

# Suitable Living Environments

## Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center

Long Beach, CA

## Project Profile

### SNAPSHOT

**Activity Type** – Public facility.

**Beneficiaries** – The Center turns very troubled and traumatized homeless children into students. It has afforded over 400 children a year a gentler transition into mainstream education and provided them an opportunity for a better future.

**Project Total** – \$1.5 million

**CDBG Funds** – \$1 million

**Leverage Ratio** – 1:5

**Key Result** – A center dedicated to meeting the unique and daunting needs of homeless children.

**Words of Advice** – In addition to funding this project, the Community Development Division stepped up to manage the construction project when no other manager was available. This kind of leadership makes CDBG projects successful.

**More Information** –  
[www.lbschools.net/Community/Education\\_Foundation/programs.cfm](http://www.lbschools.net/Community/Education_Foundation/programs.cfm)



#### PLACE

The Center is part of a 26-acre planned community at a former Long Beach naval station housing site that provides temporary housing, jobs, and social services to homeless veterans and their families.

#### PEOPLE

This is a story about both homeless children and about a large Southern California urban community – surrounded by wealthier beach communities – that created one of the most rigorous education programs ever for these very inspiring students.

#### PROJECT

In 2003, discussions began to build a new transitional education center within the planned community that would meet the increased service demands of homeless children. Open in 2006, the project includes larger classrooms, administrative offices, restrooms, a covered lunch area, playground equipment, landscaping, storage sheds for donated items, a food serving area, and a laundry facility. The Center has been recognized as one of the most academically successful homeless education programs in the country.

#### PARTNERS

Century Villages at Cabrillo, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is the developer of the property. Los Angeles County Community Development Commission partnered with Century for acquisition of the land, and with the Long Beach Unified School District for administration, operation, and maintenance of the new school upon its completion. All three partners contributed their staff time to manage the project's construction. In addition, Century's prime contractor hired one unemployed veteran residing at the Villages and provided in-kind services.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

*Serving Low- and Moderate-Income Persons and Neighborhoods in the U.S.*

