

ASANTECARE SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES:

PROJECT NARRATIVE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

AsanteCare Supported Living Services is an out-of-home staffed residential children's program designed to offer secure and pleasant living arrangements for individuals living with developmental disabilities. The facility, based at 19003 60th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA. 98036, is equipped with amenities that ensure the comfort and safety of our residents, regardless of their race, gender or religious backgrounds.

At AsanteCare Supported Living Services, our core philosophy revolves around service provision with integrity. We are confident that these fundamental values will propel our business to impressive heights and facilitate client satisfaction.

Our facility will be overseen by professionals with experience in the health care sector. Their specialized skills will be crucial as they deal with a range of individual cases, with each resident's care plan tailored to their specific needs.

AsanteCare Supported Living Services will extend its services throughout the year to individuals aged between 6 and 21 living with developmental disabilities. AsanteCare's capacity to provide care is capped at a maximum of four individuals at any given time. Our overriding ambition is to establish AsanteCare as the preeminent provider of Out-of-home residential services in our sector.

The founders, Mpiima and Allen Mugambe, bring considerable experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities in staffed residential homes and school settings.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

I. Number of Children:

Our program, in accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 1335, 1735, will accommodate a maximum of 4 children housed at a designated address. The program will maintain an appropriate child-to-staff ratio to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in our care.

II. Services Provided to Children and Families:

We are committed to providing comprehensive services that promote the holistic development and well-being of children and families. Our program will offer the following services:

1. **Health and Nutrition:** We will ensure that children receive nutritious meals and snacks in accordance with state guidelines. We will collaborate with parents/guardians and health professionals to address any specific dietary requirements or health concerns of individual children.
2. **Emotional and Social Support:** Our program will foster a nurturing and inclusive environment where children can develop positive relationships with their peers and caring adults. We will promote social-emotional skills through activities, guidance, and supportive interactions.
3. **Parent and Family Engagement:** We recognize the importance of involving families in their children's learning and development. We will provide opportunities for parents/guardians to actively participate in the program through regular communication, parent education workshops, and family events.
4. **Assessment and Progress Monitoring:** We will conduct ongoing assessments to track children's progress in various domains of development. These assessments will guide our individualized instruction and help us identify any additional support or intervention required.

III. Plan to Coordinate with Community Partners:

We understand the significance of collaborating with community partners to enhance the quality of our services. Our program will establish strong partnerships with the following entities:

1. **Local Schools:** We will coordinate with local schools to ensure a smooth transition for children entering kindergarten, sharing relevant information and facilitating a seamless educational experience.
2. **Healthcare Providers:** We will collaborate with healthcare professionals to promote the health and well-being of children in our program. This may include sharing health information, seeking guidance on specialized needs, and organizing health-related workshops for families.
3. **Social Services Agencies:** We will maintain a working relationship with social services agencies to support families in accessing necessary resources and services. This collaboration will help us provide comprehensive support to children and families facing unique challenges.

IV. Safety and Supervision for Each Child and the Residential Facility:

The safety and well-being of each child are our top priorities. Our program will implement the following measures to ensure a secure and supervised environment:

1. **Qualified Staff:** Our program will employ qualified and trained staff members who have undergone thorough background checks. Staff will be responsible for ensuring the safety and supervision of children at all times.
2. **Secure Facility:** Our program will maintain a secure facility that meets all safety requirements outlined by local and state regulations. The premises will be regularly inspected to identify and address any potential hazards. The backyard will be fenced and secured with a gate. The premises will be secured with outdoor security cameras and door and window alarms.
3. **Safety Policies and Procedures:** We will establish clear and comprehensive safety policies and procedures that outline emergency protocols, supervision guidelines, and health and hygiene practices.
4. **Continuous Supervision:** Children will be under constant supervision while participating in program activities. Our staff will maintain visual and auditory contact with children to ensure their safety and address their needs promptly.
5. **Emergency Preparedness:** We will develop and regularly practice emergency preparedness plans, including evacuation procedures, first aid training, and communication protocols in case of emergencies or natural disasters. The facility will also be equipped with fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment that supports children in achieving their fullest potential. Our goals include providing high-quality, individualized care, fostering independence, and building strong community connections for every child/youth under our care.

Our determination is to establish a premier out-of-home facility service catering to the unique needs of our young clients with developmental disabilities. We aspire to be among the leading group home providers in Snohomish County and across the State of Washington.

VISION STATEMENT

AsanteCare Supported Living Services strives to rank among the foremost providers of out-of-home staffed residential services in Snohomish County.

OBJECTIVES

AsanteCare Supported Living Services has set the following objectives:

1. Develop a leading out-of-home staffed residential facility that addresses the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in Snohomish County.
2. Create a conducive home environment that enables all residents to lead a fulfilling life.
3. Develop individualized programs to meet the specific needs of residents.

EQUITY ANALYSIS

The location chosen for the planned residential children's program was selected without considering race, color, income status, or national origin. Instead, the nature of the project and its benefits to the community make it apt for placement in neighborhoods historically affected by income and racial inequities. While we might not have the most recent racial and economic data for the community where the project is proposed, we believe that the City of Lynnwood requires such an initiative, especially since there are no similar projects in existence. Furthermore, the primary goal of this program is to bridge the gap by providing essential services to special needs children in our community that they cannot obtain at home. This underscores the importance of the project, regardless of its neighborhood location.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT

In recent years there have been increasing concerns about several issues that threaten the wellbeing of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Washington State. Much as the adult population is significantly affected by these trends, the children and youth are the most affected category of this population. Among the many challenges, the main concerning trends are the declining out-of-home staffed residential children/youth programs in the state and the increasing number of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

From the onset of COVID19, Washington State, mostly region 2, has experienced rising trends of youth/children's programs permanently closing their doors due to several factors. By the end of 2022, the entire region 2 was left with only 7 programs expected to harbor the rising numbers of special needs children. It should also be noted that the City of Lynnwood does not have a single out of home staffed residential program to serve one of the most vulnerable members of its community - the special needs children/youth.

Furthermore, there is an uptick in the number of children being diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This rise only underscores the ever-growing need for these residential programs. Without adequate facilities to support these children, their overall quality of life, development, and integration into society become jeopardized.

The approval of AsanteCare Supported Living Services to operate an out-of-home staffed residential children's program in the City of Lynnwood will not only help to solve the challenges special needs children face in Washington State but create an opportunity for Lynnwood's one of the most vulnerable communities be placed close to their homes than being taken far from their families for placement.

PROJECT ZONING DETAILS

The property is located at 19003 60th Ave W, Lynnwood WA. 98036 at the corner of 60th Ave and 190th Pl SW. The property is zoned as residential with a Use Code: 111 Single Family Residence - Detached. The property sits on 0.18 acres with a Tax Code: 00452 and Parcel Number: 00399000000100

Given the nature of the project and the services it provides to one of the most vulnerable community members, this site is the best alternative for the project. Furthermore, the main intention of the application is not to change the property zoning since it is already zoned for residential purposes.

PROJECT POLICY COMPLIANCE

The proposed project aligns with the Lynnwood Comprehensive Plan and serves as a vital community service to the city. AsanteCare's goal of establishing an accommodating residential environment and designing customized programs for children with developmental disabilities, also known as special needs children, corresponds with 7.3 Finding H-13 of the plan. This finding recognizes the growing demand for housing tailored to special needs individuals, including senior citizens and persons with disabilities, which is expected to rise significantly as the "baby boom" generation continues to age.

Furthermore, the project complies with the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 110-145-1355 and WAC 110-145-1310, necessary for obtaining a zoning permit to operate an Out-of-Home Staffed Residential facility catering to children with developmental disabilities within the City of Lynnwood.

PROPERTY MODIFICATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

AsanteCare does not plan to conduct any advanced site modifications or improvements on the property at 19003 60th Ave W, Lynnwood WA. 98036. Since the clients currently proposed to reside at the address are not mobility restricted, there is no need for site modifications. The main objective of the children's program is to create a conducive environment for the children/youth to stay in the program as if it's their "normal" home. We do not intend to create a hospital or institutional setting or environment.

LAND MITIGATION

For safety reasons, and as a requirement for state licensure, we plan to install grab bars in the two bathrooms, fire extinguishers, more carbon monoxide detectors in the house, window screens and a small outdoor gate to fully enclose the backyard. Upon approval from the state

licensure, we plan to include a swing in the backyard as both recreational and sensory equipment.

ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS INVESTIGATED

During our extensive search for potential sites to establish the proposed project, we carefully examined several alternative options. Regrettably, none of the sites within the city met the criteria set forth for the proposed property. Among the real estate agents approached with our project proposal, none were agreeable to the idea of accommodating developmental disability children and youth and conducting a business on their properties.

Upon closer inspection, the alternative properties we evaluated presented significant drawbacks, primarily related to safety concerns. Many of these properties featured staircases that raised concerns regarding the safety of our clients.

In contrast, the current property under consideration is a single-level rambler, without any stairs, thus ensuring a safe environment for children and their Direct Support Professionals. The property owner has graciously granted us permission to operate from his premises, as he recognizes the importance of providing residential services for children and youth with developmental disabilities.

In conclusion, our search yielded no other viable sites within the city that meet the dual criteria of being staircase-free and located in a secure residential area where property owners are willing to host children and youth with developmental disabilities. Consequently, the proposed property stands as the sole feasible option in our quest to establish a safe and nurturing living environment for children and youth with developmental disabilities within the city limits.