

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Reducing Poverty**FoodCycle****Adv: Ciaran Rafferty****Base: Lambeth****Amount requested: £87,500****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £87,000****The Charity**

FoodCycle, a national charity, was founded in 2009 by a young man who wanted to tackle both food poverty and social isolation using a local-community approach. His concept hinges on a triple-donation model of food, time and place. A local organisation volunteers the use of its kitchen once or more per week; the charity arranges for surplus food to be collected from local supermarkets; and a team of volunteers cooks and provides a healthy meal for up to 50 disadvantaged people in the neighbourhood. As well as providing nourishing food for those in need, the meal is a chance for people to have some company. The charity has won a series of awards including: Big Society Award 2011; and Best Community Initiative at the Climate Week Awards 2014.

The Application

This application is to continue, for a further two years, work funded by a three-year grant from your Committee in September 2014. FoodCycle's work is unique and London-wide and, as such, is eligible to be considered for a further two years' funding. Specifically, this application is for the salary of a London Projects Manager and for costs for training volunteers, so that the services provided in the capital can be of the highest quality and impact. The charity operates 9 projects in London with another 4 on the way – hence the need for a dedicated post to provide good operational management and support on the ground.

The Recommendation

This is an impressive organisation which achieves much through donations of food, time and place. With a rise in the number of people who rely on food banks or who are increasingly spending more of their income on food, FoodCycle brings much-needed assistance whilst also reducing food waste and tackling social isolation, particularly amongst the elderly. The work you have funded to date has been successfully monitored and has delivered consistently good outcomes. Your funding is advised as follows:

£87,000 over two further and final years (£43,000; £44,000) for the salary of a f/t London Projects Manager and volunteer training costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
25/09/2014	£122,200 over three years (£37,600; £38,900; £45,700) for expansion of FoodCycle's work in London.

Background and detail of proposal

The FoodCycle model supports those living in food poverty but in a social and non-stigmatic way. Many people – particularly the older generation - are ashamed to use food banks and would rather go without but they are happy to go along to a FoodCycle community dinner as they are promoted as social events and encompass people of all ages living in the same neighbourhood. Monitoring of projects and their clients (called guests) shows that they often have multiple – and commonly inter-related - challenges (eg poor mental and physical health, low income, living alone). Your funding for a further two years will enable the charity to provide more intensive support to the London cohort of venues (soon to number 13) and enable the guests to access other support services that they might need.

Financial Information

The cost of generating funds in 2015/16 included £36,000 to stage a one-off gala event (which generated c£80k in income) and also included c.£23,000 for franchising costs. In subsequent years franchising costs have been accounted for within charitable activities hence the cost of raising funds now being lower in those years. The level of free reserves held is above the policy although the charity has plans to use some of these, if necessary, in expanding its operations in the north of England; and for any costs arising from restructuring to a more effective management model.

Year end as at 31 August	2016 Examined Accounts £	2017 Forecast £	2018 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	693,677	576,480	590,848
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	99.00%	62%
Expenditure	(593,706)	(536,541)	(590,574)
Total surplus/(deficit)	99,971	39,939	274
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	4,568	18,150	23,612
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	95,403	21,789	(23,244)
	99,971	39,939	368
Cost of Raising Funds	144,241	55,733	65,000
- % of income	20.8%	9.7%	11.0%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	357,515	257,253	266,896
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	268,795	290,584	267,340
No of months of operating expenditure	9.0	13.6	12.0
Reserves policy target	197,902	178,847	196,858
No of months of operating expenditure	6.6	8.3	8.9
Free reserves over/(under) target	70,893	111,737	70,482