

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Ealing Law Centre	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Ealing	
Contact person: Ms Vicky Fewkes	Position: Supervising Solicitor
Website: http://www.ealinglawcentre.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Charitable company	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1151243
When was your organisation established? 20/07/2012	

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. To support the development of our housing and welfare rights programme and a contribution to core costs.
When will the funding be required? 01/04/2016
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £60,000 Year 2: £60,000 Year 3: £60,000 Total: £180,000

Aims of your organisation:

We aim to challenge poverty, disadvantage and exclusion in and around the Borough of Ealing by providing people in need with expert legal advice and representation free of charge, by undertaking strategic litigation to improve the way the law is administered, and by collaborating with other voluntary sector organisations to develop an effective advice network across the borough and to educate and empower the community to use their legal rights to reduce exclusion and poverty.

We intend to cover all areas of social welfare law but are initially focusing on immigration and housing/welfare rights. Our immigration department helps vulnerable victims of domestic violence and undocumented young people to achieve settled status. Our housing work aims to reduce homelessness, debt and poverty by providing excellent legal advice and representation and training other local organisations. Our next priority is to develop a casework and appeals service for people whose benefit problems threaten them with homelessness or destitution.

Main activities of your organisation:

Legal casework: ELC has Legal Aid contracts in housing and immigration. Our experienced solicitors advise and represent clients at all levels up to the Court of Appeal; we use charitable funding and skilled volunteers to extend our help to people whose problems do not qualify for legal aid. We are a new organisation; in our first two years we have helped 230 housing and 413 immigration clients.

Strategic litigation: we pursue legal challenges to the way policy and the law are applied (14 judicial reviews currently under way).

Collaboration and rights-based work within the voluntary sector: we developed and hosted a ground-breaking project to help undocumented young people gain British citizenship and helped it launch as a charity in its own right. We are active members of the Ealing Advice Transition Fund consortium, and have delivered 20+ training courses for voluntary agencies on legal issues. We are partners in Ealing's consortium bid for BLF's Help Through Crisis programme.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
3	1	6	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?
Leased	1 year

Summary of grant request

Alongside very affluent areas, Ealing houses some extremely deprived communities. There is a constant flow of new migrants -- a quarter of Ealing's residents have been in the UK less than 10 years. A very high proportion of Ealing residents are the "working poor"; Trust For London data shows Ealing is one of the four boroughs in London with the highest levels of poverty, with joblessness and low paid employment particularly prevalent.

35% of housing is privately rented; Ealing ranks 13th in Shelter's national list of repossession hotspots; homelessness applications are increasing by over 30% annually. We co-deliver the Duty Solicitor scheme for housing possession cases at Brentford County Court, and see an exceedingly high number where unresolved Housing Benefit issues lie at the root of the problem -- preventive work on these has rarely been carried out.

Ealing is poorly provided with advice services. Law For All, which filled the combined role of CAB and Law Centre, collapsed in 2011 leaving an advice desert. Changes in the benefits system have increased the number of people needing help, while the 2013 Legal Aid cuts have taken welfare benefits advice, appeals and most housing cases out of scope. Proposed benefit changes will hit the working poor particularly hard.

ELC helped set up Ealing Advice Service (to provide generalist advice) and has been active in GRAPE (Ealing's Advice Transition Fund Steering Group) looking at ways of filling the gaps which still exist. A GRAPE service-mapping study found that Ealing has a shortage of services which can help people to pursue appeals against adverse benefits decisions, and none which provide representation for vulnerable people at tribunals.

We are asking City Bridge to help close this gap by part-funding a Housing and Welfare Benefits unit to help people facing extreme poverty, destitution or homelessness. The unit will take referrals from a network of local advice agencies and work closely with the food bank to target those at crisis point. We will employ specialist casework staff to help people pursue appeals against adverse benefits decisions including: ESA/PIP disability-related requests for mandatory reconsideration and Tribunal appeals, JSA sanctions, and tax credit determinations; where necessary, we will represent clients at tribunals or in court. Staff will provide a weekly advice line service for housing problems no longer covered by Legal Aid, and will run specialist courses for community advice agencies, train volunteers to give first-line advice and make appropriate referrals, and develop information leaflets and self-help packs.

Outcomes will include: increased access to benefits, successful appeals to adjudicating officers and tribunals, successful applications for Discretionary Housing Payments, and evictions prevented by negotiating with landlords; benefits advice at an earlier stage of housing cases will increase the likelihood of keeping a roof over the client's head.

Since forming in 2012, ELC has built up a record of dynamic development and proven ability to deliver; we are well-placed to provide a top-tier welfare benefits appeals service because: (1) local agencies want us to -- we are well-networked, and can ensure that the service reaches out into all parts of the community, (2) our qualified solicitors can represent clients in any tribunal or court (3) the service would mesh with work we are already doing through the Court Duty Scheme and Legal Aid, providing better outcomes for more clients (4) we can tap into pro bono resources through membership of the Law Centres Network and Free Representation Unit to maximise the number of people we can represent.

We consult and involve service users, develop our volunteers, reflect the diversity of the communities we serve, and are working to become greener.

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? **Yes**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

Specialist Quality Mark. We are also registered with OISC and the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

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.

A weekly housing advice line providing "brief intervention" expert housing law advice to self-referrals and clients of partner agencies to identify issues at an early stage and triage clients into appropriate in-depth services. Delivery methods will include phone interviews, clinics in partner agencies and video links to maximise accessibility.

A weekly benefits referral and advice line. This will provide advice on complex cases to front line advisers at partner agencies, and agree handover arrangements in cases where the client is being referred to ELC's casework or appeals & tribunals services.

Casework service. This will provide more in-depth/ongoing assistance in a smaller number of cases where referral agencies have reached the limit of their expertise or where expert preventive work could avert a crisis. Referral partners will include foodbank, children's centres and agencies participating in GRAPE.

Appeals and tribunals service. Assisting clients with appeals and representing them at court/tribunal hearings, including judicial reviews where appropriate; organising pro bono representation to maximise the number of cases the service can take on.

Capacity-building with partner agencies. This will include providing legal education and training to partners' staff and volunteers, developing a range of self-help packs and on-line resources, and servicing a referral agency forum and project reference group to identify improvements and initiatives needed.

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.

Reduce destitution and poverty by helping clients overcome barriers to obtaining welfare benefits which are due to them.

Reduce homelessness caused by rent arrears which have arisen as a result of resolvable benefits issues and/or a lack of knowledge of housing rights

Reduce the number of people classed as "intentionally homeless" by providing people who cannot access Legal Aid with advice which prevents them from taking action which would result in them being ruled out for help from the Local Authority

Build capacity within the advice sector and the wider community by increasing knowledge of rights and how to obtain them, by improving resilience and inter-agency working, and by providing front-line agencies with a source of help on problem cases and somewhere to refer them.

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?

Yes. We are aiming to grow the Law Centre's self-generated income (from litigation at inter partes rates and contracts with social landlords), and to use this to subsidise out-of-scope activities including welfare rights work; however, we will still need to raise some grant funding - the extent and sources will depend on circumstances nearer the end of the grant period.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

500

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

Ealing (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

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
Employment costs	87,456	125,039	128,609	341,193
Compliance costs (registrations, insurance etc)	3,450	2,050	2,050	7,550
Volunteer and project costs	3,950	3,950	3,950	11,850
Set-up costs, recruitment etc	1,200	600	600	2,400
Central staff costs	12,833	13,325	13,824	39,981
Premises costs, LHP etc	12,500	12,500	12,500	37,500
IT, client recording system & comms	7,350	7,350	7,350	22,050
Stationery, copying and print	6,400	6,400	6,400	19,200
Other overheads	9,700	9,700	9,700	29,100

TOTAL:	144,929	180,913	184,982	510,824
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What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Dispossessed Fund	7,500	0	0	7,500
Earned income (litigation & contracts) - ESTIMATE	51,000	86,000	96,000	240,500
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	58,500	86,000	96,000	248,000
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What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
London Legal Support Trust - Centres of Excellence	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
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How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Contribution to staff costs	53,867	60,000	60,000	173,867
Volunteer expenses	700	0	0	700
Set-up costs (recruitment, equipment)	1,200	0	0	1,200
Project costs (travel, publicity etc)	1,500	0	0	1,500
Contribution to overheads	2,733	0	0	2,733
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	60,000	60,000	60,000	180,000
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Finance details

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

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2015
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	
Activities for generating funds	
Investment income	
Income from charitable activities	192,329
Other sources	
Total Income:	192,329

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	156,389
Governance costs	840
Cost of generating funds	
Other	
Total Expenditure:	157,229
Net (deficit)/surplus:	35,100
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	35,100

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	2,494
Investments	
Net current assets	54,638
Long-term liabilities	
*Total Assets (A):	57,133

Reserves at year end	£
Endowment funds	
Restricted funds	3,313
Unrestricted funds	53,820
*Total Reserves (B):	57,133

*** 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?

Organisational changes

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

Our current strategic focus is on developing our new Welfare Rights Unit.

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	0	5,000	0
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	0	35,800	68,000

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 £
Trust For London	0	40,000	35,000
Unbound Philanthropy	0	0	40,000
John Paul Getty Foundation	5,000	0	20,000
Strategic Legal Fund	0	10,000	10,000
London Legal Support Trust	13,000	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: **Vicky Fewkes**

Role within **Supervising Solicitor**
Organisation: