



**Civil Society
Consulting**



**NURTURING
GRASSROOTS**
Community Support Groups & Leaders

Job description:

Nurturing Grassroots Associate (freelance & part-time)

Summary

Civil Society Consulting CIC (CSC) is looking for an experienced and self-motivated individual to join our *Nurturing Grassroots* consultant team on a freelance and part-time basis (c. two days per week). In this role, you'll provide capacity-building support to community organisations led by and for marginalised communities across England, often in some of the poorest neighbourhoods.

The ideal candidate will have hands-on experience of working alongside grassroots community groups and leaders to co-produce meaningful outputs – such as fundraising strategies, community engagement exercises, and monitoring & evaluation frameworks — that can create organisational step-change.

We're especially keen to hear from those with lived experience of living and/or working in Northern England.

This is a unique opportunity to work creatively with grassroots organisations, build new connections across civil society, and collaborate with a dynamic team deeply committed to inclusivity and social justice.

Background to 'Nurturing Grassroots'

CSC has secured a three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver *Nurturing Grassroots* – a capacity-building programme for grassroots social action organisations.

Over the next three years, CSC will provide hands-on, tailored one-to-one support for **120 organisations** led by and for marginalised communities and those in some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the East, North East, North West and Midlands regions.

CSC will work alongside each organisation to co-produce a checklist of **two to three tangible outcomes**, such as a funding application, impact report, or refreshed website, over seven months.

Workshops on income generation, theory of change, masterclasses, gatherings, Monitoring & Evaluation, website and communications development, social media and filmmaking led by industry experts will also be on offer.

We're also providing **24 social action leaders** with up to 6 individual one-hour sessions with a professional leadership coach and a further **90 leaders** with access to group learning and wellbeing sessions.

The role & key responsibilities

We're looking for an individual to work with us for at least **2 days per week** on a **freelance** basis. Ideally, we hope to build a long-term working relationship with rolling six-month contracts over the three-year funding period. The role will report to the Nurturing Grassroots Project Leads, Mark Ereira Guyer and Munashe Munyukwi.

You will work independently and collaborate with the *Nurturing Grassroots* and wider CSC team to:

- Provide one-to-one support and advice to organisations onboarded onto the Nurturing Grassroots programme, including advice sessions and workshops to co-produce key outputs,
- Organise and facilitate online group workshops and coaching sessions with external/internal facilitators,
- Publicise *Nurturing Grassroots* events and developments; working closely with the CSC Comms team to produce content for the website and social media, and create Eventbrite pages,
- Monitor progress and support with reporting for funders.

This is a remote position (with occasional travel to meet with groups, particularly in the North of England), though the CSC offices are located in Dalston, London. We encourage occasional visits to the office, ideally once every couple of months.

What we're looking for

Experience & skills

- Experience providing relational capacity-building support to UK-based grassroots organisations, including co-producing outputs that are key to organisational development.
- Workshop facilitation skills and experience developing online workshops with external facilitators.
- Experience juggling multiple roles and responsibilities within cross-functional teams, including coordinating with funders, facilitators, communications, and grassroots leaders to deliver tailored, high-impact capacity-building support.

- Experience building long-term existing relationships with funders, infrastructure organisations, and organisations, particularly in the North of England.
- Familiarity with Google Suite, Zoom, Eventbrite, Slack and social media, including LinkedIn and Instagram.

Desirable

- Experience co-founding or leading a grassroots organisation, including CICs.

Knowledge areas

- A strong understanding of the elements and attributes that make a sustainable community organisation, and how to support others to develop those areas, which include
 - Fundraising
 - Monitoring & evaluation
 - Governance
 - Communications & social media
 - Community consultation & outreach
 - Being authentically community & lived experience-led
- The UK funding landscape, including grantmaking trends,
- An understanding of the value of voluntary and community sector organisations in the UK's current context, including the challenges organisations face,
- Knowledge of socio-economic inequalities in the UK, and a solid grasp of EDI principles.

Attributes

- Lived experience of working and/or living in the North of England.
- Ability to be results-oriented - changing approach according to what the situation calls for.
- A good understanding of how you like to work.

As we collaborate with organisations led by marginalised communities, we warmly encourage applications from individuals with lived experience of marginalisation. We recognise lived experience as a vital asset, enabling organisations to develop more impactful and compassionate solutions.

About us

Civil Society Consulting CIC (CSC) wants healthier, more equal and more inclusive/cohesive communities. We believe civil society organisations are the key, and our role is to support them by being a reliable source of excellent support that is affordable or free. CSC is a collective of freelance consultants, with five directors and a core team. Though freelancers, our core team works in an embedded and

collegiate way. Specialist and Ad-hoc Associates work with us on a project-by-project basis. We work through two streams of work:

- gmFree support to grassroots organisations in marginalised communities (**grant-funded**), including our programmes:
 - Nurturing Grassroots
 - 32 Steps to Togetherness
- **Commissioned-based assignments**
 - Low-cost support for civil society organisations, e.g. evaluations, organisational strengths reviews, SROI.
 - Research for funders, think tanks and those wanting to do a better job of working with civil society. Our clients have included the Greater London Authority, LGBT+ Consortium, Bromley, Lewisham & Greenwich Mind, New Philanthropy Capital, and Carers' Trust, among many others.

How to apply

We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in this role. Please send a short cover letter, your CV to nurturinggrassroots@civilsocietyconsulting.co.uk, and your preferred day rate. If you have any questions or would like to have an informal chat about the role, feel free to reach out via the same email.