

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer**Praxis Community Projects****Adv: David Farnsworth****Base: Tower Hamlets****Benefit: London-wide****Amount requested: £156,105****{Revised Request: £181,646}****Amount recommended: £182,000****The Charity**

Founded in 1983, Praxis supports vulnerable migrants and their families living in all parts of London. Praxis holds weekly advice sessions on matters including housing, immigration, welfare, and employment. It also offers English language classes through its social enterprise, the Praxis English School & Language Gym project.

The Application

The charity seeks funding to employ a full-time specialised project worker. This project worker will provide one-to-one advice, and support, to London-based migrant and refugee women who have experienced trafficking, or gender-based violence. Through employing this specialist project worker, Praxis will also increase the awareness and skills of its existing team.

The Recommendation

Praxis is a well-regarded organisation with over thirty years' experience of providing advice and support to vulnerable migrants in London. It has excellent local, and pan-London networks which facilitate effective referral. City Bridge Trust has had a long-standing funding relationship with Praxis, and the charity has a reputation for providing a good, client-centred service. Last year, Praxis successfully transitioned to new leadership following the retirement of the founder CEO after 30 years. Ms. Daghlian OBE is the new CEO and comes with an impressive track record. The amount recommended is higher than the amount requested, as it was identified that the final draft of the application budget had omitted the contribution to core costs (on a full cost recovery basis) in error.

£182,000 over three years (£58,000; £58,000; £66,000) for a full-time Caseworker, with related costs, to provide specialist one-to-one advice, and support to London-based migrant and refugee women clients who have survived trafficking and/or gender-based violence.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
17/02/2011	£80,000 over two years (2 x £40,000) towards the development and implementation of the language gym project.
08/10/2009	£25,000 towards developing a 'language gym' for the teaching of ESOL.
04/06/2009	Following a meeting with officers, the organisation wishes to withdraw this application in order to re-submit a more focussed proposal.
16/05/2002	£75,000 over three years (3 x £25,000) towards the development of accredited interpretation services for refugee communities in London.

Background and detail of proposal

Praxis' open advice sessions service 2,000 migrants a year, of which 60% are women. Many of these women present a history of trafficking and/or gender-based violence. Currently, the charity does not have the staff capacity to provide a specialist service for this vulnerable client group. Employing a specialist caseworker would allow Praxis to do so. Examples of women that this project would help include: those who have experienced domestic violence, exploitation, sexual violence and rape, female genital mutilation, forced prostitution, forced marriage and honour-based crimes. Additionally, the caseworker would spend one day a week providing outreach support to migrant women in prison that are due to be released in the London area and would promote the service with London probation agencies.

Financial Information

Three large projects ended in 2013-2014 and were not replaced by directly comparable funding, so the level of operations is predicted to decline by approximately 20% in the current year. Total income is forecast to be £1,098,503, of which £919,498 (83.7%) had been confirmed by December 2014.

Praxis generates funds through the efforts of the CEO and a part-time administrator deploying some of their time to apply for grants. This is not currently quantified by the organisation, but the new CEO has confirmed that, as part of her review, she will be considering how the cost of generating funds will be quantified and presented in the future.

Praxis' reserves are below its target. The organisation advises that it plans to build reserves through careful management, costing and husbanding of its resources, through delivery contracts within an appropriate margin and through its long term investment in its social enterprise, the Praxis Language Gym.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Current Year Forecast
Income and Expenditure	£	£
Income	1,304,500	1,098,503
Expenditure	1,423,948	1,121,229
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(93,135)	(22,726)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(26,313)	-
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(119,448)	(22,726)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(9.2%)	(2.1%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	100,351	77,625
How many months' worth of expenditure	0.8	0.8
Reserves Policy target	250,100	250,100
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.1	2.7
Free reserves over/(under) target	(149,749)	(172,475)