

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of your organisation: Project Oracle Evidence Hub | |
| If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name? | |
| In which London Borough is your organisation based? Lambeth | |
| Contact person: Ms Amy Thomas | Position: Communications and Fundraising Officer |
| Website: http://www.project-oracle.com | |
| Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity | Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1167555 |
| When was your organisation established? 08/06/2016 | |

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. Continue to improve the quality and quantity of evidence in the children and youth sector to secure better outcomes for its beneficiaries in London. | | |
| When will the funding be required? 01/08/2017 | | |
| How much funding are you requesting? | | |
| Year 1: £30,000 | Year 2: £30,000 | Year 3: £30,000 |
| Total: £90,000 | | |

Aims of your organisation:

Our aim is to improve outcomes for children and young people by building the capacity of children and youth (CYP) organisations and funders to develop and commission evidence-based projects, creating a community in which evidence is widely gathered, used and shared.

At the heart of our model is the alignment of project evaluations with our Standards of Evidence through the validations process. The Standards meet the needs of both CYP organisations and funders, helping each to navigate the conversation around evidence and set realistic expectations. We encourage CYP organisations to achieve the highest feasible standard, supporting them to gather better evidence through training, online resources, and research placements.

We also promote an evidence-based approach to funding and commissioning youth services, by encouraging funders and commissioners to embed the Standards into their processes through seminars and bespoke support. This ensures the most effective CYP programmes are supported to continue and expand.

Main activities of your organisation:

We have developed a range of core support options:

- One-to-one support towards validation: Reaching validation against the Standards of Evidence is an iterative process that requires advice and troubleshooting along the way. Project Oracle provides comprehensive guidance and rigorous feedback at each stage.

- Training: We run full-day and half-day workshops that cover a range of evaluation topics for different levels of expertise.

Research placements: We work with universities to identify masters and PHD students who want to explore the impact of their research in a real-world setting, and then match these researchers with organisations in need of their support.

- Impact Pioneers: We form small groups of CYP organisations, academics and funders, within specific segments of the CYP sector, and offer them a tailored programme of support to improve their evidence.

- Evidence Champions: We run seminars and facilitate a peer network for funders and commissioners designed to embed evidence at every stage in the commissioning process.

Number of staff

| Full-time: | Part-time: | Management committee members: | Active volunteers: |
|------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 4 | 4 | 10 | 15 |

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 | 2 years, 6 month break clause |

Summary of grant request

Pockets of disadvantage and violence persist across the UK and, in the context of economic downturn and austerity, this has led to a growing need for evidence of what works in improving outcomes for children and young people. The principal barriers to evidence-based practice for CYP organisations are most often a lack of time, skill and money to dedicate to evaluation. Similarly, funders and commissioners often lack the expertise to discriminate between good and bad evidence when trying to fund 'what works'.

Project Oracle supports CYP organisations to evaluate in ways that are flexible and affordable, so they can understand what they are doing well, enabling them to develop and refine their projects. At the same time, we collaborate with academics and experts to provide low-cost high-rigour support. And we work with funders and commissioners to help them adopt an evidence-based approach, so that public money can be spent on the most promising interventions.

The support we offer comprises a range of activities related to our Standards of Evidence. These activities include training and one-to-one support sessions to review CYP organisations' approaches to evidence and evaluation and to help them progress towards validation; research placements of graduate students with organisations needing specialised evaluation support; seminars and bespoke support for commissioners and funders such as MOPAC, the GLA and Islington Council.

So far, we have worked with 200 organisations to help them achieve validation of over 220 different projects. We have provided over 900 training opportunities, placed over 50 researchers in children and youth organisations, published 6 Synthesis Studies and 3 Evidence Digests and developed the innovative Impact Pioneers Programme. We have also held a number of events bringing together the Project Oracle community including regular 'launch events' promoting key work streams and 'learning events' encouraging the sector to come together and share their learning. We also hold a larger scale 'annual event' each year providing a platform for networking and collaboration within the sector.

We have commissioned two external evaluations between 2014-2016 both of which found evidence of our impact, suggesting the Project Oracle approach works. In the coming years, we will continue tracking the benefits of our service by commissioning further external evaluations. In addition, we have designed a range of feedback forms for use at trainings and events and collect detailed feedback from participants to improve our training offer and identify the most useful topics for future trainings. In the past year, we have been developing a database to help us manage our data more effectively, and better understand the user journey.

