

## Community-Led Development

Inspiring Communities define Community Led Development (CLD) as the practice of working together in a place to create and achieve locally-owned visions and goals. Rather than being a model or service, CLD is a planning and development approach. Implementing all CLD principles at once is sometimes not possible – especially in the establishment phases. What matters is starting from where you, your organisation or community are at and then applying a CLD framework to guide how things develop from there.

Early stages of community-led development might simply involve upskilling community members, leaders, or providing resources for a neighbourhood to work together on something they care about. This provides a pathway into more organised, intentional forms of development.

The 'Community' refers to the target group for the project. It could be a neighbourhood, geographic region, type of participant (e.g. young people) or a mix of these.

ECCT funding enables groups to try new things, investigate options, and bring people together to focus on community needs.

## Community-Led Development approaches

<b>CLD Principles</b> <i>(Inspiring Communities)</i>	<b>Community is able to:</b> <i>(DIA)</i>	<b>For example</b> <i>(Inspiring Communities)</i>	<b>What ECCT requires</b>
<b>1 Grow from shared local visions</b>	Form a common and shared understanding about what it wants for itself; this may not be written down, but it guides activities and actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about tāngata whenua, their history and aspirations.</li> <li>• Understand who was in this place, who is in this place and who will be in this place.</li> <li>• Build plans with those who live, work, care, play, and invest in a place – the principle of te ahi kaa.</li> <li>• Tailor-make solutions that reflect local ambitions, goals and contexts.</li> <li>• Grow a shared sense of optimism and collective ownership of the future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local community are behind the project and have been actively involved in developing the concept.</li> </ul> <p><i>This means locals want and champion the project. This support can be demonstrated by the group.</i></p>
<b>2 Build from strengths</b>	Build on the strengths that are already within it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone has a contribution to make.</li> <li>• Value residents as ‘experts’ in their place.</li> <li>• Proactively involve people who are frequently ignored.</li> <li>• Recognise the strengths tāngata whenua bring and build respectful relationships.</li> <li>• Value community assets. Use what you’ve got to help get what you want.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is mana enhancing for participants and focuses on possibilities not problems.</li> <li>• The project enables independence for participants and encourages self-reliance.</li> </ul> <p><i>This means that people are seen as “at potential” not “at risk”. In the longer-term, people will have greater freedom and choices, not become more dependent or have a new crutch because of the work.</i></p>

<p>3 <b>Many people, groups and sectors working together.</b></p>	<p>Get everyone to work together to pull in the same direction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster connections between groups who don't usually work together.</li> <li>• Support the aspirations of local whānau, hapū and iwi.</li> <li>• Ensure residents are actively involved in all aspects.</li> <li>• Build relationships between neighbours.</li> <li>• Encourage networking between community-led initiatives locally, regionally and nationally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is participatory.</li> </ul> <p><i>This means a range of community members or community groups have been involved or had their views or interests taken into account.</i></p> <p><i>The project provides opportunities for communities to drive and lead action, tapping into their ideas, local knowledge and resources.</i></p>
<p>4 <b>Building diverse and collaborative local leadership.</b></p>	<p>Enable local people to take the lead, rather than others from outside; this includes supporting people to develop their strengths and work together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek leadership from across the community – everyone is a potential leader.</li> <li>• Value different cultural approaches to leadership.</li> <li>• Support local people who are doing things and connect them to others to grow their effectiveness.</li> <li>• Invest in developing skills and capacity of local leaders.</li> <li>• Celebrate local leaders and community achievements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is “for the community, by the community”.</li> </ul> <p><i>The local community or participants are involved at all levels of the project – from governance to delivery, from concept to construction, etc.</i></p> <p><i>The project can begin by establishing local leadership. It must intend to encourage a community-led way of working in the longer term.</i></p> <p><i>The project may be a collaboration enabling partners to try new things, investigate options and bring people together to focus on community needs and aspirations.</i></p>

<p>5    <b>Learn by doing</b></p>	<p>Dream, set goals, develop and reflect on plans, and work with the people, ideas, and the resources available to them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and work adaptively.</li> <li>• Build in time for structured reflection to understand what's working and what's not.</li> <li>• Use data and insights to measure impact. Document and share progress widely.</li> <li>• Embrace small steps that contribute to transformational change.</li> <li>• Use local practice-informed evidence to support system changes locally and nationally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is adaptive.</li> <li>• Project leadership works with members of the target community to understand and define what "success" looks like and how it might be tracked, reported, and/ or communicated.</li> </ul> <p><i>This means there is no 'one right way' of doing things. The project can be able to 'start where the energy' is and is adaptable so it can continue to focus on the changing interests of the community/ participants.</i></p>
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