APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION: NEW COMMUNITY AFTER SCHOOL AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM, INC.

The New Community After School and Advocacy Program, Inc. (NC-ASAP or New Community for short) was inaugurated in the fall of 1988, the dream of Mrs. Grace Dickerson, Educational Advocate, For Love of Children's Hope and a Home Program and member of New Community Church, where the after school program is housed. The church has been in existence since 1982 and the after school program was an outgrowth of that ministry. The church also serves as a community center for arts and public meetings.

The program has grown from serving six first graders in 1988 to serving 46 children in grades Pre-K through 12. We have academic enrichment programs, remedial assistance programs, individual tutoring in math and reading, a computer lab, as well as an art program to support the cultural enrichment of our students, their parents and adults in the neighborhood.

NC-ASAP empowers children through educational, cultural and spiritual enrichment. Towards that end, we work with parents, teachers, the community, and other social service organizations in the District of Columbia to address the comprehensive educational needs of children. We prepare children for post-secondary education, careers, and / or vocational training to become responsible, productive adults, who, in turn, will give their time and talents back to their communities.

The program employs 6 persons, 4 full time and 2 part time. There are 3 teachers, a program assistant, a volunteer coordinator, and the executive director (the program assistant and the volunteer coordinator hold the part time positions).

Members of the staff have the food handlers' license and hold CPR certifications. The four full time employees and one part time employee have post-secondary degrees in education and the other part time employee is working toward a post-secondary degree.

Before acceptance into the program, parents are to provide the following information for their child (ren): 1) completed application for admission; 2) updated health form; 3) proof of residency; 4) proof of employment; and 5) students most recent report card and SAT 9 test scores.

Upon completion of the aforementioned process, the parents and students are required to sign a release form, giving the New Community staff permission to advocate for the children in their schools. Parents and students are also required to sign contracts in regards to the students' behavior and attendance in the program. Parents are expected to attend monthly meetings and volunteer their time to the program at least once a month.

As an after school program, we have not been required to secure a license; but we are currently seeking a license to qualify for District funding, i.e. vouchers for our low-income families. A representative from the Department of Human Services has reviewed us prior

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to our submission of the licensure application and encouraged us to go forward with the process based on our facility and staff credentials. We were approved for a total of 51 children.

There are 10 legal and existing off street parking spaces as a part of the facility with the possibility of two additional spaces. We are within one block of the Shaw/Howard University Metro stop. The majority of our children are residents of the Shaw neighborhood. We also transport the children in grades Pre-K through sixth to our site; the older children walk to the program.

As a part of the facility, we have ample outdoor play space and there have been no objections at any time from any of the neighboring property owners in regards to noise or visual impacts. The children are well protected from vehicular traffic within our fenced outdoor play space.