

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network	
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 Rosario Guimba-Stewart	Position: Director
Website: http://www.lrmn.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1058631
When was your organisation established? 12/10/1991	

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 provide specialist Housing advice to people living in LB Lewisham through outreach at a range of organisations providing better access to advice.
When will the funding be required? 01/04/2016
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £47,754 Year 2: £47,797 Year 3: £53,095 Total: £148,646

Aims of your organisation:

LRMN's missions statement is "Empowering refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to improve their quality of life by providing culturally sensitive support, advocacy and capacity development to individuals and organisations". However, we are bidding for this project as the lead of a partnership bid for Advice Lewisham partners. Advice Lewisham is the network of free advice providers in LB Lewisham and our aims as a group are to - promote, develop and maintain quality of information, advice and advocacy provision to benefit the people of Lewisham and surrounding areas; promote and develop collaborative working in the delivery of information, advice and advocacy services amongst voluntary and community sector organisations and champion the needs for information, advice and advocacy services with key decision makers . Our aim through this project is to provide better access to high quality specialist Housing advice to people living in LB Lewisham.

Main activities of your organisation:

One of the main activities of LRMN is information and advice service and we offer free, independent and confidential advice and information on immigration (OISC level 3), welfare benefits, debt, health, homelessness, housing and education in Lewisham and neighbouring boroughs.

We also provide counselling and therapeutic support to refugee and asylum seeking women who are survivors of trauma, often gender-based. This includes trafficking, domestic violence, rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and others. Our approach is holistic, looking at the development of the women, and their children, both emotionally and in their day to day practical life.

LRMN also supports young refugee and migrant carers through provision of Homework club and promoting and addressing their issues and their families.

We provide emergency food, clothes and cash to clients who have no recourse to public funds.

In addition, we run weekly ESOL and Literacy classes.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
2	8	10	20

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	5 years

Summary of grant request

We are applying for funding for 2 part time specialist Housing Advisers to provide advice at LRMN and through outreach at the offices of the 8 main free advice providers in LB Lewisham making up the Advice Lewisham network, including Lewisham CAB, Lewisham Multi Lingual Advice Service, Carers Lewisham, Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, 170 Community Project, Evelyn 190 and Lewisham Disability Coalition, along with LRMN. All agencies welcome people from all backgrounds and value diversity and we actively target our services at hard to reach groups.

The advisers will be employed by LRMN but will also see clients at other Advice Lewisham partners' offices on an appointment basis, meaning the service is taken to the client. In some recent research we did, clients said they preferred to have services provided locally to them where they knew and could trust.

The level of demand for advice is growing in Lewisham and we are faced with funding cuts. This year agencies had an average of 10-20% funding cut and we are currently undergoing an advice review with the Local Authority to look at how demand can be met with further cuts we face. Although demand for housing advice is huge, we currently have only 2 specialist Housing advisers for the whole borough. We have volunteer advisers through the network but need specialist advisers to meet demand.

Lewisham is ranked 13th out of all local authorities in Great Britain in terms of population density, with 7,850 people per km² (ONS, 2012). Private rental has increased to 24% in 2011, a rise of 10% from 2001. 31% residents are now in council or social tenancy, a fall from 36%. The ONS Occupancy rating suggests that 22% of homes are overcrowded, rising by 5% from 2001 (ONS, 2011). New Cross and Evelyn are the most overcrowded wards (London's Poverty Profile, 2015).

35,500 claimants were in receipt of housing benefit at the end of the year (Shelter, 2015B), compared to 30,000 in 2008 (DWP, 2013). One survey showed that 39% of residents receiving benefits were in rent arrears (LB Lewisham, 2014). Repossessions in the borough have risen. Possession orders (including suspended orders) have doubled in the past ten years, at 496 in the third quarter of 2014, whilst 623 possession claims were issued in the same quarter (Shelter, 2015C). 768 households were identified as homeless and in priority need last year, whilst 2,800 children were living in temporary accommodation at the start of 2015 (Shelter, 2015E).

We aim to provide accessible high quality advice to the most vulnerable people and to promote early intervention by increasing the level of advice available, ensuring more people access debt and legal advice. This should, in turn, lead to more Londoners with improved economic circumstances. We aim to reduce the number of people facing homelessness by providing more clients with advice regarding rent arrears, possession hearings and evictions. We will also aim to improve the health and well-being of clients by assisting them with improving their housing conditions where there are issues related to disrepair. With so many clients living in private rented accommodation, many clients have problems related to obtaining tenancy agreements and we will aim to raise their awareness in terms of their rights as tenants through the private housing sector.

