

6. FAMILY HELP TRUST – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services
Officer responsible:	Unit Manager, Community Support
Author:	Bruce Meder, DDI 941-5408

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Board regarding an application for funding from the Family Help Trust for \$10,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Family Help Trust has made an application for funding to the Board for \$10,000 towards the salary costs for its Clinical Services Director. The Trust delivers its service city-wide and has previously received funding from the City Council through its metropolitan funding sources.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3. The Trust presently (2005/06) receives funding from the City Council via a \$37,500 Social Initiatives Fund grant as a contribution towards social workers' salaries for its New Start Early Intervention service, working with families of high-risk criminal offenders. It has received this funding since the 1997/98 financial year. It also received \$20,000 for annual operational costs of its Safer Families Service (a child abuse prevention service run in conjunction with the midwifery services of Christchurch Women's Hospital) in the 2004/05 financial year. In the 2003/04 year the Trust received \$30,000 from the Annual Grants to Community Organisations (formerly Major Grants) for its Safer Families Service. Also, in 2003/04 the Trust received a total of \$9,000 to undertake an evaluation of its database and recording systems, plus a further \$7,500 to assist in the implementation of the recommendations arising from that evaluation
4. The Trust has been included in the one year roll-over of Social Initiatives funding, meaning that it will receive \$37,500 from this source in the 2006/07 financial year.
5. The Trust has a financial year ending 30 June. As of the end of June 2005, the audited accounts of the Family Help Trust showed an annual expenditure of \$584,000 (up from \$381,000 the previous year). The Trust showed a deficit of \$21,000 for the period, despite an increase in revenue received (\$563,000 in 2004/05 compared to \$411,000 in 2003/04). The accounts show net assets of almost \$25,000 as at 30 June 2005, with \$39,000 of these being fixed assets.
6. Family Help Trust obtains funding from at least 30 different sources with significant contributions coming from the Lion Foundation (\$275,000 in 2004/05), Lottery Grants (\$40,500), The Community Trust (\$40,000), Scottswood Trust (\$20,000), NZ Community Trust (\$20,000) and a further \$67,000 from five funders who allocate between \$10,000 and \$17,000 each.
7. As at the time of this application, Family Help Trust has no other funding applications pending.
8. Family Help Trust does not receive Central Government funding despite continuous lobbying. Consequently, it is totally reliant on charitable trusts and other forms of funding.
9. The present application is for a contribution towards the salary of the Clinical Services Director, whose key role is to supervise the clinical practice and safety of the Trust's Social Workers. The total cost of this aspect of its work is \$52,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board decline the application for funding from Family Help Trust.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

BACKGROUND ON THE FAMILY HELP TRUST

10. The Family Help Trust provides intensive social work support for high risk families and their children. Its objective in this work is to break the cycle of intergenerational dysfunction. The Trust has ten paid full-time staff, one part-time staff and 15 volunteers. The Trust works with approximately 100 families per year throughout Christchurch. The Trust's Director estimates that approximately 30% of these families reside in the Shirley/Papanui area, although because the families tend to be transient this is difficult to quantify accurately.
11. Families are referred to the Trust by other community-based family support agencies, Child Youth and Family, schools, Plunket, the Departments of Courts and Corrections, hospitals and health/medical centres. Eighty per cent of the referrals come from midwifery services.

OPTIONS

12. The Community Board has three options available to it with regard to this application:
 - a) Allocate a grant of \$10,000 to the organisation.
 - b) Allocate a partial grant.
 - c) Decline the application.

PREFERRED OPTION

13. Family Help Trust provides a much needed and worthy service within Christchurch, however it must be noted that:
 - The Family Help Trust is a metropolitan organisation. Its work covers the entire city.
 - The Family Help Trust already receives significant funding from the City Council as outlined above.

Hence the preferred option is Option c) above.