

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Harrow Law Centre	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Harrow	
Contact person: Ms Pamela Fitzpatrick	Position: Director
Website: http://www.harrowlawcentre.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charitable Incorporated	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1134778
When was your organisation established? 12/04/2010	
Aims of your organisation: Our Objects are: (a) the relief of financial hardship by the provision of free, independent legal advice and assistance to persons who, through lack of means, would otherwise be unable to obtain such advice; (b) to advance education in the laws of England and Wales from time to time in force for the public benefit; and (c) to advance such other charitable purposes as the directors at their absolute discretion may from time to time determine. Our aims are: (a) to provide the local community with a comprehensive free legal service that puts the legal and human rights of individuals first; (b) to overcome the obstacles people face in accessing the legal system; (c) to provide work experience for local law students to assist them to find work in the legal profession; (d) to establish a dedicated children's legal service at Harrow Law Centre	
Main activities of your organisation: a) provide free legal advice to disadvantaged people in Harrow who are at risk of homelessness, poverty and debt; b) provide second tier legal advice to local voluntary organizations and agencies to enable them to better support their vulnerable clients; c) undertake public legal education to better inform local people of legal rights and responsibilities d) undertake social policy work at a local, national and European level collecting data of our client's experience to improve services for our clients and other local people; e) undertake test case litigation work where appropriate to improve the legal position for our clients and other local people.	

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
1	7	4	5

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?
Rented	monthly basis

Grant Request

Details of grant request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? Reducing Poverty
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? More people accessing debt and legal services More Londoners with improved economic circumstances
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. We are seeking funding for a part time housing solicitor who will also advise on benefits and housing related debt.
When will the funding be required? 01/05/2014
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £26,070 Year 2: £25,690 Year 3: £25,850 Total: £77,600
Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to fund it? We have secured a contract with the Legal Aid Agency in April 2013 in housing and housing related debt this will be able to generate some income in the future. We have an active fundraising programme and, for example we have secured over £500,000 since opening in 2010. We ensure we have multiple funders.
If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Summary of grant request

This grant would fund a part time solicitor over a 3 year period to provide free legal advice and representation to disadvantaged people who are at risk of homelessness, poverty and debt. This would include initial face to face advice, casework, representation in repossession hearings at the County Court and judicial reviews where appropriate. In addition we will provide second tier legal advice to local voluntary organisations and agencies to enable them to better support their clients. The aim of the project is to prevent homelessness and destitution allowing our clients to feel safer, healthier and less stressed. We therefore believe that this falls within the Trust's current programme for housing and debt.

Law Centres have existed since the early 1970s and work within their communities to defend the legal rights of local people. Specialising in social welfare law, they have an in-depth knowledge of the issues communities face. They use this knowledge to help people save their homes, keep their jobs and protect their families. Law Centres offer legal advice, casework and representation to individuals and groups. Spotting local trends and issues in the course of their work, they highlight them to bring about necessary policy changes and to prevent future problems. Law Centres also help build capacity within local communities by training and supporting local groups and educating people about the law and their rights.

Harrow Law Centre is a registered charity which provides free legal advice to the most disadvantaged members of society. This includes providing advice and representation in court or tribunal hearings for example where a person is facing eviction from their home or where a child is facing exclusion from school. Our clients are comprised of the most disadvantaged groups in society. Many have multiple and complex needs such as homelessness, mental health issues and destitution. Many are single parents; on very low incomes; asylum seekers and women fleeing domestic violence. We see many young people who are in chaotic families or who have no parent or carer. We are usually able to bring some degree of stability to the client often where other agencies have failed.

However, the cuts to legal aid and reduction in available funding from Local Authorities has led to many organisations providing advice being forced to close their doors or reduce their service. This has led to an increased demand for our services. Equally significant is the fact that changes to housing and welfare benefits law has led to increased complexity and generalist advisers often find they are unable to resolve problems for their clients without the help of a solicitor.

We hold Lexcel Practice Management Standard and have three contracts with the Legal Aid Agency including housing and debt.

Outputs and outcomes

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

Face to face legal advice sessions with clients facing eviction and or destitution Monday to Fridays.

Representation at Court hearings for possession.

Identifying appropriate judicial review cases related to housing and destitution

Providing legal help by telephone to clients and voluntary sector agencies in Harrow

Taking up social policy issues related to housing and housing related debt.

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

Clients receiving advice and representation will be able to be housed

Clients will have improved wellbeing as they will be safer, healthier and less stressed if not homeless

Improved second tier support to wider voluntary sector on housing rights

Effecting wider social change by the use of test cases in judicial review eg to changes to allocations policy restrictions on housing to migrants

To effect improvements to policy and practice on a local level in respect of housing and debt.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

300

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

Harrow (90%)

Brent (5%)

Ealing (5%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

All ages

What gender will beneficiaries be?

All

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

A range of ethnic groups

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

61-70%

Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salary inc employers NICs	21,470	21,670	21,800	64,940
Contribution to rent and utilities	2,000	2,020	2,040	6,060
stationery	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Computer	600	0	0	600
Training and solicitors practising certificate	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	26,070	25,690	25,850	77,610

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salary inc employers NICs	21,470	21,670	21,800	64,940
Contribution to rent and utilities	2,000	2,020	2,040	6,060
Stationery	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Computer	600	0	0	600
Training and solicitors practising certificate	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	26,070	25,690	25,850	77,610

Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2013
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	29,139
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	113,990
Other sources	0
Total Income:	143,129

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	156,546
Governance costs	1,200
Cost of generating funds	0
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	157,746
Net (deficit)/surplus:	(14,617)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	(14,617)

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	0
Investments	0
Net current assets	(27,853)
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	(27,853)

Reserves at year end	£
Endowment funds	0
Restricted funds	0
Unrestricted funds	(27,853)
*Total Reserves (B):	(27,853)

*** Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.**

Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?
1-10%

Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

Since our 2013 accounts we have secured two long term grants one from Trust for London for 3 years and the other for 2 years from the Big Lottery. We have also secured 3 additional contracts with the Legal Aid Agency to provide legal advice in Housing, Immigration and Welfare Benefits. This allows us to generate our own income.

Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2010 £	2011 £	2012 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	0	10,000	13,000
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	0	0	0

Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2010 £	2011 £	2012 £
Children in Need	0	28,000	28,000
JP Getty Foundation	0	20,000	20,000
Evening Standard	0	0	18,500
London Legal Support Trust	20,000	10,000	10,000
North West London Community Foundation	10,000	0	0

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: **Pamela Fitzpatrick**

Role within **Director**
Organisation: