



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the Community development Online Data Verification and Registration Form?

To assist practitioners to validate their personal information on the SACSSP database if they were previously registered, and to allow new practitioners to register on the Community development database.

2. Who is eligible to use the Community development Online Data Verification and Registration Form?

All practicing Community development practitioners who supports the Professionalisation of the community development sector.

3. What are the benefits of loading your information on the Online Data Verification and Registration Form?

The uploaded information will be used to develop a verified database of all practicing (employed) Community Development practitioners in the country. The database will further be utilised as the official voters' roll for the 1st Community Development Board elections. Registration on the voters' roll will make practitioners eligible to participate in the Community Development nomination and election process, which will lead to the constitution of the 1st Professional Board for Community Development Practitioners.

4. What should practitioners do if they don't have access to their Community development qualification certificate due to non-payment?

Contact the Head of the faculty or school of Community development department at the specific training institution and request for an official letter to present as proof that you completed your Community development training.

5. Who is eligible to complete Online Data Verification and Registration Form?

All practicing Community development practitioners.

6. Will the practitioners who obtained their community development qualification at TVET colleges be able to provide the information on the Community development Online Data Verification and Registration Form?

Yes, they must provide the name of the TVET under qualification section of the form.

7. Does the Community development Online Data Verification and Registration Form make provision for Assistant community development practitioners?

Yes, the form is not developed for any specific professional category within the Community development sector.

8. What should I do when I don't have a stand number or official address when completing official SACSSP documents?

Please make use of your employer details/work address.

9. What will happen with the practitioner who registered previously on the Department of Social Development and University of Western Cape database?

Unique reference numbers will be issued to practitioners who have submitted personal e-mail addresses. The unique reference number should be used to access the online verification form to edit and update personal information.

10. What steps should be taken for the Professionalisation of the Community development sector?

- a. Development of a coordinated database of community development practitioners across the sectors (e.g. Public, Private, NGO, NPO, FBO, HEIs, TVETs, etc.);
- b. Development of a verified voters' roll for eligible members to participate in an election process;
- c. Voter education to prepare for the nominations and election process;
- d. Nominations and election process;
- e. Gazetting of names of elected and appointed members;
- f. Constitution of the Board
- g. Inauguration of the elected and appointed members to serve on the Board;
- h. Holding of 1st meeting of the Professional Board;
- i. Establishment of committees and panels of the Professional Board;
- j. Development of norms and standards; policy guidelines, regulations etc;
- k. Gazetting of regulations;
- l. Registration of Community Development Practitioners with the SACSSP.

11. Why is registration with SACSSP important?

- a. Provides you a license to practice, using the regulated title for the designation, and regulated scope of practice.
- b. When you are certified for a qualification in community development, you become respected as a professional.
- c. Educational Certification alone does not provide you with a license to practice community development.
- d. Persons who are not registered as community development practitioners with the SACSSP will not be allowed to practice community development.
- e. When you are registered as a community development practitioner you systematically gain access to knowledge and skills.
- f. You are legally obliged to adhere to your professional code of ethics set by the SACSSP.
- g. Your clients are protected against any unethical practices and misconduct.
- h. Through your registration with the SACSSP, you gain international recognition for the profession within which you are practicing.
- i. Your peers recognize that you are meeting the minimum requirements associated with your profession.
- j. You are respected within multi-disciplinary teams.
- k. You will perform duties unique to the scope of practice of your profession.
- l. By maintaining continuing professional development, employers are confident that you are knowledgeable about current trends within your profession.

9. When will the professional registration at the SACSSP commence?

Once the regulations and scopes of practice have been published by notice in the government gazette.

10. What will be the pre-requisite to register as a Community development practitioner on the SACSSP database?

The prerequisites shall be determined and published as a set of regulations by the newly established Professional Board for Community Development Practitioners.

11. Who can offer Community Development qualifications?

Any accredited college and university can offer Community Development qualifications.

12. How will the SACSSP assist Community Development with no qualifications in Community Development?

The Professional Board for Community Development Practitioners will use the Recognition of Prior Learning guideline/policy and determine the granny clause in the regulations to support those without formal qualifications to work towards gaining a qualification.

13. Will Continuing professional development (CPD) be applicable to Community development practitioners?

Yes, it will be applicable once the Board for Community Development Practitioners has been established.

14. Does the SACSSP provide development opportunities for registered practitioners?

Yes, through the SACSSP Continuing professional development (CPD) policy. The Board will establish its own CPD panel to assess training material from skills development practitioners or training consultants in the field of community development and related fields.

15. Where can one register to study Community Development?

Community Development Practitioners can register at accredited universities and colleges offering community development qualifications. A list will be published once the board is in place.

16. Will the SACSSP assist Community Development Practitioners to get employment?

No, the core mandate of SACSSP is to guide and regulate professions such as social work, child youth care work and professions for whom professional boards has been established. The SACSSP regulate aspects pertaining to registration, education training and development and professional conduct of practitioners as promulgated in the Social Service Professions Act, no 110 of 1978, as amended.

17. How will Community Development Practitioners receive information from the SACSSP?

Information will be distributed via the official communication channels of the SACSSP. Practitioners should ensure that their contact details are correctly loaded on the SACSSP database and to remember to always update their particulars each time they relocate or change postal addresses, emails or cellphone numbers.

18. Are SACSSP registered Community Development Practitioners allowed to join unions?

Yes, any union of their choice.

19. Will practicing practitioners without a Community Development qualification be allowed to register as a Community Development practitioner?

Yes, all practitioners practicing Community Development will be allowed to register as a Community Development practitioner under different categories as per the regulations that will be published in the government gazette.

20. Can one with a criminal record register within the SACSSP?

Yes, however due diligence will be conducted by the fit and proper committee of the Professional Board before a recommendation to be registered can be given.

21. What proof will Community Development practitioners get to indicate that they are officially registered with the council?

Practitioners will receive a registration certificate and a practice card.

22. Do you have to pay a registration fee whilst being unemployed?

You are not obliged to pay a registration fee whilst being unemployed, however proof of registration with the SACSSP will be a requirement when you apply for Community Development jobs. The Act allows one to apply for exemption if unemployed or to pay 50% of the annual fees, however the registration card will not entitle the holder to practice, but will confirm that the holder is registered.

23. What will happen if practitioners don't pay their annual registration fee on time?

The practitioner will accrue penalties or fines for late payment. A deregistration notification will be issued if the practitioner has failed to pay annual fees on the due date. The practitioner will have to restore his/her registration status in order to practice again. De-registered practitioners are not allowed to perform any Community Development duties. It is a criminal offence to practice without being registered with the SACSSP.

24. Is dual registration possible (e.g. registration as Social worker and Community development worker)?

Yes, dual registration is possible. Dual registered practitioners will have to pay dual annual registration fees for each profession they are registered for.