

# BEYOND LIGHT, Inc

## SPECIAL EXCEPTION PURSUANTS TO U, 420.1(A) X,901.2

Beyond Light responds to and promotes prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce the impact of mental and substance use disorders among the communities of Washington DC. Mental and substance use disorders can have a powerful effect on the health of individuals, their families, and their communities. In 2014, an estimated 9.8 million adults aged 18 and older in the United States had a serious mental illness, and 1.7 million of which were aged 18 to 25. Also 15.7 million adults (aged 18 or older) and 2.8 million youth (aged 12 to 17) had a major depressive episode during the past year. In 2014, an estimated 22.5 million Americans aged 12 and older self-reported needing treatment for alcohol or illicit drug use, and 11.8 million adults self-reported needing mental health treatment or counseling in the past year. These disorders are among the top conditions that cause disability and carry a high burden of disease in the United States and Washington DC is not immune to this epidemic.

As we are seeking the approval of our application so that we can effectively respond to the mental health and substance use disorder of the residents of Washington DC, it should be noted that Washington DC has a unique obligation to ensure the needs of its more vulnerable residents are met. This includes ensuring those residents have access and can access mental health and substance use disorder counseling and preventative services. This is not respective or limited to one area of the city or one neighborhood of the city. As a Special Exemption service, we strongly urge your governing body to vote in favor of our application so that we may get to the business of providing the services these residents so desperately need. **“ MALE WORK THERAPY TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS,” decreasing the need for families homelessness, empowering MALE to care for the needs of their families**

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