

The City Bridge Trust

Bridging Divides: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Organisation Details

Name of your organisation: Southwark Law Centre	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name? N/A	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Southwark	
Contact person: Ms Sally Causer	Position: Executive Director
Website: http://www.southwarklawcentre.org.uk	Social Media Accounts:
What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold? Lexcel specialist level	

Legal Status

Legal status of organisation: Charitable company			
Charity Number: 277927	Company Number: 1418763	CIC Number:	Bencom Number:
When was your organisation established? 01/11/1976			
Aims of your organisation: The Law Centre's primary aim is the relief of poverty by the provision of legal advice, representation, education, research for people in need primarily in Southwark and surrounding Boroughs. The majority of people we support are from Southwark, but we take on cases from other South London Boroughs such as Lewisham and Bexley which do not have a Law Centre. Our constitution allows us to work across Greater London Key objectives In our current business plan for 2018/21 is to further develop areas of expertise and new initiatives in the provision of immigration advice, and to expand provision into Lewisham.			

Main activities of your organisation:

We provide high quality, specialist legal advice and representation in the areas of discrimination, employment, housing, public law, planning, welfare rights, and asylum/Immigration law to those who could not afford to pay. In the year 2017/8 we took on over 800 cases. Our funding is a mixture of Legal Aid Income, charitable grants and a contract with Southwark Council. We hold Legal Aid contracts in the areas of housing, immigration and asylum and public law.

We prioritise cases which involve the prevention of homelessness, destitution, discrimination, breaches of Human Rights and poverty. All of our clients are living in poverty, many of them are destitute. None can afford to pay for legal advice. We have developed particular expertise in Human Rights Act cases. We aim to responsibly influence law and policy by highlighting the issues facing our clients and by strategic litigation. We support generalist advice and community agencies by providing consultancy and training.

Your Staff & Volunteers

Full-time:	Part-time:	Trustee/Board members:	Active volunteers:
11	5	10	6
Do you have a Safeguarding policy? Yes			
Are the following people in your organisation subject to DBS checks?			
Paid Staff Yes	Volunteers No	Trustees / Management Committee Members No	

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?
Leased	7 years

Environmental Impact**What action have you taken in the past year to progress environmentally sustainability principles and practice?**

We provide storage for cycles for staff
 We recycle materials and old office equipment
 We have reduced energy consumption by moving from an old inefficient server to a cloud hosted IT system.
 We monitor utility bills

Finance Details

Organisation Finances

	Year of most recent audited / examined accounts	Current financial year forecast	Next financial year budget
End of financial year date	31/03/2017	31/03/2018	31/05/2019
Grants & donations:	£469,367	£496,339	£409,197
Earned Income:	£438,455	£359,000	£420,000
Other income:	£538	£3,000	£800
Total income:	908,360	£858,339	£829,997
Charitable activity costs:	£794,483	£855,615	£870,900
Cost of raising funds:	£0	£0	£0
Other costs:	£0	£0	£0
Total expenditure:	£794,483	£855,615	£870,900
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end:	£544,013	£546,736	£501,289
What is your organisation's reserves policy? As part of our Financial Management processes, the Board of Trustees has set a target of working towards accumulating and maintaining a reserve fund which represents six months annual operating costs. In addition we wish to set aside the following amounts : ? £100,000 in the event we need to move from our current premises in 2020. ? £70,000 for unforeseen staffing issues such as the need to provide cover due to sickness, maternity or paternity leave. ? £5,000 fund for replacing essential equipment such as telephones or IT			
For your most recent financial year, what % f of your income was from statutory sources? 21-30%			

Organisational changes

Describe any significant organisational changed to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts.

None

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying?
Advice and Support

Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve?
~~Positive Transitions\Specialist support services are better able to meet the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged Londoners~~

ADVICE + GUIDANCE

More Londoners have improved economic circumstance.

Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence.
To increase the provision of high quality specialist immigration and human rights legal advice for disadvantaged migrants in South East London

When will the funding be required? **01/07/2018**

Is this request to continue work that is currently funded or has been funded in the last year by:

City Bridge Trust?

Yes

Another funder? (if so which)

How much funding are you requesting?

Year 1:	Year 2:	Year 3:	Year 4:	Year 5:
£49,956	£509,34	£0	£0	£0

~~£50,934~~

Total Requested: £100,890

You and your grant request

What, specifically, are you applying for (your project)?

We are applying for funding towards the salary costs of a full time immigration solicitor for 2 years to enable us to continue to provide specialist level immigration and Human Rights advice and casework including Judicial Review and tribunal representation.

The funding will enable us to take on high risk cases that private practice solicitors will not take on because of the Legal Aid restrictions.

What are the changes you hope to achieve?

Our overarching aim is to reduce inequality and disadvantage for migrants with insecure immigration status in the UK who cannot afford to pay for legal advice.

We will aim to improve the economic circumstances, housing conditions and access to health care for a group facing multiple disadvantage

We wish to ensure that other community agencies provide a more effective service for disadvantaged migrants, by being able to identify issues such as Human Rights cases and to refer efficiently for specialist advice.

We wish to influence the policies of statutory agencies in order to combat the hostile environment that has been created for migrants over the past few years.

How do you know there's a need for this work?

The evidence that we have of the need for our project is embedded in our experience of providing specialist legal advice in a disadvantaged part of London with a large migrant population.

Over the past few years a 'hostile environment' has been created for people without lawful status in the UK or, as we have seen from the 'Windrush' cases, people who have found it difficult to prove their status. Changes to Immigration law have reached into essential aspects of life such as the ability to work, to access healthcare and welfare, access social housing or rent a home privately. The impact has been to increase destitution, racial discrimination and is harming community cohesion in our city.

The only remedy for many cases will be judicial review and currently due to cuts to Legal Aid there is a lack of availability of high quality immigration advice.

How will the work be delivered - specifically, what will you do?

We will provide face to face specialist legal advice, casework and representation in immigration and asylum law for 60 migrant clients (30 per year) and their families (estimated project total of 120 beneficiaries) from our premises in Peckham, and Lewisham, or in their homes, hospital or detention if required. The work will be delivered by an existing member of staff, a qualified and experienced solicitor.

The disadvantaged groups we will include failed asylum seekers, care leavers, people with mental health illnesses, people fleeing domestic violence, people who have been trafficked or are destitute

We will provide a telephone consultancy and referral line for frontline generalist workers in other organisations.

We will provide 4 workshops for frontline agencies on immigration and human rights issues.

We will produce 4 briefing papers on immigration issues to be circulated widely amongst our networks, and disseminated to statutory bodies.

Why are you the right organisation to do this work?

SLC has in depth experience of providing exceptionally high quality immigration advice, casework and training across the wide range of issues that concern the most vulnerable migrants and our expertise in higher courts litigation means that we are able to effectively challenge illegal actions by government and judicial authorities.

Some of our current/recent projects:

- ? We provide an advice, casework and representation service to women fleeing sexual abuse and violence.
- ? We provide immigration and related advice for migrant children.
- ? We coordinate a Housing and Immigration Group of representatives from refugee and asylum support organisations, in order to share good practice
- ? We provide outreach advice sessions in the premises of Southwark Day Centres for Asylum Seekers and Kings College Hospital targeting people who are street homeless.

We have developed expertise in conducting Article 8 Human Rights Act cases involving maintaining the right to family life.

How does your work complement and not duplicate other services within your area?

There is very little specialist immigration advice available in SE London.

We coordinate the SE London Immigration Advice Partnership which brings together the main not for profit agencies.

We meet quarterly to strategically plan work, share information and look at ways to fill gaps.

Migrant Legal Action is the other specialist immigration agency in Southwark and we share funding from the Local Authority with them under a contract.

