

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Voluntary Action Lewisham	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Lewisham	
Contact person: Ms Jennifer Laing	Position: Assistant Director (Services)
Website: http://www.valewisham.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1085026
When was your organisation established? 02/10/1967	

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? More organisations with improved capabilities in monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. Strengthening VCS to navigate appropriate tools that will measure their outcomes and impact and increase their confidence to effectively report on the difference they make.
When will the funding be required? 04/08/2014
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £50,000 Year 2: £50,000 Year 3: £50,000 Total: £150,000

Aims of your organisation:

Voluntary Action Lewisham (VAL) is the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) for the London Borough of Lewisham. We are the umbrella organisation that supports the development of the voluntary and community sector (VCS). VALs overall aim is to maximise the effectiveness of VCS organisations in Lewisham. Our aim is to:

- Provide leadership to strengthen the influence of the local VCS in Lewisham
- Support VCS organisations to improve their ability to achieve their aims effectively
- Support effective engagement of VCS groups in Lewisham with VCS and multi-agency networks
- Undertake and support activities that foster effective community development
- Work in partnership with voluntary, community, statutory and private organisations to strengthen the work of the sector.

Main activities of your organisation:

Our main activities include:

- Increasing recognition, understanding and appreciation of the work of the sector using our publications and website.
- Strengthening the voice of the sector by working with statutory and community organisations.
- Developing voluntary and community sector organisations via training and support.
- Enabling and supporting the involvement of sector organisations in the social and economic development of the borough by convening Forums and opportunities for information exchange.
- Act as a responsible voice for the sector - publicising achievements, promoting new opportunities and drawing attention to needs.
- Contributing to the development of policies that enable the sector to fulfil its potential.
- Consulting with member groups about priorities for the sector.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
11	5	8	18

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	10 years

Summary of grant request

Reductions in grant and commissioned based funding means that voluntary and community organisations are facing an increasingly competitive environment. Organisations are telling us that they need support to develop outcomes and systems to evidence the impact they make. Feedback from participants on our training inform of the need for this programme. Surveys undertaken show that 67% of organisations have requested support to help demonstrate the outcomes and impact of their work and that 47% of organisations had difficulty sharing information and knowledge to stakeholders about their organisations' work. We cannot provide this support without your help.

A part-time Development Officer will be appointed to work with organisations, leading the delivery of the programme's work from initial recruitment of participants to delivery of interventions with organisations, including one to one support, training events, peer learning and an online information hub on VAL website with useful resources. A marketing campaign to promote the programme to smaller, less resourced organisations including disabilities, BAMER, faith, criminal justice, health and social care, children and young people will be undertaken via website, ebulletin, newsletter, flyers as well as presentations at events and activities. We will work in partnership with other agencies to encourage take-up on the programme.

The aim of the 'Working with Impact' project is to strengthen the capacity of voluntary and community organisations, supporting them to adopt appropriate tools to evidence and measure the outcomes and impact of their work. Working with organisations to increase confidence and ability to effectively report on the difference they make to stakeholders. Many organisations find it difficult to measure their outcomes and impact and need encouragement, confidence building and personalised assistance. In order to effect change we will work with a small cohort of organisations each year embedding outcome measures and creating a knowledge base for organisations to champion their outcomes. An online information hub with useful resources: case studies, good practice, tools and information about outcomes and impact will reach a wider audience.

Specific aims:

- For organisations to develop awareness, skills and knowledge about the outcomes and impact of their work
- Organisations have appropriate tools to support identification of outcomes and impact
- Increased confidence of individuals and organisations in reporting the difference their work makes
- Increased involvement of organisations and opportunity to find out about and bid for new work
- VALs outcomes, impact and reporting processes are enhanced.

As Lewisham's CVS, VAL is the only organisation that does this kind of capacity building work. It has a good reputation, staff and trustees with broad and specialist borough and sector knowledge, dedicated and experienced staff, making it best placed to deliver an outcomes and impact project for the sector.