We believe that we are the right organisation to deliver this work as we have proven experience of providing high quality advice and are also able to work closely with the other Advice Lewisham partners to provide an accessible, high quality service. We are taking steps to reduce our carbon footprint along with the other partners.

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?

Advice Quality Standard

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.

We will provide specialist Housing advice appointments to clients through at least 5 different locations across LB Lewisham

We will provide 264 appointments through the 2 adviser roles each year

We will provide specialist Housing Advice on issues related to rent and mortgage arrears, eviction, housing disrepair and other housing related issues.

We will identify Social Policy issues related to Housing which are affecting people living in London Borough of Lewisham and work with the Advice Lewisham partnership to seek changes in policies and practices for the benefit of our clients.

Provide interpreters for clients who have English as a second language as we recognise language can often be a barrier to some client seeking advice.

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.

People will have better access to specialist Housing Advice services which should enable people to get access to the advice they need at an early stage.

55 people will not lose their homes through possession action related to rent arrears per year, meaning more people are able to stay in their homes through the provision of high quality advice resulting in improved health and well-being.

Average of 20% reduction in the level of rent arrears our clients have by ensuring they are receiving the correct level of Housing Benefit and other benefits enabling them to pay their rent more effectively.

60% of client seen through the project report improved health and well-being through the provision of high quality advice and assistance on issues related to housing disrepair and poor housing conditions.

60% of clients seen through the project report improved economic circumstances through the provision of high quality Housing advice and access to debt and legal services.

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 will be looking for continued funding so that we can continue the work we start with this project but we do not have any funding secured at the moment.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

264

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

Lewisham (90%)

Greenwich (5%)

Southwark (3%)

Bromley (2%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

16-24

25-44

45-64

65-74

75 and over

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?

11-20%

Subsequently revised -
see Appendix A

Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salaries - Housing Advisers x 2 (3 days/week) NJC pt 28-30 + 4%pension + NIC and cost of living	37,284	38,623	39,803	115,710
Staff Training	600	600	600	1,800
Staff Travel	500	500	500	1,500
Set up including recruitment, CRB/DBS, publications, Advisernet and laptop	2,300	1,000	1,000	4,300
Interpreter - £10/hour/week x 52 weeks	520	520	520	1,560
Management, Finance and Admin Costs	4,120	4,124	4,242	12,486
Building Costs (rent, insurance, heating, lighting, cleaning)	1,349	1,349	1,349	4,047
Office Costs	1,081	1,081	1,081	3,243
Outreach	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
TOTAL:	47,754	47,797	53,095	148,646

What income has already been raised?

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

How much is requested from the Trust?

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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	9,329
Activities for generating funds	633
Investment income	224
Income from charitable activities	359,150
Other sources	0
Total Income:	369,336

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	318,690
Governance costs	3,012
Cost of generating funds	1,123
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	322,825
Net (deficit)/surplus:	46,511
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	46,511

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	6,425
Investments	0
Net current assets	253,319
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	259,744

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	113,573
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	146,171
*Total Reserves (B):	259,744

* 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? 21-30%
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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	96,178	99,685	93,743
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	29,185	24,972	24,600
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	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
Henry Smith Charitable Trust	39,500	40,000	40,000
Comic Relief	46,893	38,537	29,696
Trust for London	13,125	21,875	10,000
Deptford Challenge Trust	0	13,355	13,355
	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: **Rosario Guimba-Stewart**

Role within **Director**
Organisation:

APPENDIX A
REVISED REQUEST

REVISED BUDGET

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Staffing Costs			
Salaries - Housing Adviser (35 hours/week) NJC pt 28-30 + 4%pension + NIC and cost of living	31720	32860	33865
Staff Training	300	300	300
Staff Travel	300	300	300
CRB/DBS	64		64
Direct Project Costs			
Recruitment	350		350
Interpreter - £10/hour/week x 52 weeks	520	520	1560
Indirect Costs			
Management, Finance and Admin Costs (10%) LRMN	3417	3498	3598
Building Costs (rent, insurance, heating, lighting, cleaning)	1349	1349	4047
Office Costs	1081	1081	3243
TOTAL Project Cost	39101	39908	41013
			120022