

MEETING: 02/05/2018

Ref: 14515

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - English for Speakers of Other Languages**

**Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation (IRMO)**

**Adv: Joan Millbank**

**Amount requested: £90,611**

**Base: Lambeth  
Benefit: Lambeth**

**Amount recommended: £87,360**

**The Applicant**

Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation (IRMO) is a community-led charitable company that provides Latin Americans with support and information to build secure and integrated lives in London. Founded in 1982 by Chilean refugees, the organisation has adapted to meet the changing needs of the Latin American community. IRMO works in four areas: education, training and employment; advice; health and wellbeing; and raising awareness for migrant communities. In 2016/17 the charity supported over 4,300 people of all ages through its services and activities.

**The Application**

IRMO is seeking three-year match funding to provide ESOL provision and related support (conversation classes, information workshops and community coffee mornings) to support 540 community members where lack of written and spoken English is a barrier to integration and access to services. Building on a track record of delivering ESOL for Work, this programme – ESOL for All – seeks to address the expressed needs of adults of all ages to learn English to overcome isolation and exclusion.

**The Recommendation**

The applicant makes a convincing case for funding. Further, Henry Smith Charity (HSC) - the proposed match funder- is familiar with IRMO and previous ESOL provision, which it says was well delivered with strong outcomes. HSC is very interested in funding this joint proposal although no decision has been made at the time of writing. Following discussion with your officer the proposal has been modified to increase provision of pre-entry, entry 1 and 2 classes. IRMO has been advised that some running costs would not be accepted e.g. cost of becoming an accreditation centre as it is not a funding requirement, hence the grant level advised:

***£87,360 over three years (£28,740; £29,190; £29,430) towards 50% cost of provision of the English for All programme, including a contribution towards a FTE Project Manager, PT Tutor, running costs and indirect costs but excluding the costs of IT equipment and maintenance, materials, and registration as an accredited provider. The grant offer is subject to securing additional funding required to make the project viable.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
26/11/2015	Application declined as insufficient match with your priorities

**Background and detail of proposal**

English for All ESOL provision has been developed in direct response to local research carried out by IRMO. Findings revealed 85% respondents have to rely on family, often their children, or friends to speak English for them and 97% said they

wanted to improve their English. Following consultation with would-be learners the programme has been devised to offer shorter, more intensive terms that fit around school terms, are flexible to meet learners' employment patterns, and with drop-in workshops and conversation groups to enhance learning. Each year 576 hours of pre-entry (x 2 classes), entry 1 and 2 level ESOL will be provided together with 2 x 3-hour weekly conversation classes. To aid integration IRMO will also offer 8 information workshops per year and 12 community coffee mornings each year where outside agencies and community organisations will be invited to tell learners about their services. Provision will be made for older learners and/or for women only groups as required by learners.

Activities will be organised by a full-time project manager, with classes delivered by a qualified ESOL tutor and volunteers providing support in the conversation classes, workshops and coffee mornings. Outcomes will relate to improved skills in written and spoken English, improved confidence and integration in the wider community. Learners will be supported to progress onto higher, accredited courses as required and as available; IRMO has contact with all other local ESOL providers and other learners are also welcome within IRMO provision.

### Financial Information

The charity considers that, given the nature of its work, free reserves should be equivalent to three months of its operating expenditure. It believes that this level provides sufficient cover for temporary shortfalls in income and to close the charity should the need arise. The cost of generating funds is low and is shown as once-off non-staff costs in the accounts. From 2018-19 the new joint CEO post holders will be involved in bid writing alongside the trustees; the budget forecast shown the estimated cost of their time. Trustees will also continue to help raise funds.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Examined Accounts £	2018 Forecast £	2019 Budget £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	193,071	236,000	250,000
- % of income confirmed as at 2/3/2018	n/a	n/a	45%
Expenditure	(195,799)	231,360	(246,900)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(2,728)	4,640	3,100
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	102	2,000	800
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(2,830)	2,640	2,300
	(2,728)	4,640	3,100
Cost of Raising Funds	3,506	2,500	2,500
- % of income	1.8%	1.1%	1.0%
Operating expenditure (total funds)	195,799	231,360	246,900
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	26,690	29,330	31,630
No of months of operating expenditure	1.6	1.5	1.5
Reserves policy target	42,739	57,845	61,725
No of months of operating expenditure	2.6	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(16,049)	(28,515)	(30,095)