

## **Job description Community Food and Nutrition Worker**

**Title:** Community Food and Nutrition Worker

**Reports to:** Health & Wellbeing Programme Manager

**Contract type:** 1-Year Fixed term contract initially, 35-hours per week

**Location:** Athy

### **Do you want to make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities?**

County Kildare Leader Partnership in partnership with Sláintecare Healthy Communities are delighted to offer this exciting opportunity for a dynamic individual with a strong track record in making a difference in people's lives to work with individuals who are struggling with food poverty and poor diet which can have a detrimental impact on their whole health and wellbeing.

Food poverty is the inability of individuals and households to secure an adequate and nutritious diet. It can affect those living on low incomes, with limited access to transport and poor cooking skills. Although the cost of healthy food is a major factor, the inability to access a healthy diet is a complex issue that incorporates education, transport, literacy, culture and environmental planning. Poor diet is a major public health issue linked with increased rates of obesity and chronic disease. In Ireland, poor diets are low in fruit and vegetables, fibre-rich foods and oily fish, and are high in energy, saturated fats, salts and sugars due to high intake of confectionary and processed foods. The Irish population reflects this dietary pattern; with 34% of people consuming "unhealthy foods" on a daily basis and just 37% of the population consuming the recommended 5+ portions of fruit and vegetables.

The purpose of the post is to provide capacity for the Sláintecare Healthy Communities to improve community health and wellbeing in the designated healthy community areas by addressing the issues of poor diet and food poverty. In Kildare this initiative is focused on the Athy area.

To that end we are looking for a **Community Food and Nutrition Worker** to establish a community kitchen in Athy which will serve the needs of individuals and the communities who live there. In addition to deliver evidence informed services to improve local population health and wellbeing outcomes, assessing the needs within the community in relation to food and nutrition, the role involves developing, designing and implementing additional innovative responses addressing food poverty and poor diet of the target groups. Additionally, the Community Food and Food Poverty Measurement Outcomes Framework provides a guide to shape the work of the CFNW.

If you have a track record of working with people and are energised by the potential to improve people's quality of life focusing on food and nutrition impacting their whole health and wellbeing, then this job may be for you.

### **Role and responsibility - What you'll do**

As the Community Food and Nutrition Worker, you will imagine, design, develop and support the establishment of a community kitchen in Athy. Recruit and maintain volunteers who will support you in the running of the kitchen. Oversee and run the facilitation of new food and nutrition programmes as well as facilitate and improve upon existing ones.

**You will be responsible for the following key responsibilities:**

- Working with and supporting a range statutory and community organisations to develop and implement evidence based effective responses to improving the food environment in communities, addressing food poverty and reducing health inequalities as part of Sláintecare Healthy Communities and where appropriate in collaboration with *safefood* funded Community Food Initiative;
- Supporting the delivery of Healthy Food for Life guidelines focused workshops and community programmes including Healthy Food Made Easy, weaning workshops, healthy eating for older adults to develop the health awareness of individuals, groups and organisations and empowering them to make healthier food choices;
- Co-ordinating the activation of agreed national campaigns that address healthy lifestyles and Healthy Food for Life guidelines in local communities; and
- Working with the HSE national co-ordinator to identify and respond to training needs and resource development arising from strategic national and local agendas, and participate in agreed networks and collaborations;
- Planning Logistics for the successful establishment of a community kitchen in Athy.

Your Key working relationships include your line manager as well as the following:

- Local Authority Sláintecare Healthy Communities Co-ordinator
- HSE Sláintecare Healthy Communities Co-ordinator & Health Promotion & Improvement Officer
- Local area Sláintecare Healthy Communities Steering Group
- HSE Community Dietetic Service
- HSE Project Dietitian with responsibility for national co-ordination of HFME and Community Food
- Safefood
- EU funded Community Food Initiative national co-ordinator
- CFN Peer Network for Dublin and Midlands

**What we offer:**

- ✓ Competitive salary scale €41,575.20 to €51,208.08, based on qualifications and experience.
- ✓ Annual leave: 21 days annual leave per year pro rata, with an increase of one day leave each year up to a maximum annual leave allowance of 25 days per annum.
- ✓ PRSA: Option to join the organisation's PRSA scheme after successful completion of probation. Auto-enrolment in My Future Fund may apply.
- ✓ Flexible working practices.
- ✓ Training and Development opportunities.
- ✓ Employee Assistance Programme.
- ✓ Open culture encouraging interaction and sharing of ideas and opinions.
- ✓ Opportunity to apply for up to two days remote working as per CKLP policy.

**How to apply**

If you are interested, please send a CV and cover letter to [Olivia@countykildarelp.ie](mailto:Olivia@countykildarelp.ie) Job description is available at [www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie). Reference: Community Food & Nutrition Worker Application. **Closing date for receipt of applications:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 at 5pm.

**County Kildare LEADER Partnership is an Equal Opportunities Employer.**

## Person Specification Community Food and Nutrition Worker

**We are seeking someone who has the following essential and desirable skills :**

**Skilled and experienced facilitator:** You know the difference between teaching /presenting and facilitation and know how to use the group as its own best resource, respecting that people are experts in themselves.

**Compassionate and person-centric:** You believe in the value of a collaborative approach between the service user and provider.

**Strategic thinker:** You think about the big-picture and are able to see how your work, and the work of others, contributes to that; You can use data and research to generate insights, and can translate these into actions.

**Curious and creative problem-solver:** You come up with practical and creative ways to put the issues affecting the nutritional health inequalities in disadvantaged communities centre-stage of the work and you are curious about the world around you and the people at its heart.

**Exceptional at building and maintaining relationships:** you have excellent stakeholder management skills, able to quickly build trust and effective relationships, with people from a variety of backgrounds.

**A great communicator:** you can communicate effectively across multiple channels (face-to-face, written, digital) and adopt your style to meet the audience where they are.

**Collaborative team member:** you thrive off working alongside others, co-creating and building solutions together; you lead with passion and inspire others to follow, you empower colleagues and team members and support and enable others.

### Specific requirements - qualifications and experience

The minimum eligibility criteria for the post include that candidates must have at the latest date of application: A minimum of a Level 8 qualification in the area of nutrition and health. See below:

Institute	Course
Athlone Institute of Technology	BSc Hons Nutrition and Health Science
Institute of Technology Sligo	BSc Hons Nutrition and Health Science
Munster Technical University (previously Cork Institute of Technology)	BSc Hons Nutrition and Health Science
Technological University Dublin	BSc Hons Public Health Nutrition
University College Dublin	BSc Hons Human Nutrition
University College Cork	BSc Hons Nutritional Sciences
Dublin Institute of Technology	BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics
Technological University Dublin	BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics
University College Dublin	MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics

University of Limerick	MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics
------------------------	-----------------------------------

EU citizens are entitled to equal treatment in recruitment, working conditions, promotion, pay, access to vocational training, occupational pensions and dismissal. There is no automatic EU-wide recognition of academic qualifications. In most cases EU citizens can obtain a 'statement of comparability', stating how their university degree compares to those delivered in the EU country they are moving to. Visit [Enic-Naric](#) for more information.

### **Knowledge and experience**

- Substantive experience (3+ years) facilitating groups or working in a community development framework.
- Demonstrated track record of developing and delivering innovative programmes in line with best practice that promotes positive health and wellbeing.
- Track record of outreach work developing positive relationships with vulnerable or marginalised individuals in the community
- A strong understanding of food poverty and nutritional inequalities landscape and the supports on offer in the community to help someone achieve their goals.

### **Planning & Organisation**

- Attending team meetings, external networks and any relevant training as appropriate.
- Planning logistics for the successful establishment of a community kitchen in Athy
- Training and supporting a Bank of volunteers who will support the delivery of community food and nutrition programme

### **Communication and Interpersonal Skills**

- Building capacity, knowledge and skills across communities and with local statutory and voluntary partners to improve the food environment, addressing food poverty, and activating agreed national campaigns
- Participating in both community and professional networks.

### **Evaluating information, problem solving and decision making**

- Designing and facilitation of food and nutrition related thematic workshops and other initiatives in response to identified needs or emerging issues among the target groups.
- Identifying emerging issues and needs in relation to the target group alongside the HSE national co-ordinator responding to training needs and resource development arising from strategic national and local agendas
- Assist with monitoring, evaluating, and reporting duties.

### **Commitment to a quality service**

- Supporting the delivery of Healthy Food for Life guidelines focused workshops and community programmes including Healthy Food Made Easy, weaning workshops, healthy eating for older adults to develop the health awareness of individuals, groups and organisations and empowering them to make healthier food choices;
- Co-ordinating the activation of agreed national campaigns that address healthy lifestyles and Healthy Food for Life guidelines in local communities; and
- Adhering to HSE health and safety guidelines when preparing food and engaging the community in Athy
- Recruiting, training and supporting a volunteer bank who will support the delivery of Community Food and Nutrition programme.