

EXAMPLE B

Application from Newham Women's Employment Project

Dear Mr Cook

We write to ask the City Parochial Foundation to support this association in establishing a New Technology Training Centre for women in Newham by funding the Centre's creche.

WHO WE ARE

We are a registered charity committed to the provision and promotion of access to education and training opportunities for local women who, for a variety of reasons, have been denied such facilities.

At the moment we have three full-time workers and four sessional creche workers who, through the Co-ordinator, are responsible to a management committee elected annually from the membership of the association. This is made up of ex-trainees of the project, local councillors and affiliated groups and individuals who live or work in the borough.

WHAT WE DO

Since 1984, the Women's Employment Project has run three Return to Work Courses for women each year. These provide 'tasters' in a wide variety of manual trades, computing, literacy, numeracy and confidence building skills for women who have been out of work or under-using their skills or potential. Sixty-three percent of former trainees have gone on to further education or training or have found work in various manual trades, computing or general office work. The range of further education taken runs from GCSE through Access to Higher Education and Social Work to degrees at the London School of Economics and technical training at

Vauxhall College and Tower Hamlets Advanced Technology Training Centre.

The project's other activities include women's studies courses, workshops on food and alcohol and understanding health and hygiene. With Newham Community College we pioneered a Black Haircare Course which has now become part of mainstream college provision and will shortly have City & Guilds certification.

THE NEW TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTRE

In the light of changing employment patterns and in order to meet the challenge of the new employment opportunities opening up in the Docklands area, we established a local need for training in new technology for women in Newham. This need was recognised by the European Commission who have awarded us a grant of £175,593 from the European Social Fund under their Innovatory Programme to set up such a centre. With the aid of this funding and match-funding from the Department of the Environment under the Inner Area Programme, we will be able to move to larger premises in the centre of Stratford which will be fully accessible to women with disabilities.

We will be able to offer one-year full-time certificated courses, with training allowances, to twenty women a year in computing, microprocessing, robotics and electronic servicing. This will be in addition to our existing programme.

On these courses, priority will be given to women from local ethnic minority communities whose qualifications are not recognised in the UK, women with few or no formal education qualifications, the long-term unemployed and women wishing to retrain following childcare responsibilities. Forty per cent of the places we offer will be for women with disabilities.

THE CRECHE

The Association considers the provision of free childcare an essential requirement for a project which aims to attract all women regardless of their economic or personal circumstances. All our activities are therefore supported by free creche facilities for babies and pre-school children.

We also see creche provision as a positive benefit to children from areas

of high deprivation, many of whom live in high rise flats (Newham has the highest rate of children under 5 living above the 5th floor of tower blocks in England) or bed and breakfast accommodation. They lack good facilities and many come from single parent families. We have a high proportion whose first language is not English and who have special needs as a result.

In our new premises (a former youth centre in Deanery Road, Stratford) we intend to convert the existing sports hall into a creche. Partitions need to be put in, the floor surface needs to be changed and the heating and lighting adapted and made safe. The creche will also need to be redecorated and new equipment purchased, as our present equipment is inadequate for increased size.

FUNDING FOR THE CRECHE

Although we have funding which will cover both our revenue costs and the capital expenditure necessary to convert an old youth centre into a fully equipped new technology training centre with disabled access, none of our funding is specifically available for the creche. Funding under the Inner Area Programme is exclusively for revenue costs, and the policy of the Department of Employment is to exclude amounts for creche provision from the ESF bids they recommend to the European Commission.

We are therefore seeking an alternative source of funding for the creche. We would be very grateful if the City Parochial Foundation felt able to support this Project by funding the creche.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Our architects estimate that the necessary works to the creche will come to about £9,000. (The total works will be in the region of £104,000). I enclose a breakdown of their costs and their plans for the creche area. To benefit from the ESF grant we have to have our new courses started by the end of 1988. We hope to commence work on our new premises in late August/early September. So we are looking to receive funding for the creche during the current financial year.

I enclose a copy of our latest annual report to give you a clearer idea of our recent activities. We would be very happy for the Trustees, or their representatives, to visit the project and see our new premises. To arrange a visit,

or for any further information you need, please do not hesitate to contact Marcene Hayden – our Acting Co-ordinator – at the address above.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely
Chair, Management Committee

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The project has asked for it to be stated that their applications have since improved. However, it remains an excellent application – and the original covered only two sides of A4. (TC)