

MEETING: 26/11/2015

Ref: 12911

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Reducing Poverty

Latin American Disabled People's Project

Adv: Tim Wilson

Base: Southwark

Amount requested: £72,299

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £70,300

The Charity

The Latin American Disabled People's Project (LADPP) is a small charity providing skills training, welfare, financial and legal advice to disabled people, their carers and families from the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking communities, in order to improve their quality of life. Whilst not separately identified by the UK census, recent estimates gathered by Queen Mary University of London put London's Latin American population at 200,000 to 400,000. LADPP works with around 5,000 clients each year, assisting where people experience financial hardship as a result of lack of employment.

The Application

LADPP seeks funding for a Community Skills for Work and Welfare Officer. This post-holder will manage an advice programme, with services available four days a week, and manage a small team of volunteers delivering English-language and IT training. This latter element is not part of the Trust's Reducing Poverty programme, but the costs involved (as a result of volunteer delivery) are a very small proportion of the total request to the Trust. In addition, LADPP makes the case that better integration between skills training and advice services will help the charity more effectively address the underlying reasons why their clients experience poverty.

The Recommendation

The charity delivers a wide range of services with a skeleton staff whose level of personal commitment (for example, the Manager gives part of his week voluntarily) is impressive. LADPP relies on bilingual volunteers and has established a wide network of partner organisations to find suitably skilled people. Many clients are isolated, unfamiliar with the support they are entitled to and, where they do work, employed in low-paid, low-skilled jobs with limited opportunities for progression, such as cleaning. Some year one funding has been raised from other sources already and so a slightly lower award is recommended. Given the level of deprivation amongst the client group and LADPP's track record, funding is advised as follows:

£70,300 over three years (£22,600; £23,850; £23,850) for a part time (0.8 FTE) Community Skills for Work and Welfare Officer plus running costs. The offer is made conditional on receipt of satisfactory quarterly management accounts.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
13/02/2013	Application for an organisational coordinator declined for failing to meet the Trust's criteria sufficiently well.
08/09/2005	£54,500 over three years for the salary of a part-time User Development Worker and some running costs.

Background and detail of proposal

London's Latin American population is estimated to have grown fourfold since 2001. Queen Mary University of London data from 2011 describes this community as significantly more likely to be in debt, socially isolated and threatened by poverty than the average Londoner. Whilst the Latin American population is LADPP's primary focus the organisation also receives enquiries, and tries to help where it can, Spanish and Portuguese speakers from other regions, such as Lusophone Africa. The quality of the charity's work is acknowledged by the range of Trusts and Foundations who have awarded small grants in recent years, with donors including the Evening Standard's Dispossessed Fund and the Trust for London. Nevertheless, LADPP is an organisation with a small turnover and heavily reliant on volunteers

Financial Information

At 4th November 2015 the organisation advised that it had secured £71,047 (54.7%) of its forecast income for 2015-16. The charity reports a very low cost of generating funds, explaining that much of its fundraising is done by volunteers and trustees, with neither group receiving remuneration. The figure shown for the cost of generating funds is based on 30% of the Project Manager's salary.

LADPP's free reserves are low, and expected to fall to less than one week's worth of expenditure by 31st March 2016 as the organisation has used its unrestricted funds to sustain services that were previously supported by restricted income. The charity advises this situation will not recur in 2016-17 as new grants are secured for these activities, and that it will begin to start building its level of free reserves.

Given the financial position, the grant offer is made conditional on receipt of satisfactory quarterly management accounts.

Year end at 31 March	2013-14 Independently Examined	2014-15 Draft Accounts	2015-16 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	79,494	84,999	129,847
Expenditure	80,438	74,264	53,430
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(6,333)	4,999	(7,284)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	5,389	5,736	83,701
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(944)	10,735	76,417
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(1.2%)	12.6%	58.9%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	3,101 (3.9%)	3,101 (3.6%)	3,101 (2.4%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	3,268	8,267	983
How many months' worth of expenditure	0.5	1.3	0.1
Reserves Policy target	6,000	6,000	6,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	0.9	1	0.5
Free reserves over/(under) target	(2,732)	2,267	(5,017)