We offer our services at a highly subsidised rate and encourage smaller, less well-resourced organisations to contact us if they are unable to afford our fees. We regularly offer discounts on training and validation submissions to ensure easy access for all. Furthermore, all our online resources and guidance are offered completely free of charge for the benefit of all CYP organisations.

Project Oracle aims to address the question of 'what works' through providing organisations of all sizes with the support and resources they need to evidence their work, and make sure the findings are shared across the sector. Our aim is to make good quality evaluation and learning from evidence accessible to all and to spread good practice through regular events. We also promote validated projects on our website and through social media.

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.

We will provide 1:1 support towards validation against the Project Oracle standards to 5 CYP organisations in London each year.

We will place 5 student researchers in 5 CYP organisations in London, with a focus on providing support to projects aiming for Standard 2 and above each year.

We will provide 15 training places per year covering topics identified as areas of challenge by CYP organisations.

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.

By supporting more organisations to achieve validation, particularly at the higher standards, we will improve the overall quality and availability of good evidence in the CYP sector.

By brokering Research Placements, with an emphasis on supporting projects working towards Standard 2 validation, we hope to see more projects undertaking evaluations and producing good quality reports that are widely shared and understood throughout the sector.

By providing training we will continue to build capacity in the children and youth sector, through a better understanding of evaluation approaches and learning from evidence.

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 are developing a fundraising strategy and have a dedicated Communications and Fundraising Officer to see this through, with the support of the Chief Executive and Project Oracle board. We will research new fundraising opportunities and submit bids to potential funders on a rolling basis. We will also apply to existing funders to extend current funding each financial year.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

0

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

London-wide (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?

0%

Funding required for the project

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

| Expenditure heading | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Support for validations | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 120,000 |
| Research placements | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 90,000 |
| Training | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 60,000 |
| Impact Pioneers (Arts Cohort + Youth Justice Cohort) | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 300,000 |
| Academic & funder engagement and events | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 60,000 |
| Other learning events | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 45,000 |
| Comms & website | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 75,000 |
| Fundraising & development | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| TOTAL: | 300,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 | 900,000 |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|

What income has already been raised?

| Source | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| The Paul Hamlyn Foundation | 30,000 | 0 | 0 | 30,000 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| TOTAL: | 30,000 | 0 | 0 | 30,000 |
|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|---------------|

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

| Source | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| A New Direction | 25,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Porticus | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 0 |
| Fidelity Foundation UK | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| TOTAL: | 105,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 0 |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------|

How much is requested from the Trust?

| Expenditure heading | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Support for validations | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 30,000 |
| Research placements | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 45,000 |
| Training | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 15,000 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| TOTAL: | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 90,000 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|

Finance details

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

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Financial year ended: | Month: July | Year: 2016 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|

| Income received from: | £ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Voluntary income | 0 |
| Activities for generating funds | 0 |
| Investment income | 0 |
| Income from charitable activities | 74,010 |
| Other sources | 121 |
| Total Income: | 74,131 |

| Expenditure: | £ |
|---|----------------|
| Charitable activities | 111,374 |
| Governance costs | 0 |
| Cost of generating funds | 0 |
| Other | 0 |
| Total Expenditure: | 111,374 |
| Net (deficit)/surplus: | -37,243 |
| Other Recognised Gains/(Losses): | 0 |
| Net Movement in Funds: | 0 |

| Asset position at year end | £ |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Fixed assets | 284 |
| Investments | 0 |
| Net current assets | 3,428 |
| Long-term liabilities | 0 |
| *Total Assets (A): | 3,712 |

| Reserves at year end | £ |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Restricted funds | 0 |
| Endowment Funds | 0 |
| Unrestricted funds | 3,712 |
| *Total Reserves (B): | 3,712 |

*** 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?
0%

Organisational changes

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

In June 2016 Project Oracle Evidence Hub became a registered charity. Prior to this Project Oracle Evidence Hub was both a partnership between London Metropolitan University and The Social Innovation Partnership, funded by the GLA, MOPAC and ESRC, and from 14 July 2014, a non-profit company limited by guarantee. The most recent accounts and answers below relate only to the CLG.

Previous funding received

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

| | Year 3 £ | Year 2 £ | Most recent £ |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| City of London (except City Bridge Trust) | 300,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| London Local Authorities | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| London Councils | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Health Authorities | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 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 | Year 3 £ | Year 2 £ | Most recent £ |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 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: **Amy Thomas**

Role within **Communications and Fundraising Officer**
Organisation: