

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Brixton Advice Centre	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Lambeth	
Contact person: MR PATRICK TORSNEY	Position: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Website: http://https://brixtonadvice.org.uk/	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 291484
When was your organisation established? 13/02/1985	

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? Fewer Londoners experiencing food poverty More people accessing debt and legal services		
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. To create a sustainable service able to provide legal assistance at the point of food crisis which addresses the underlying problems causing that crisis.		
When will the funding be required? 02/07/2018		
How much funding are you requesting?		
Year 1: £63,064	Year 2: £64,668	Year 3: £62,779
Total: £190,511		

Aims of your organisation:

To promote access to justice by providing good quality legal advice and assistance to the local community. This includes legal advice and representation to persons who would otherwise be unable to afford to access legal services and may suffer disadvantage in terms of personal and economic wellbeing as a consequence. In addition, to support people to maximise their income and to better manage their lives.

Main activities of your organisation:

- Specialist level advice and representation on Housing law and Community Care law via two contracts with the Legal Services Commission.
- Specialist level advice and representation on Debt and money management, including financial capability through a service funded as part of the Capitalise London-wide debt consortium run by the Money Advice Service.
- Specialist level advice and representation on Welfare Benefits matters, including appeals, via funding from Lambeth Borough Council.
- Open door drop-in service, Monday to Thursday 10am to 3pm. Offering general advice, assistance and sign-posting to visitors on a broad range of advice topics, including debt, money management, welfare benefits, housing.
- Evening pro-bono legal advice clinic every second Thursday, focussing on areas of law not typically delivered by the Centre eg Employment and Family law advice.
- Advice sessions in local foodbanks, schools and other outlets.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
4	5	8	2

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?
Owned	

Summary of grant request

We seek funding for a project that will focus on resolving the underlying problems causing individuals and families to need emergency food parcels from the main Foodbank network in Lambeth London, and which will develop mechanisms to ensure ongoing support is available after the life of the project through the training of Foodbank volunteers. It includes ensuring that people visiting Foodbanks in desperate need of food will have access to advice and budgeting support in the same place and at the same time. It will do this via a partnership between an established Foodbank network (Norwood and Brixton Foodbank, part of the Trussel Trust) and the two leading Independent Advice Centres in the borough (Brixton Advice Centre and Centre 70 Advice) that will up-skill Foodbank volunteers, utilise technology, and bring vital advice and casework services right to a point of acute need in the borough ? the Foodbank centre.

The advice work will be delivered onsite by advisers employed by the Advice Centres, with follow-up work for more complex issues conducted at the respective Advice Centre offices. The training of Foodbank volunteers will be as part of a rolling secondment programme, involving their attendance at the Advice Centres.

We anticipate a significant impact on the personal and economic wellbeing of persons experiencing food poverty by dealing with underlying issues and facilitating positive change in respect of the circumstances of those accessing the service.

We envisage that 25% of those persons will have a better understanding of benefit entitlements and how to access them, and 75% of those seen for follow-up work will see a demonstrable improvement in their financial situation.

We anticipate 8 Foodbank volunteers will be trained in advice skills and able to provide effective and appropriate triage to Foodbank visitors by the end of each year. As we will be targeting this particular strand at those volunteers who themselves have experienced some form of economic disadvantage, we anticipate this training will have a huge positive impact on these volunteers as well as the recipients of that advice.

Norwood and Brixton Foodbank is the main Foodbank provider in Lambeth and, across its various venues, one of the busiest in both London and the wider UK. The two Advice Centre partners ? Brixton Advice Centre and Centre 70 ? are well-established advice providers, providing services across the borough. All three partners have developed a strong working relationship and are very committed to realising a common aim of helping Londoners get out of food poverty and improve their circumstances.

Additionally, service-users will be involved in the management and running of the service as they will be the ones especially targeted for the secondment aspect of the project. Feedback will also be invited and collated centrally to ensure service users can contribute to the development of the project. We will also hold regular sessions with service users to help guide the delivery of the project aims.

