

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions****Latin American Women's Aid****Adv: Joan Millbank****Amount requested: £412,900****Base: Hackney****(Revised request: £325,366)****Benefit: Barnet & London-wide****Amount recommended: £239,000****The Applicant**

Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) was established in 1987 to provide a safe environment for Latin American and other Spanish and Portuguese speaking women and children affected by domestic violence. Today its core aim has widened to include action to end violence against Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women and girls in general. The charity provides emergency refuge accommodation and practical advice and support to help to empower women in their transition from violence to freedom. LAWA also provides a comprehensive advice and advocacy service helping women to access benefits, housing and legal advice, children's rights, ESOL and employment support, peer support programme, help in contacting the police and immigration departments, referrals to counselling services and other agencies in regard to those experiencing honour-based violence, trafficking and hate crimes. LAWA leads on a number of delivery partnerships. It recently secured Trust for London funding for a new Women Against Homelessness and Abuse advice service, and support from the ROSA Fund to set up a specialised advice service to assist BME women experiencing sexual harassment in work.

**The Application**

LAWA is seeking a five-year grant to fund towards the costs of a full-time Refuge Co-ordinator for the Barnet house which recently opened; a part-time LBTQI (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex) Advisor and Outreach Worker; and a contribution towards core costs including those of the Director. The cost elements and amounts were reviewed at the assessment meeting and the applicant subsequently revised its request. In the opinion of your Funding Manager, however, some costs remain high and with core costs disproportionate to the level of project funding sought - hence the level of grant now recommended.

**The Recommendation**

LAWA is a well-regarded charity providing specialist gender and culturally specific services to a particularly disadvantaged section of London's population. It is an active member of Refuge and Imkaan, the only UK-based, second-tier women's organisation dedicated to addressing violence against Black and minority women and girls. Recently LAWA has gone through organisational change to strengthen its strategic focus and service delivery and has subsequently attracted a wider range of support; a significant achievement in the current financial climate.

**£239,000 over five years (5 x £47,800) for 50% of the cost of a full-time Refuge Co-ordinator; a LBTQI Advisor and Outreach Worker (14 hours per week), and to meet 10% cost of the post of Director, together with a contribution towards running costs.**

## Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
18/04/2013	£96,500 over three years for the salary of a p/t (28hpw) Family Support Outreach Worker and associated costs supporting the mental health needs of children and young people affected by domestic violence.

## Background and detail of proposal

A grant as advised would help LAWA provide 12 safe refuge spaces for up to 36 women, plus an estimated 72 children under aged under 15 years old escaping domestic and gender violence. The women and children will also receive tailored help and wrap-around support from the range of services provided by LAWA and partners as appropriate. LAWA estimates that over 70% of beneficiaries will report feeling safer and empowered and up to 600 LBTQI women experiencing violence to benefit from assistance from the dedicated worker within LAWA over the five years and to be helped to rebuild their lives and feel more confident about their futures.

## Financial Information

The cost of raising funds is low as the expenditure heading in the table below shows only incidental expenses whereas the related estimated staff cost of £14,500 has been included within expenditure on charitable activities. LAWA's turnover has increased year on year in response to expressed need for new services and their related success in securing more grants. The grant requested from the Trust and related expenditure is included within the forecast. The trustees have established several designated funds to support effective charity management; these are excluded from the free reserves total shown below. In its financial forecasting the charity has deemed its restricted expenditure in any one year to equate exactly to the income needed, hence the £0 figures in the "restricted surplus/deficit" lines below. This is unusual and not best practice, which has been brought to the organisation's attention together with advice on where they may get some training.

Year end as at 31 March			
	Audited Accounts 2017-18 £	Forecast 2018-19 £	Budget 2019-20 £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	489,113	661,561	785,315
- % of Income confirmed as at Jan 2019	n/a	82%	69%
Expenditure	(336,450)	(637,396)	(765,127)
Total surplus/(deficit)	152,663	24,165	20,188
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	44,453	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	108,210	24,165	20,188
	152,663	24,165	20,188
<b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>	0	345	500
- % of Income	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Total expenditure	336,450	637,396	765,127
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	185,932	210,097	230,285
No of months of total expenditure	6.6	4.0	3.6
Reserves policy target	168,225	318,698	382,564
No of months of total expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	17,707	(108,601)	(152,279)