

Emergency Funding Emergency Funding Award



Legal Advice centre
Total award - £10,000.00

Organisation Details

Emergency Funding Award:
£10,000.00

Date Applied:
11th November 2022

Date Awarded:
5th December 2022

Background

The Legal Advice Centre (LAC) has submitted an application for LBTH Emergency Funding to help pay towards the fees of a para-legal that has been recruited to plug the gap in service provision. LAC is a partner in the Advice project, funded by the Council's Local Community Fund (LCF) programme. East Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) is the lead partner in this project. There are currently four key members of staff that deliver the advice provision for LAC whom are all currently on maternity leave. As a result the organisation has had to draw on £15,000 from its surplus. It requested that the remaining £10,000 be provided through the Council's Emergency Funding. The total amount the organisation requires to hire a full time paralegal, with 5% pension contributions and London living wage, is £25,000 per annum to continue providing advice provision to residents at agreed service level.

Defined Emergency

The defined emergency stated on the Emergency Funding application from LAC is that it did not budget to spend an additional £25,000 to cover the costs of a paralegal to cover staff absences due to unforeseeable circumstances.

The current funding streams that the organisation is in receipt of do not have contingencies for maternity leave within the funding agreements for these streams. The above funding therefore cannot cover staff absences on maternity leave.

Award Conditions

The above recommendation is agreed on the understanding that LAC is expected to:

- a) Inform the lead partner in the Local Community Fund Advice project, East End CAB, about the current situation within LAC
- b) Seek advice and/or training from Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS) on how to manage and respond to future situations of unexpected staff absence.
- c) liaise with THCVS on risk management and external funding opportunities, to finance cover staff, to respond to any future situations where a group of staff members in its organisation unexpectedly become absent at the same time.