

**Analysing the Community Development Worker (CDW)
Program's Impact in Linking Citizens to Social Grants on
Poverty Alleviation: A Case Study of the Western Cape
Province of South Africa**

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ABSTRACT This research study was conducted in order to investigate the extent to which the CDWP has been effective in linking local communities to social grants, which are provided in an endeavour to alleviate poverty. It made use of a mixed methods approach, with both qualitative and quantitative research methods being employed to conduct a case study in the Eden District Municipality. The research sample comprised 250 respondents to a questionnaire and 31 key informants who participated in in-depth interviews. A participatory community development framework was used to conduct the study, owing to its emphasis on achieving equal opportunities, access and participation and sustainable economic and social change. Although it was found that the CDWP played a significant role in linking citizens to social grants, thereby making a positive contribution towards the alleviation of poverty, it was also found that the politicising of the program, a lack of awareness of the program in some areas and a lack of resources to support the programs all hindered its effectiveness. Consequently, a clear policy framework, the proper alignment of community development services across all sectors and levels, increased financial support and the depoliticising of the program can all be identified as vital components for enabling the CDWP to fulfil its mandate successfully.