

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Hammersmith and Fulham Law Centre	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Hammersmith & Fulham	
Contact person: Ms Susan James	Position: Supervising Solicitor
Website: http://www.hflaw.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 287462
When was your organisation established? 19/10/2010	

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 Fewer Londoners experiencing food poverty
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. To employ a solicitor to advise and represent on benefits and income family matters - with outreach in a number of partnership organisations.
When will the funding be required? 01/04/2017
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £49,500 Year 2: £49,500 Year 3: £49,500 Total: £148,500

Alms of your organisation:

We aim to challenge poverty, disadvantage and exclusion in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and the surrounding area. We provide people in need with legal advice and representation. Our housing work aims to reduce homelessness, debt and poverty and to keep people in their homes. We do this through providing expert legal advice and representation, second tier advice and training. Our immigration unit helps vulnerable victims of domestic violence, young people and women who have been trafficked and assisting undocumented young people achieve settled status.

We work in collaboration with other agencies and our aim is to provide a joined up, holistic service that can make real change to people's lives. We run the thriving Advice Forum in the borough and work alongside other organisations to develop an effective advice network across the borough. We aim to educate and empower the community to use their legal rights to reduce exclusion and poverty.

Main activities of your organisation:

We provide:

Legal casework. We have contracts with the Legal Aid Agency in housing and immigration. Our solicitors advise and represent clients at all levels up to the Supreme Court. We have a grant with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to provide a telephone advice service to those who do not qualify for legal aid or if their case is no longer in scope due to the cuts in legal service.

We run an advice service at the FoodbankHub in Shepherds Bush. Providing advice to those most in need and where people are already going to access support.

We pursue strategic litigation to make greater change where possible. We pursue legal challenges to the way policy and law are applied by way of judicial review proceedings.

We run the Advice Forum in the borough, providing strategic planning and networking to local organisations as well as training.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
5	3	12	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	20 years

Summary of grant request

Insecure and inadequate housing has a devastating impact on the life chances of children; their physical and mental health, their education and their opportunities in adulthood.

The private rented sector is insecure and often overcrowded in significant disrepair. Temporary accommodation has the same problems and is no longer 'temporary' in any normal meaning of the word.

The number of children in the private rented sector has tripled over the last decade. 33% of rentals in Hammersmith and Fulham are from a private landlord. There are more tenants renting privately in the borough than in social housing. The number of tenants evicted by private landlords exceeds the number evicted from social housing.

Over 80% of households in temporary accommodation in London include children. High housing costs, the reduction in the Local Housing Allowance, the 'benefit cap' and the 'bedroom tax' have led to a significant reduction in income for low income families in Hammersmith and Fulham. This borough is already experiencing the impact of Universal Credit roll out. We see people already impacted by support being limited to two children only. Trust For London's Poverty profile 2017 shows that 58% of Londoners in poverty live in a working family.

As duty solicitors in housing possession cases at Wandsworth and Brentford County Court, we know that unresolved benefit and debt issues often lie at the heart of the problem. Cases in court are at crisis point. Eviction is mandatory where rent arrears are over 2 months in private rented tenancies. The resulting homelessness is devastating to family life and the children involved. The local foodbanks have already provided more foodbank parcels this year than the whole of last year.

Evicted families have three main options: apply as homeless ' and spend years in temporary accommodation; rent privately ' and face further poverty and eviction; or apply under the Children Act 1989. None are good options.

It is essential that we do more preventive work to resolve the underlying benefit issues and stop the evictions. We need to co-locate with agencies where people are already accessing non-legal support to do this. We are asking City Bridge to fund a solicitor to help people facing extreme poverty, destitution or homelessness to improve the life chances of children. The solicitor would work with a network of advice agencies and work closely with the foodbank and health services to target those most in need.

