

Form filler

What will you do?

- complete an introduction to Citizens Advice and training for your role
- complete paper and online forms with clients, for example, to apply for a benefit, or to complete an application for money or equipment from a charity
- discuss a client's income and spending with them, and together draw up a budget
- write a summary of the clients' problems and what action you've taken
- look out for problems that are common or are unfair and write a short report about the problem or a letter to an elected official like an MP, AM, or local councillor.

Some examples of what you could do:

- find the information online that explains how to apply for Housing benefits in a client's local area and explain it to them
- identify what steps a client can take to resolve their problem with a second-hand car
- help a client find and understand what steps they can take to deal with their rent arrears

What's in it for you?

- make a real difference to people's lives
- gain in-depth knowledge about specific issues, such as benefits, and debt
- build on valuable skills such as communication, questioning and listening, interpreting information and summarising
- increase your employability
- work with a range of different people, independently and in a team.
- have a positive impact in your community



What do you need to have?

You don't need specific qualifications or skills, but you'll need to:

- be friendly and approachable
- be non-judgmental and respect views, values and cultures that are different to your own
- have good listening skills
- have excellent verbal and written communication skills
- have good maths and IT skills
- be able to understand information and summarise it
- be willing to learn about and follow the Citizens Advice aims, principles and policies, including confidentiality and data protection
- be willing to undertake training in your role



How much time do you need to give?

Ideally, we ask for 4 hours per week, which can be over one day or spread over two days, for at least 6 months.

We can be flexible so come and talk to us.



Valuing inclusion

Our volunteers come from a range of backgrounds, and we particularly welcome applications from disabled people, people with physical or mental health conditions, LGBT+ and non-binary people, and people from Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

If you are interested in becoming a form filler and would like to discuss flexibility around location, time, 'what you will do', and how we can support you please contact us.



Contact details T: 01279 770189 E: volunteering@harlowcitizensadvice.org.uk