Agencies such as Citizens Advice Southwark and Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network provide some specialist advice but do not have solicitors able to take cases to higher level tribunal or Judicial review so we have developed effective referral protocols with them to take over cases at this level

We also lead the London wide Housing and Immigration Group which has a membership of around 400 and is an effective forum for sharing information and considering strategic legal action.

How will this proposal meet the Programme Outcome(s) under which you are applying?

Our project will meet the following programme outcomes

?Londoners experiencing inequality or disadvantage have greater well-being and independence through improved access to services.

Our target group comprises of some of the most disadvantaged people living in London. By tackling the root cause of migrant destitution our project will increase well being and enable people to live independent lives participating in UK society

?Londoners experiencing inequality or disadvantage are better heard and represented leading to better decision-making.

Disadvantaged migrants have seldom heard voices. By strategic litigation and collecting evidence of the issues facing our target group we will aim to ensure they have a voice and that statutory agencies improve the way that they treat very vulnerable people.

How will you ensure that your project will hear and represent the views and needs of disadvantaged people and/or diverse communities?

We have an inclusive approach to the provision of casework. At the outset of a case we agree with the client the outcomes that they wish to achieve and the approach and evidence needed to achieve these aims. We keep people informed at each stage of their case, working with interpreters as necessary.

We seek feedback directly from our target group, and focus groups. We have recently run a focus group in partnership with Project 17 in order to evaluate another project. We found this to be very successful and empowering for the clients who could tell their stories in a safe atmosphere with other people who had been through similar experiences. We plan to run at least 2 groups per year.

All feedback from service users and the community agencies we work with is collated into a report which informs our annual planning process.

How does your project engage and empower individuals and/or communities to come together on this issue? Will you be working with people who are particularly excluded?

By collecting and sharing evidence of the issues facing our client group we aim to give them a voice and responsibly influence policies of statutory agencies.

The people we work with are some of the most disadvantaged in our society, excluded because of their immigration status from many aspects of normal life in the UK, often forced into hiding. It is not unusual for us to come across migrants who have been in the UK for 15 years and have not been able to access good quality immigration advice in order to resolve complex asylum claims.

By working closely in partnership with other agencies including food banks and hospital homeless services we will be able to engage individuals who are lost in the system. By providing consultancy and workshops for other community groups we will ensure that we can work together to meet the complex needs of our client group.

Is the focus of your project meeting an already identifiable need (acute or otherwise) or are there elements which are preventative and/or incorporate early action?

Our project deals with an acute issue for people at a time of crisis. Our Intervention however includes preventative elements for the wider issues facing disadvantaged migrants. If we can sort out the often very long standing and complex issues related to lack of Immigration status, and family separation our clients will be in a longer term stronger position. This will contribute to elements such as Increasing safeguarding for children, Improving access to education and healthcare and assisting in integration into the community.

By removing the restrictions on recourse to public funds the project will ease pressure on overstretched local authority budgets.

We know from our experience of working with hospitals in SE London that lack of Immigration status is often the root cause of homelessness which can result in frequent admissions to hospital and delayed discharge. Homeless migrants are very likely to have serious health issues and low mortality.

Who might you need to work closely with in delivering this project - whether before, during or afterwards?

In order to reach some of the most vulnerable migrants it is essential for the project to engage with frontline support agencies.

Southwark Law Centre has established referral relationships with a number of agencies such as Project 17, health professionals, food banks, Local Authority family support and care leaver teams and generalist agencies such as Citizens Advice. We would like to develop closer links with primary schools.

By providing training and consultancy we aim for support worker to be better able to identify cases particularly those involving Human Rights Act issues.

We will provide outreach sessions in the premises of Southwark Day Centres for Asylum Seekers, a safe and welcoming environment.

We work closely with other members of the Law Centres Network and coordination of forums such as the Housing and Immigration Group and South East London Immigration Advice Partnership will enable us to share learning from this project widely.

Our aim as a funder is to help people move positively between any of the four stages of Surviving, Coping, Adapting and Thriving. For your project at which of these stages will most people begin their journey?

The people who we will help will certainly all initially be at the stage of surviving. They are likely to be homeless or living in insecure accommodation. They will be living in extreme poverty, often surviving on charity and food banks before of the fear of applying to No Recourse to Public Fund teams who generally work closely with the Home Office.

They are very likely to have severe physical and/or mental health problems and may not be able to access medical treatment.

Following our intervention as applications to regularise their status are submitted they will move to coping and adapting as they should have access to some housing and welfare support.

If we are successful in applications to regulate status in the UK our clients and their families will thrive as they will be able to access welfare, education, healthcare and employment in the UK.

Will there be any elements of this project that will help you or your beneficiaries to reduce your environmental footprint?

Once the clients immediate advice needs have been dealt with we can refer to other agencies for support around areas such as energy saving advice.

We also have a Planning Voice project. One of the aims of this project is to encourage people from seldom heard groups to be involved in decisions about the environment they live in such as access to green space and reduction of air pollution

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver?

Submit thoroughly prepared applications for leave to remain for 30 vulnerable migrants each year maintaining their right to private and family life and keeping them safe from harm.

Support 30 vulnerable migrants and their families to access financial support income such as NASS and Social Services and improved accommodation

Provide consultancy support training and information on issues affecting our client group reaching 40 frontline workers every year

What 3 main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve?

As a result of submitting an application for leave to remain clients and their families will maintain their private and family life and be kept safe from harm.

As a result of submitting an application for leave to remain clients and their families will maintain or have increased access to housing and financial support.

Other frontline agencies will be in a better position to support disadvantaged migrants

Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Salary Including NI and pension contribution	46,984	47,923	0	0	0	94,907
Supervision 1 day per month	1,972	2,011	0	0	0	3,983
Admin support 1 day per month	986	1,005	0	0	0	1,991
Travel and sundries	150	150	0	0	0	300
Printing/statelony/Postage/Telephone	2,800	2,800	0	0	0	5,600
Disbursements/experts reports/Interpretation	12,000	12,000	0	0	0	24,000
Contribution to overheads accommodation/utilities/IT	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	3,000
Practising certificate	350	350	0	0	0	700

TOTAL:	67,242	68,239	0	0	0	135,481
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What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Anticipated income from Legal Aid	17,286	17,305	0	0	0	34,591

TOTAL:	17,286	17,305	0	0	0	34,591
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What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
none	0	0	0			0

TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	0
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How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Salary costs	46,984	47,923	0	0	0	94,907
Supervision	1,972	2,011	0	0	0	3,983
Staff Training	500	500	0	0	0	1,000
Staff Travel and sundries	150	150	0	0	0	300
Practising certificate	350	350	0	0	0	700
TOTAL:	49,956	50,934	0	0	0	100,890

Who will benefit?

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

90

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

Southwark

Does this project specifically target any groups or communities?

This project will specifically work with the following age groups:

This project will specifically work with the following gender groups:

This project will specifically work with the following ethnic groups:

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

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

Latin American

This project will specifically work with Deaf and disabled people:

No

This project will specifically work with LGBTQI groups:

No

<p>This project will specifically work with other groups or communities:</p>
<p>How will you target the groups/communities you have identified? What is your expertise in providing services for these groups?</p>
<p>Are there any groups or communities you think your organisation will find hard to include through this project? Yes - please specify</p>
<p>If yes, please specify which groups or communities? Where possible using the categories listed above. Very vulnerable migrants who are in hospital with severe physical and/or mental health issues Care leavers</p>
<p>If yes, what steps will you take to make your services accessible to and meet the needs of the groups/communities you have identified? Building referral protocols with NRPF teams and Hospitals. Providing training for frontline workers</p>

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: **Sally Causer**

Role within **Executive Director**
 Organisation: