

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Lambeth Law Centre	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name? Law Centres Network	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Lambeth	
Contact person: Mr Michael Tarnoky	Position: Director
Website: http://www.lambethlawcentre.org	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1076204
When was your organisation established? 19/08/1981	

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? Reducing Poverty
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? More people accessing debt and legal services More Londoners with improved economic circumstances
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. To enable 1500 vulnerable individuals to overcome social exclusion through targeted, holistic legal advice and representation.
When will the funding be required? 01/04/2017
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £43,850 Year 2: £45,150 Year 3: £46,150 Total: £135,150

Aims of your organisation:

Our primary aims and objectives are:

To provide high quality specialist legal advice in the areas of social welfare law including housing, immigration, welfare rights, money advice and employment.

To provide specialist legal advice services to particular groups in the community who face barriers to advice, such as young people, people in poverty, people suffering from disabilities or ill health, lone parents, immigrants and migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers and ex prisoners

To support the advice sector in Lambeth through the provision of second tier advice and strategic engagement.

To ensure a strong and sustainable law centre for the people of Lambeth.

Main activities of your organisation:

We provide legal advice and representation in immigration, employment, housing, welfare benefits, debt and community care. We hold face to face drop in advice sessions and outreach surgeries, we advocate with landlords, employers and government bodies and take cases to tribunals and courts at all levels. Our clients are often hard to reach, and dealing with multiple problems, such as domestic violence survivors with no legal status in the UK, struggling to manage debt, and require our expertise and holistic approach.

To maximise our impact and capacity we work with a range of partners across London providing second tier support and outreach surgeries and training sessions for community based organisations in all our practice areas. We run the housing possession court duty scheme in Lambeth and are the lead agency in the Lambeth Advice Network. We ran an unpaid wages project with pro-bono lawyers from DLA Piper and Ashurst solicitors. We provide advice to migrants and refugees at five outreach sessions.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
8	10	14	11

Property occupied by your organisation

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
Rented	ongoing

Summary of grant request

Lambeth Law Centre (LLC) is applying for £135,150 over three years to develop work in tackling poverty, exclusion and disadvantage through legal advice and representation reaching 1500 individuals experiencing complex and multiple problems including poverty, poor housing, chronic debt and lack of secure immigration status in a borough with some of the most deprived areas in the UK. We will achieve this through offering direct holistic legal advice and representation, building the capacity of community groups and offering groups ongoing support to enable them to resolve less complex matters.

Funding will enable us to embed collaborative capacity-building work with local community organisations to maximise access to our holistic legal services and to increase community involvement in service design so that together we can use the law to resolve the multiple inter-connected problems that keep people in poverty. These external agencies are often best-placed to develop trusting relationships with marginalised groups who may be unwilling or unable to access mainstream services.

Lambeth remains high on the inequality index in London; this inequality is increasingly patterned by ethnicity. The need for specialist legal advice and representation is therefore self-evident; this is evidenced by our daily experience in drop in sessions and from our links with tenants and campaigning organisations, migrant groups or mental health and HIV support groups. Delivering housing advice throws up immigration issues, debt training raises benefit problems; vulnerable individuals experience multiple, interlinked legal problems that must be resolved holistically. LLC has experts in all areas of social welfare law who co-work within the Centre to ensure that problems are holistically dealt with. This project would address these multiple needs, all of which severely impact vulnerable individuals' ability to live healthy, safe, financially secure lives. The Local Authority funds some welfare benefits advice but this cannot meet the need for specialist level advice and does not allow community activists and service users to input into the services design.

We will deliver 5 outreach surgeries at community organisations each month to deliver legal advice and support to marginalised individuals; complex matters identified at these sessions, and by community partners, will be taken on by LLC for specialist holistic legal representation. Ongoing training and support to community partners will build their capacity to offer initial representation for simpler matters, and to act as an effective triage and referral service.

Our aim is to ensure that 1500 people are able to resolve life-limiting legal issues. We will maximise the impact of our limited resources, empower local organisations and individuals to help themselves, to understand how they can best use the LLC's resources and contribute to our work, improving our service delivery by user input.

The Law Centre is led by a diverse and highly skilled management committee and our qualified staff are experienced, skilled, dedicated and embedded in the local community; we hold the Lexcel quality mark.

The Project matches two Programme outcomes: "More Londoners improve their economic circumstances"; and "More people access debt and legal services". Increased access to appropriate benefits will improve people's economic circumstances at a time of massive benefit changes. Increased links with community groups will allow increased access to holistic legal services.

Involving service users in the development and evaluation of our service is key to this project. We engage with a diverse client base across gender, ages, ethnicity,, sexuality and other equality groups --and this is reflected in our board, staff, and volunteers. We value our volunteers, offering training and progress within the organisation. 60% of them leave to employment. We have an active environmental policy and we are aiming to improve this.

If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **Yes**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

Lexcel Version 6

Outputs and outcomes

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

150 Outreach sessions (50 annually) delivering one to one welfare benefits advice backed up by immigration and debt advice to up to 1200 people

Ongoing casework for 300 people (100 annually) in benefits with debt advice, financial capability advice and immigration casework where needed.

36 Training sessions to community groups (12 annually) on access to benefits and related immigration issues.

Second tier advice to 12 local groups on an ongoing basis.

2 borough wide advice conferences (one annually in second and third years of project) inviting community groups to set out their needs and share learning .

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

800 people report reduced levels of poverty and material deprivation, destitution, debt and social exclusion

1500 people report they are able to progress their lives.

12 Community organisations report that they are better able to advise and better able to refer complex cases.

50 Community activists are better able to identify and progress social issues and report that the Law Centre is a vital and accessible resource.

Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to sustain it? If not, what is your exit strategy?

Yes. The funding will allow us to become more robust and sustainable and access a wider range of funding streams including expanding our legal aid income and making applications to other trusts and developing partnerships with housing providers and others whose clients need access to our sepcialist services. We have done this successfully in the past with other projects.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

500

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

Lambeth (97%)

Southwark (2%)

Croydon (1%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

0-15

16-24

25-44

45-64

65-74

75 and over

What gender will beneficiaries be?

All

Male

Female

Transgender or other gender identity

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

White (including English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British; Irish; Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller; Any other White background)

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

Asian/ Asian British (including Indian; Pakistani; Bangladeshi; Chinese; Any other Asian background)

Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British (including African; Caribbean; Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background)

If Other ethnic group, please give details: **Latin American**

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

31-40%

Funding required for the project

What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salary-Welfare Benefits/Debt Caseworker	35,000	36,000	37,000	108,000
Proportion of office costs	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
Proportion of accommodation	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
Proportion of training/insurance	350	350	350	1,050
External events/publicity	500	800	800	2,100
Proportion of supervision/management	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	43,850	45,150	46,150	135,150

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salary-Welfare Benefits/Debt Caseworker	35,000	36,000	37,000	108,000
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TOTAL:	43,850	45,150	46,150	135,150

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Salary-Welfare Benefits/Debt Caseworker	34,593	35,609	36,352	106,554
Proportion of office costs	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
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	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	43,443	44,759	45,502	133,704
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What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	0	0	0	0
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Proportion of supervision/management	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	43,443	44,759	45,502	133,704
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Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2015
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	26,265
Activities for generating funds	245,831
Investment income	4
Income from charitable activities	318,710
Other sources	2,107
Total Income:	592,917

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	554,349
Governance costs	4,500
Cost of generating funds	105
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	558,954
Net (deficit)/surplus:	33,963
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	33,963

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	2,964
Investments	0
Net current assets	268,320
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	271,194

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	34,923
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	236,271
*Total Reserves (B):	236,271

* Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.

Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?
11-20%

Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

We recruited a new Senior Solicitor who started in February 2016.

We will be cut 15% from our local authority funding from 2017-18 with a further cut in 2019-20 expected.

We have established the Public Interest Law Unit as a project within the Law Centre taking on a range of new work areas.

Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	143,124	145,235	112,400
London Councils	125,221	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	0	0	0

Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
Big Lottery	0	0	95,176
Trust for London	13,750	27,500	28,250
London Housing Foundation	0	0	25,000
Lloyds TSB foundation	20,000	0	20,000
London Legal Support Trust	10,000	10,000	0

Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes Full Name: **Michael Tarnoky**

Role within **Director**
Organisation: