

PROGRAM BRIEF: MATHER COMMUNITY CAMPUS (MCC)

HISTORY

In 1993, the Federal Government identified the Mather Air Force Base for closure under the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC). The McKinney-Vento Act of 1987 offered community-based and non-profit organizations the opportunity to acquire base property and assets for homeless services. In 1993, Sacramento requested and received control of 33 acres of the Mather Air Force base to develop a transitional housing program for families and single homeless individuals. This marked the birth of VOA's Mather Community Campus.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton and HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo named Mather Community Campus Transitional Housing Program the best transitional housing program in the country during an award presentation in Washington D.C. Today, Mather Community Campus is a thriving, innovative, and successful program model with a multitude of support services for individuals transitioning out of homelessness.

MATHER COMMUNITY CAMPUS AT A GLANCE

SNAPSHOT OF SERVICES

- Transitional housing
- Job training and placement assistance
- Adult Charter School
- Substance abuse counseling
- Credit and identity repair services
- Financial literacy education
- Parenting classes
- Assistance with securing permanent housing
- Full Veteran's Service Center
- Referrals to other community services

SPECIFIC POPULATIONS SERVED

- Single men and women
- Military veterans
- Former foster youth
- Families with children

BY THE NUMBERS

- 33 acre campus with 14 service/housing buildings
- 150 clients complete the program annually
- 96% of clients transition into sustainable housing
- 1,481 Veterans access MCC programs annually
- 68 former foster youth accessed MCC services in 2018

MATHER COMMUNITY CAMPUS PROGRAM

Mather Community Campus (MCC) is a 12-month employment and rehabilitative transitional housing program. Mather clients live in studio style or multi room apartments as they participate in on-site pre-employment and vocational training, alcohol and drug recovery, credit and identity repair, case management, housing and job placement assistance.

Combined, MCC houses 363 men, women and children each day. Annually, the MCC program transitions an average of 150 individuals who leave with increased income or employment and housing. VOA works with 200 local businesses for job placement and, as a result, the program experiences a 96% success rate for clients who complete the program. Since its inception, MCC has transitioned over 4,500 homeless individuals out of homelessness.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS ON-SITE

Adolfo Emancipated Foster Youth Program supports 68 former foster youth between 18-24 years of age by providing 2 years of transitional housing with additional services to help youth achieve stabilization and independent living: behavioral health assessment and treatment; completion of high school or post-secondary education or trade school; financial literacy; practical life skills; job training, and housing placement.

Veteran's Transitional Housing, a Grant Per Diem Program, is an intensive housing program for 40 men and women veterans that offers housing, employment and other supportive services with the goal of increasing both earned income and benefits that allow them to return back to the community and sustain their independence.

KEY POINTS

- **Invest in what works**
 - Housing+support services is most efficient use of funds.
 - \$100k+ is taxpayer cost for every unsheltered person.
 - \$25k investment to move one person out of homelessness through MCC programs.
- **Program proven successful.** 4% recidivism rate.
- **More than just 'housing first'**- MCC's 'therapeutic community' design offers students a community of support as they move toward independence and stability.
- **Small program cuts harmful to overall success.** Full utilization of campus is most cost effective.