All project partners welcome people from all backgrounds and value diversity. Both Advice Centres also strongly follow internal policies on equality and non-discrimination in both the design of and the delivery of services.

All Project Partners value and support volunteers ? It is volunteers who enable us to deliver the services we currently provide, especially in the Foodbank setting. Additionally, one key part of this project is the development of volunteers, enabling new skills and opportunities.

Continues overleaf

Continued from previous

All Project Partners are taking green steps ? aiming to reduce our carbon footprints ? through careful use of resources, waste management and the use of ecologically sensitive products wherever possible.

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?

Both Advice Centres hold the Specialist Quality Mark.

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.

All Foodbank visitors are able to see an Advice Worker if they need to. We anticipate between 750 and 1000 persons accessing the service and advised on-site each year.

Follow-up casework advice, counselling and support will be given in complex cases. We anticipate approximately 300 persons will become clients of the Advice Centres and receive specialist support and assistance, including court representation where necessary.

Training days held for Foodbank volunteers to embed awareness of the service and attract prospective volunteers for Activity 4 (below). We anticipate two days per year, reaching 50 volunteers each year or 150 during the project.

Volunteer secondment at Advice Centres. Optimally, we anticipate eight volunteers per year having completed the secondment and being present and utilising that training to provide benefit to persons in food crisis attending Foodbank.

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.

Persons accessing the service will have increased understanding of rights and entitlements. We anticipate a minimum of 75% of clients seen will report they have a better understanding of their entitlements, how to access them.

Persons accessing the service will feel able to manage their financial affairs and report improved financial inclusion and capability. We anticipate no less than 75% of persons seen for follow up work will see evidence of improvements in their financial situation including economic stability.

Persons accessing the service will have an increased ability to take independent action. We anticipate that a minimum of 25% of persons followed up at 6 and 10 weeks will report greater independence.

Volunteers trained by the Advice Centres will have increased knowledge and confidence in dealing with Foodbank visitors, will be better able to direct/signpost them effectively, and will so work to ensure a wraparound service of both dealing with the immediate need and, the crisis underpinning it.

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. One aim of the service is that it will become self-sustaining through training of volunteers. Investing in volunteers in the way we anticipate has benefits both to the Advice Centres training them and, to the service delivered at the Food Banks. Should further funds be deemed necessary, we would consider applying eg to other grant-making institutions, corporate sponsorships, crowdfunding.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

1,000

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

Lambeth (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?

21-30%

Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Staff salaries	47,477	47,952	48,431	143,860
Venue hire	500	505	510	1,515
Volunteer costs	922	931	941	2,794
Training costs	1,730	1,747	1,765	5,242
Consumables/equipment	1,800	303	306	2,409
Marketing/advertising	1,000	1,010	1,020	3,030
Evaluation - sustainability and forward-planning	0	2,500	0	2,500
Central management costs (at 16%)	8,549	8,634	8,720	25,903
Lead partner oversight and contract/performance management	1,086	1,086	1,086	3,258

TOTAL:	63,064	64,668	62,779	190,511
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What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	0	0	0	0
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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
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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: 2017
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary Income	0
Activities for generating funds	188
Investment Income	97
Income from charitable activities	466,132
Other sources	0
Total Income:	466,417

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	505,700
Governance costs	0
Cost of generating funds	0
Other	3,575
Total Expenditure:	509,275
Net (deficit)/surplus:	-42,858
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement In. Funds:	42,858

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	416,163
Investments	0
Net current assets	106,227
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	522,390

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	415,173
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	107,217
*Total Reserves (B):	522,390

*** 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%

Organisational changes

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

Bringing all legal aid services in-house to maximise income generation by ending a previous fee-sharing arrangement with a consultant solicitor in August last year.

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	99,229	99,229	84,146
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	63,676	63,676	64,632

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 £
None	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: **Patrick Torsney**

Role within **Chief Executive**
Organisation: