



Systems Transformers Cohort: An Opportunity to Accelerate Your Leadership Skills for Transformation in Your Community

We are inviting residents with lived/living experience to join us in a nine-month cohort to accelerate their leadership skills as changemakers in their communities. This opportunity is open to individuals who are part of a team in the Circle of Actions and have been selected by their team to participate.

Through this opportunity, residents will join a network that will support them in:

- Cultivating relationships with each other;
- Learning the tactics of systems transformation;
- Leading/co-leading a project as part of the local plan development efforts in your Circle of Actions team, and
- Working with your Circle of Actions team in co-designing a survey or other tool to assess the impact of your group's interventions and your experience with developing partnerships in your neighbourhood.

Participants in the Systems Transformers Cohort will have access to monthly cohort sessions, tools, and resources to support their learning. They will also be able to take advantage of two unique training opportunities, either as [Block Connectors](#) or [Life.School.House](#) hosts. The cohort session breakdown and an overview of the Block Connector and Life.School.House training opportunities are available below.

We are committed to fueling your leadership development. The Tamarack team will be available at every stage of the cohort to work with you in building new connections and experiencing a meaningful learning journey.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Jorge Garza, Associate Director of Communities Building Belonging at jorge@tamarackcommunity.ca or [book a meeting](#) with him.

Session Breakdown

Our virtual, 60-minute workshops will run at noon ET.

Session 1 (April 11): Introducing yourself and your neighbourhood

You will get to know your peers and learn the fundamentals of systems thinking and collaboration.

Session 2 (May 9): Unpacking the basics of ABCD and developing an organizing framework

You will identify your gifts, map your connections to your neighbourhood, and identify opportunities to mobilize other residents to support systems transformation.

Session 3 (June 13): Learning how to build an asset map

You will learn how to create an asset map, find community connectors, boost resident participation, and effectively communicate your vision for change.

Session 4 (July 11): Identifying opportunities for connectedness

You will identify key organizations and institutions that foster connectedness and match community skills and needs.

Session 5 (August 8): Exploring levers and blockers for community transformation

You will explore levers and blockers for transformation in your communities by collecting data from residents on local gifts and opportunities to foster connectedness.

Session 6 (September 12): Connecting assets & gifts

You will reflect on your experience connecting assets and gifts and identifying levers and blockers for transformation. You will also explore best practices in navigating through change.

Session 7 (October 10): Co-designing a tool to capture impact

You will discuss key community functions that are essential for transformation and co-design a survey or other tool to capture the impact of your learning journey and your community's plan/intervention(s).

Session 8 (November 14): Identifying the systems that support or hinder connecting

You will learn about systems mapping and identify the systems that support or hinder connectedness in your community. You will also test your tool to capture impact.

Session 9 (December 12): Reflecting on lessons learned and systems changes

As we celebrate our collective efforts, we will reflect on the processes, lessons learned, and impact from your engagement with your Circle of Actions team, residents, and local organizations in advancing community transformation.

Complimentary Training Opportunities

At least five individuals who are part of the Systems Transformers Cohort will have access to one of the following training opportunities:

1) Becoming a [Block Connector](#)

Facilitated by: Heather Keam, Tamarack Institute

The offer: Five cohort individuals will be invited to receive training on how to start their block connector initiative and develop a connector plan.

Time commitment: 4.5 hours in total. The training will take place from October to December.

Key activities:

- Work on their asset map to draft a connector plan
- Review tools and resources for the work available for them
- Identify community strengths, challenges, and opportunities
- Celebrate achievements and identify future directions

2) Becoming a [Life.School.House host](#)

Facilitated by: Melissa Boucher-Guilbert, Life.School.House

The offer: Five cohort individuals will be invited to participate in actioning the “plug and play” model of *LifeSchoolHouse*, a community-led folkschool that can be implemented with minimal resources to enhance community connections. Participants will have access to resources and coaching support from LifeSchoolHouse.

Time commitment: Three 1.5-hour training sessions, for a total of 4.5 hours of launch training. The training will take place between June and December. Life.School.House will provide access to an ongoing ‘community of practice’ that provides direct support for new hosts throughout implementation.

Key activities:

- Intro to Life.School.House Model
- Practical launch ideas and action planning
- Deepening our understanding of Community Hosting