

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - English for Speakers of Other Languages**Refugee Action Kingston****Adv: Jemma Grieve Combes****Base: Kingston****Amount requested: £132,614****Benefit: Kingston****(Revised request: £149,350)****Amount recommended: £141,850****The Applicant**

Refugee Action Kingston (RAK) was founded in 1991 to support refugees and asylum seekers in Kingston and the surrounding boroughs. It registered as a charity in 1992 and became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in January 2018. It aims to support refugees from their initial reception through to becoming accepted and active participants in the local community. The organisation works with people of a range of communities, but primarily Arabic, Farsi, North Korean, Afghan, Iraqi and a smaller number from Africa. It currently provides advice and information on immigration, social welfare and employment; counselling; a Timebank; and a learning centre with ESOL classes, ICT training and other forms of learning.

The Application

RAK is applying for funding towards the salary costs of the Education and Training Centre manager and ESOL Coordinator; and running costs of its pre-entry to level 2 ESOL provision. If successful, your funding would be used to deliver 14 ESOL classes a week over 3 terms a year; 6 additional English language group discussion sessions per year; and 6 workshops per year on accessing public services.

The Recommendation

RAK is a well-established organisation with a strong understanding of the communities with which it works. Its approach to ESOL is practical and gives students not only language skills but the confidence to apply these in everyday life. RAK works closely with mainstream providers including Kingston College and Adult Education. It is an important organisation regionally: it reports that support for refugees and asylum seekers in neighbouring boroughs has closed, and that increasing numbers of destitute asylum seekers are moving to Kingston from outside of London.

Following the assessment meeting the organisation resubmitted its request for funds to include a third year of funding. This will allow for better planning and outcomes. It also removed some of the salary costs and the creative activities which are outside the parameters of your funding. The recommendation excludes stationery costs. It has been successful in applying to funding from the AB Charitable Trust and is awaiting a decision from another charitable Trust for related work, hence the conditional recommendation:

£141,850 over three years (£46,120; £48,940, £46,790) towards the salary costs of the Education and Training Centre Manager (21 hpw) and ESOL Coordinator (14 hpw) and running costs of a programme of ESOL classes, discussion groups (6 per year) and public services workshops (6 per year). In the event that other funding is secured towards this project then the sum recommended will be amended accordingly.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
23/11/2017	Application withdrawn as within fallow period.
20/10/2011	£126,000 over 3 years for the salary of an English Learning Project Co-ordinator and running costs of ESOL classes for refugees.
30/06/2011	Application withdrawn to submit a revised proposal

Background and detail of proposal

RAK's ESOL classes are part of the services of its Centre for Community Resilience and Engagement. The Centre offers a mix of ESOL classes, public service events, creative activities and trips out as part of RAK's mission to help refugees and asylum seekers take an active part in society. City Bridge Trust funding would fund 12 ESOL classes and 2 writing classes a week in term time at pre-entry to level 2 levels. Approximately 160 people would benefit in class sizes of 8-12. Approximately 20 teachers deliver the classes. They are all volunteers and are all EFL or ESOL qualified and are sometimes supported by volunteer classroom assistants.

To complement the ESOL classes RAK would also organise 6 group discussion sessions a year with its volunteers, members and supporters to give clients a chance to practice spoken English. Each session is themed, past themes have included life in the UK, citizenship responsibility and leisure activities. It would also arrange 6 workshops on how to access mainstream services delivered by expert partners. For example, they recently ran a Health Day covering healthy eating, maternity health, sexual health, and cancer prevention, and had the mobile TB screening unit present.

Financial Information

The cost of raising funds were included in the Director's salary in 2017/18 and not separately specified. They are currently recruiting a part-time fundraiser which reflects the increased cost in 2018/19. The organisation is changing its reserves policy in 2016/17 to 6 months operational expenditure which it believes more accurately reflects the amount it would need to cover unforeseen circumstances.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Examined Accounts £	2018 Draft accounts £	2019 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	341,784	400,337	395,430
- % of Income confirmed as at May 2018	n/a	n/a	89%
Expenditure	(298,401)	(374,506)	(444,112)
Total surplus/(deficit)	43,383	25,831	(48,682)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(14,972)	(4,483)	(98,682)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	58,355	30,314	50,000
	43,383	25,831	(48,682)
Cost of Raising Funds	5,624	0	25,000
- % of income	1.6%	0.0%	6.3%
Operating expenditure (total funds)	298,401	374,506	444,112
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	99,601	122,953	172,953
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	3.9	4.7
Reserves policy target	99,000	187,253	222,056
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	601	(64,300)	(49,103)

