowship Application

Research Project #4 - SeeChange Initiative

The Social Connectedness Fellowship provides students and recent graduates with the opportunity to carry out research, writing, analysis, and outreach related to overcoming social isolation and building social connectedness. Fellows are paired with partner organizations that work to build belonging and social inclusion across a variety of thematic areas—climate change, disability and older people’s rights, refugee integration, inclusive education, placemaking and urban design, and much more.

Project Details:

Partner: [SeeChange Initiative](#) supports oppressed communities to build their resiliency and autonomy in order to respond effectively to health crises in their communities. SeeChange Initiative has developed CommunityFirst Solutions for communities to leverage their assets to ensure culturally-appropriate responses are adopted.

Location of Fellow: Remote

Project Description:

Looking to engage in community-driven health responses to COVID-19 in Latin America?

Project Overview

CommunityFirst Solutions for COVID-19 builds on SeeChange’s experience of supporting community-led responses to Tuberculosis and COVID-19 with Inuit. The project seeks to support community leaders with tools, resources and a network of support to strengthen their community’s capacity to (1) prevent the



spread of COVID-19 , (2) recover from the social and economic fallouts from the pandemic and (3) increase their resilience to future health crises.

CommunityFirst Solutions for COVID-19 consists of:

- **[The Roadmap](#)**: an interactive step-by-step emergency planning framework and methodology designed to support communities to organize, prepare and respond to COVID-19, an [action Plan template](#), and a curated database of resources (infographics, guides, templates and case studies).
- **The Accompaniment Program**: Virtual orientations on the Roadmap as well as training, skill-building opportunities and workshops for community activators*. SeeChange also offers direct technical support to a limited number of community leaders.
- **Solidarity Activators Network**: a community of practice and peer-to-peer support. SeeChange and partners facilitate virtual spaces to connect and opportunities for learning and skill-building. Activators exchange knowledge, experiences, resources & form bilateral connections.

*Activators are leaders within their communities and/or organizations who identify both a need and opportunity to implement the Roadmap in their communities.

Fellow's Involvement

The Fellow will be tasked with carrying out a literature review on community-led (or community-driven) responses to COVID-19 (and potentially other health crises) in historically oppressed communities (Indigenous communities, migrants) in Latin America. The literature review will focus particularly on women as leaders in these community responses. This will include reviewing the academic and grey literature on:

- The use by communities of their assets in response to health crises;
- Trauma-informed responses to health crises;
- Peer-to-peer support models for community leaders.



The Fellow will analyze these findings in a paper, and create a set of recommendations and/or ethical considerations to inform organizations and authorities supporting communities as they continue to respond and ultimately recover from COVID-19.

The Fellow will design a questionnaire and conduct interviews with select community leaders (to be determined mutually) who have used/are using the CommunityFirst COVID-19 Roadmap.

The Fellow will also design a one-hour workshop to be delivered with SeeChange staff to be delivered during one of the monthly meetings of the Latin American Solidarity Network.

Key Deliverables:

1. Two blog articles
2. Literature review and analysis
3. Workshop with community leaders
4. Final report with recommendations for organizations and institutions supporting community-driven responses

Key Skills/Competencies Required:

- An education background in social sciences and/or global health, or equivalent work/life experiences.
- Familiarity with social determinants of health in the Latin American region.
- Experience working with vulnerable and isolated communities is an asset.
- Spanish-speaking candidates preferred.

How to Apply:

All applicants must fill out the [Google Form application](#) by March 7, 2021 at 11:59 pm EST. Applicants can apply for 1 or 2 projects. In addition to answering the



standardized questions, applicants must also answer a specific question or two for each project that they are interested in. Specific questions for Research Project #4 - SeeChange Initiative:

1. a) What does a community-driven approach to health look like to you?
b) How is COVID-19 exposing and/or exacerbating pre-existing crises (social, economic or environmental) in Latin America?

(Max 250 words for both parts combined)