

APPENDIX 2 - CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Stronger Communities

Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (Charity Reg No. 1073660)

First Love Foundation (ref. 18826)

Amount requested: £60,000

Amount recommended: £60,000

Purpose of grant request: To continue to provide emergency advice & food support to residents in crisis within the City of London and surrounding Boroughs.

The Applicant

First Love Foundation (FLF) is a registered charity established in 2010 to support deprived communities living in Tower Hamlets. The charity is the main foodbank provider in the borough as well as delivering a range of wrap around advice and support services. FLF aim to address the immediate need for food support for the people they work with. This is often due to problems with benefits, benefit caps, domestic violence, debt and other issues resulting in an income shock. The charity works to resolve these issues as quickly as possible so that the person is not dependent on charitable food support in the long-term.

Background and detail of proposal

Funding of £60,000 is sought to continue to enable FLF to continue its service of project worker-led support and emergency food for 12 Months. FLF will continue to deliver a core offer called “Enabling Lives Programme” which provides instant access to advice, support and food at the point of need. Individuals are referred for help by one of a range of referring partners – housing, advice services, social services, GP etc. Needs are assessed by the service. There are no fixed criteria beyond “no money, no food”. The focus is to support people through a crisis to “help restore dignity and build resilience to individuals and families”. No time limit is placed on support, but it aims to be transitional and not permanent.

All recipients are supported by a project worker who supports them until the need for food support ends. FLF will maintain the referral system set up in the pilot period, working closely with Toynbee Hall and other voluntary sector providers to identify those in need. FLF propose to manage at least 120 cases over the period, this is estimated on the numbers they dealt with during the pilot but will remain under review. As this grant is being to be made from the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (CRPC) it is proposed that FLF will also extend support through this funding to residents of other boroughs that reside on the borders of the City of London. This will maximise the support that can be offered through this programme while ensuring the CRPC delivers to its objects.

Funding will support the continued costs of a project worker, 360 food parcels and some associated project costs. The project will be monitored and evaluated with regular meetings with departmental officers to monitor performance.

Financial Information

FLF as a foodbank has been in extremely high demand since the start of the coronavirus pandemic which has seen the need for the Charity's services rise significantly. In the 2020/21 financial year, the Charity saw a 50% increase in income, receiving a huge amount of donations to support their services and help them expand into areas of East London where foodbank services were either very new or didn't exist. 2021/22 is expected to see significant demand but the Charity has recruited key operational staff to support its sustainability.

Year end as at 31 March	2020	2021	2022
	Signed Accounts £	Draft £	Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	604,090	999,554	1,250,995
- % of Income confirmed as at 24/04/2021	N/A	100%	40%
Expenditure	(566,004)	(774,150)	(1,282,399)
Total surplus/(deficit)	38,086	225,404	(31,404)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	34,750	31,404	(31,404)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	3,336	194,000	0
	38,086	225,404	(31,404)
Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	0
% Income	0%	0%	0%
Operating Expenditure (unrestricted)	384,550	572,388	840,000
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	(5,557)	188,443	188,443
No of months of operating expenditure	-0.2	4.0	2.7
Reserves policy target	192,275	286,194	420,000
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(197,832)	(97,751)	(231,557)

Recommendation

FLF is an established foodbank and advice provider to those in most need. They have a good reputation in Tower Hamlets where they are based and have seen a huge increase in demand on their services since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. They have already been delivering a high-quality service in the City of London and look to continue to do this. This grant will allow FLF to continue this work for the next 12 months with an expanded remit. This project will deliver the objectives of the CRPC as it will provide relief to those in need by reason of poverty or ill health who reside in the City of London or London Boroughs.

To ensure this grant is maximising its support (having regard of the CRPC to its modest funds), it is proposed that the funding can support individuals who are in need and residing on border areas of the City of London in other London Boroughs, not just the City of London. This project will deliver the objects of the CRPC as it will provide relief to those in need by reason of poverty or ill health who reside in the City of London or London Boroughs. It is noted that whilst this proposal is within the charity's geographical area of benefit as set out in its objects, it does depart from the Stronger Communities criteria in respect of geographical area of benefit. This departure being recommended to maximise the impact of the grant.

In recognition of the transfer of the very modest assets of the Signor Favale's Marriage Portion Charity to the CRPC. It is recommended that any grant approved should be named the CRPC – Favale Grant.

Funding is recommended as follows:

£60,000 over 12 months for a project worker (FT), provision of food parcels and associated project costs of delivering a bespoke foodbank and advice service for beneficiaries in the City of London and in bordering boroughs.