

MEETING: 30/10/2019

Ref: 15169

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**

The Interlink Foundation

Adv: Sandra Jones

Base: Hackney

Amount requested: £250,000

Benefit: Hackney, Haringey and  
Barnet

Amount recommended: £250,000

**The Applicant**

Established in 1990, Interlink Foundation (IF) is the infrastructure organisation serving the Orthodox Jewish (Charedi) voluntary and community sector, operating in London, Manchester and Gateshead. Its main office is based in London close to the border of Hackney and Haringey as the Charedi communities in London are mainly located in the Stamford Hill/South Tottenham area and in Barnet (Golders Green, Hendon and Edgware where there is a satellite office. IF has established a Community Interest Company as a subsidiary through which it leads its member organisations in making consortia bids for public sector contracts.

**The Application**

Interlink Foundation has been instrumental in enabling the Charedi voluntary sector to collaborate with the wider voluntary sector in order to meet the needs of members of their own community and beyond. Funding is sought for three elements: to provide capacity building for Charedi civil society organisations (CSO) building organisational resilience; enabling Charedi CSOs to be more connected across sectors and communities; train Charedi CSO leaders to build knowledge, develop community leadership skills and share learning. This will be achieved through employing a FTE development officer and a contribution towards associated running costs.

**The Recommendation**

Interlink Foundation has established a good reputation for the quality of its work and is one of London's key infrastructure organisations. It has established strong partnerships between Charedi community groups and mainstream organisations, such as London Youth, National Council for Voluntary Youth Services, and Age UK, amongst others. It currently manages 5 consortia and in addition it works closely with borough-based consortia bidding vehicles in Hackney and Haringey. It is a steering group member of both City and Hackney Together and Together North London.

***£250,000 over five years (5 x £50,000) towards the salary of a FTE Development Officer and related running costs of a project supporting capacity building, and resilience amongst Charedi organisations; partnership and collaboration with other sectors and communities in North London; and to train Charedi CSOs and develop community leadership.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
26/11/2015	£80,000 over two years (2 x £40,000) towards the salary and related running costs of a project supporting partnership and collaboration amongst Charedi organisations in North London.
26/04/2012	£120,000 over three years (3 x £40,000) towards the salary and

associated running costs of a project developing partnerships between Charedi community groups and mainstream organisations which tackle disadvantage and create opportunities for everyone.
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### Background and detail of proposal

After more than a decade of Interlink's work to raise awareness of the needs of the Orthodox Jewish community, Charedi disadvantage is now well documented. Independent research indicates higher needs across the various indicators, including disability, housing difficulties and overcrowding and a higher likelihood of reliance on means-tested benefits. The introduction of Universal Credit has hit particularly hard, with Charedi households representing 93% of Hackney households affected by the housing benefits cap. With negative media portrayals of Charedi people, there is an increased sense of victimisation with the community being at risk of turning inwards and becoming increasingly victimised.

The project will address this by getting more Charedi organisations working outside their own community, in partnership with the wider voluntary sector and the public sector. This strategically important shift marks a change in how the Charedi voluntary sector interacts with the wider civil society. This will be done in conjunction with providing training and support to local organisation to develop the skills of local leaders as well as building capacity and resilience of local organisations through training events and courses, and one-to-one support.

### Financial Information

Interlink Foundation's finances have almost 50% of its income as unrestricted, coming from donations, income from services to other organisations and the surplus made from Interlink Community Services CIC set up to manage commissioned work. The organisation has a policy of free reserves being between 3-12 months of expenditure and are maintaining them to just above three months.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Examined Accounts £	2019 Draft examined accounts £	2020 Forecast £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	636,911	797,695	889,735
- % of Income confirmed as at 22/02/2019	n/a	n/a	75%
Expenditure	(668,478)	(796,221)	(879,472)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(31,567)	1,474	10,263
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(3,734)	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(27,833)	1,474	10,263
	(31,567)	1,474	10,263
Cost of Raising Funds	9,813	9,327	8,795
- % of Income	1.5%	1.2%	1.0%
Total expenditure	668,478	796,221	879,472
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	239,865	243,254	253,517
No of months of unrestricted expenditure	4.3	3.7	3.5
Reserves policy target	167,120	199,055	219,868
No of months of total expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	72,746	44,199	33,649