We will:

**Provide a weekly advice line on benefits and housing matters;
Provide outreach advice at the local foodbank and at a GP's surgeries;
Represent people at tribunals and court;
Run specialist courses for community advice agencies;
Train volunteers to assist with triaging;
Develop information leaflets and self-help packs.**

To give better life chances for children by: early benefits advice to increase the likelihood of keeping a roof over the family; successful applications for discretionary housing payments; alleviation of income poverty; assistance with managing debt; evictions prevented by negotiating with landlords; successful appeals in adverse benefit decisions; s.17 Children Act 1989 applications.

Continues overleaf

Continued from previous

We are well embedded in the community and advice network and have a proven record of our ability to deliver. We are well placed to deliver a tribunal representation service. We would prove a seamless service of advice and delivery with the work we are already doing in the court duty scheme and our legal aid work. We run the vibrant Hammersmith and Fulham Advice Forum joining up local advice provision.

Within our work we consult and involve service users, develop our volunteers, reflect the diversity of the local community 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?

Lexel Accreditation

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.

- 1. A weekly family income and benefits referral and advice line. This would provide advice on complex cases to front line advisers at partner agencies and agree referrals to the law centre on complex casework and appeals**
- 2. An outreach advice service in the foodbank to identify those most in need and to `catch` those cases that may lead to possession action being taken with a view to follow up in the law centre**
- 3. An outreach advice service in local health centres to identify those most in need of advice and at risk of homelessness and eviction with a view to follow up work being taken at the law centre**
- 4. Court, Appeals and Tribunals service. Assisting clients with appeals and representing them at court/tribunal hearings, including judicial review where appropriate**
- 5. A casework service to provide more in-depth/ongoing assistance in a smaller number of cases from referral cases or those assessed at the two outreach projects.**

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.

- 1. Reduce destitution and poverty by helping clients overcome barriers to obtaining welfare benefits to which they are entitled.**
- 2. Reduce homelessness caused by rent arrears that have arisen because of benefit issues**
- 3. Reduce the number of people in private rented accommodation being evicted because of benefit issues**
- 4. Build capacity within the advice sector and the wider community by increasing knowledge of rights, improving resilience and inter-agency working.**
- 5. Improve the health of clients, manage their debt, and be more secure in their homes.**

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 will look to other sources of funding, such as self-generated income, but will still need to raise some funds.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

450

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

Hammersmith & Fulham (85%)

Hounslow (5%)

Ealing (5%)

Wandsworth (5%)

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?

21-30%

Funding required for the project

(SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED,
SEE FURTHER)

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Solicitor salary cost	35,700	35,700	35,700	107,100
Proportion of overhead costs	13,800	13,800	13,800	41,400
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	49,500	49,500	49,500	148,500

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Legal Aid - Housing Duty	54,000	54,000	54,000	162,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	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
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham	35,960	35,960	35,960	107,880
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Solicitor salary cost	35,700	35,700	35,700	107,100
Proportion of overhead costs	13,800	13,800	13,800	41,400
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	49,500	49,500	49,500	148,500

14397 Revised Budget 1/2/18
Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Overheads	£13 800	£14 214	£14 640	£42 654
Salary (incl NI & pensions)	£42 877	£45 593	£47 929	£136 400
TOTAL:	£56 677	£59 807	£62 570	£179 055

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
TOTAL:				

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
TOTAL:				

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: 2016
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary Income	226,752
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment Income	0
Income from charitable activities	150,866
Other sources	0
Total Income:	377,618

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	358,564
Governance costs	5,088
Cost of generating funds	0
Other	4,375
Total Expenditure:	368,027
Net (deficit)/surplus:	9,591
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	9,591

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	15,582
Investments	0
Net current assets	45,694
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	61,276

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	0
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	61,276
*Total Reserves (B):	61,276

*** 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?
71-80%

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.

	Year 3 £	Year 2 £	Most recent £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	0	0	42,688
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	330,135	205,153	219,583
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 £
Big Lottery	30,090	71,108	47,771
Trust for London	40,000	40,000	16,667
Comic Relief	37,089	28,736	0
John Paul Getty Trust	20,000	40,000	0
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham	0	0	42,688

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: **Susan James**

Role within **Supervising Solicitor**
Organisation: