

14 APPLICATION TO THE HAGLEY/FERRYMEAD COMMUNITY BOARD 2009/10 DISCRETIONARY RESPONSE FUND - LINWOOD RESOURCE CENTRE – COMMUNITY VOICES RESEARCH PROJECT

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services Group, DDI 941 8607
Officer responsible:	Community Support Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present a request for funding from Linwood Resource Centre to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board from its 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund.
2. The request is for \$15,000 towards the Community Voices Research Project to be coordinated by the Linwood Resource Centre.
3. The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board presently has \$16,201 available in its 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. The Linwood Resource Centre Trust (the Centre) has been operating for 11 years in a Christchurch City Council owned facility. The Centre has a community development worker position which is managed under Family and Community a Division of Anglican Care, the Centre's activities are governed by a Trust. The Centre relies on volunteer and Trust Board members to help run its activities and programmes.
5. The Centre was set up to provide a welcoming, stimulating and safe environment for local people to build an inclusive community where creativity can be explored and skills and resources shared. It seeks to empower local people to take action on issues of importance to them.
6. Over the past few months the Centre has been involved in discussions (with other organisations in Bromley, Charleston, Linwood, Phillipstown, Inner City and Woolston) to discover what is happening within the community in terms of community pride, participation and strengths. Discussions have taken place to find out how to engage in participatory methods to find out from the community's grassroots what the strengths are and how these can be built on. A working title that has emerged for this project is the Community Voices Research Project.
7. The Community Voices Research Project (the Project) seeks to understand community views; build and strengthen connections within community; identify and build on community strengths; identify opportunities for groups, organisations, agencies, institutions and other stakeholders to engage in greater collaboration; and to update research in these areas.
8. The Project will be implemented under the umbrella of the Linwood Resource Centre in close collaboration with Te Whare Roimata. It will also include but will not be limited to the Bromley and Phillipstown Community Centres, the Woolston Community Association and the Charleston Residents' Association.
9. In addition, the Project will integrate a capacity building component to ensure that community workers themselves develop skills to undertake research within their own areas of operation in future.
10. The outcomes of the Project include increased awareness of community strengths; increased awareness of barriers to engagement and community needs; basis on which to develop and implement new community initiatives, projects and programmes; and greater collaboration amongst stakeholders to ensure better coordination and better resource allocation.
11. It is anticipated that the outcomes of the Project will be compiled into a report with recommendations, which will be shared with the community through community and resource centres, residents' associations and various stakeholders at organisational level.

12. The Project is scheduled to begin in June 2010 and end in May 2011. A coordinator will be engaged to ensure the Project is implemented within participating communities and to report on progress to key stakeholders. The Coordinator's role will include organising community consultations using focus groups, interviews and questionnaires as may be deemed necessary, holding meetings with interested groups, organisations, agencies, institutions and other interested parties to find areas of collaboration and reporting on findings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. Sound financial practices are in place. The Linwood Resource Centre has its accounts audited annually.
14. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$25,000. This application is seeking \$15,000 to carry out the first phase of the Project and will seek another \$10,000 from the Community Board for the final phase which will include compiling and printing of the final reports.
15. The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board presently has \$16,201 available in its Discretionary Response Fund.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

16. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

17. No legal implications have been identified.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

18. Aligns with LTCCP and Activity Management Plans, pages 172 and 176.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

19. Yes, Strengthening Communities (page 172 of the 2009-19 LTCCP).

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

20. This application meets the following Council Community Grants Funding Outcomes:
 - Support, develop and promote the capacity and sustainability of community, recreation, sports, arts, heritage and environment groups.
21. It also helps to meet the following Community Board objectives:
 - Acknowledge diversity and support measures for a vibrant, inclusive and strong communities.
 - Support/advocate for initiatives that support lifelong learning.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

22. Yes, Strengthening Communities Strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

23. None required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board allocate \$15,000 from its 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund to the Linwood Resource Centre, towards the Community Voices Research Project.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.