VAL will meet the Trust programme outcome of 'more organisations with improved capabilities in monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting' by providing a dedicated programme of support to increase organisation's ability to evaluate their services. Flexible learning with different entry points for organisations at different stages. Partnership working with experts from Charities Evaluation Service and Impact Matters to deliver learning. More organisations have the opportunity for one to one support and peer networks to embed learning.

VAL will meet the Trust's 'Principles of Good Practice' by cascading the programme's work to others via website and meetings, with follow up surveys and questions in VALs Annual Sector Survey this will help to identify the benefits to end users. Feedback from organisations attending training, peer networking and one to one will aid continuous improvement. The project will be promoted widely. Learning will be shared with the wider sector via local consortia, forum events and VCS regional networks.

If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **No**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

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.

To target and recruit 30 organisations over 3 years that want to identify the impact of their work

- Develop a strategy for recruitment and engagement
- Promote the project widely using a variety of methods

To provide an online hub on VAL website with useful resources, case studies, good practice, tools and information about outcomes and impact, accessible to 350 organisations

To deliver a yearly training programme (over 3 years) featuring Outcomes & Impact (Charities Evaluation Service) ICT for Outcomes and Marketing & Publicity (Outcomes reporting)

- Deliver 9 training events involving 90 organisations

To provide one to one support to 30 organisations, over 3 years, supporting them to identify and adapt appropriate tools that can be used to measure their services and to embed the learning received from the training activities.

Over 3 years to facilitate 60 organisations to network and report on their outcomes and impact (working with Impact Matters to support delivery)

- Organise 9 peer learning opportunities for organisations to review training, discuss challenges and how to overcome them and take ownership of the process

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.

Increased skills and experience of VCS in understanding the impact of their work
Organisations have improved knowledge and increased capability to measure the outcomes and impact of their work

- effective reporting mechanisms in place

More organisations can effectively report on their services to stakeholders

- VCS have increased opportunities to discuss challenges and find ways to solve problems related to outcomes and impact

More organisations are able to substantiate their work

- able to take up opportunities for funding and partnership working

VAL has improved processes and information to support identification of the impact that it makes with organisations

- with effective monitoring systems developed to support the programme

Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to sustain it? If not, what is your exit strategy?

We plan to offer a consultancy package to other groups this will enable us to cover the costs of maintaining free or reduced support on outcomes and impact for small groups.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

530

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

Lewisham (100%)

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

White (including English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British; Irish; Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller; Any other White background)

Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups (including White and Black Caribbean; White and Black African; White and Asian; Any other Mixed/ Multiple ethnic background)

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

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

1-10%

Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Staff costs	29,572	29,852	30,135	89,559
Support costs	1,715	1,800	1,900	5,415
Info & publicity	550	550	550	1,650
Governance & Fundraising	470	470	470	1,410
Activity costs	29,760	27,165	27,165	84,090
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	62,067	59,837	60,220	182,124

What income has already been raised?

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

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
VAL contribution (staff/manag, finance and admin time)	12,067	9,837	10,220	32,124
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	12,067	9,837	10,220	32,124

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Staff costs	29,572	29,852	30,135	89,559
Support costs	1,715	1,800	1,900	5,415
Info & publicity	550	550	550	1,650
Governance & Fundraising	470	470	470	1,410
Activity costs	17,693	17,328	16,945	51,966
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000

Finance details

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

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2013
-----------------------	---------------------	-------------------

Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	0
Activities for generating funds	27,216
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	503,287
Other sources	0
Total Income:	530,503

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	561,927
Governance costs	3,424
Cost of generating funds	3,788
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	569,139
Net (deficit)/surplus:	-38,636
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	408,511

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	8,117
Investments	0
Net current assets	400,394
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	408,511

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	110,827
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	297,684
*Total Reserves (B):	408,511

* 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?
71-80%

Organisational changes

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

N/A

Previous funding received

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

	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	380,018	366,113	282,555
London Councils	94,516	94,516	0
Health Authorities	26,000	26,000	28,000
Central Government departments	78,333	51,516	50,870
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	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
BIG Lottery	93,860	93,903	106,845
Capital Community Foundation	2,582	2,678	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	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: **Tony Nickson**

Role within **Director**
Organisation: