



## A LOOK BACK: 2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

By Danielle Garcia

As we look ahead to the coming New Year, it is appropriate to take a step back and reflect on the accomplishments of the past 12 months. The year of 2006 saw many improvements in efficiency and advancements in the ongoing process of automation within the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Division. As well, there have been several noteworthy projects completed this year, many of which were recognized for their outstanding achievements. The following is a brief overview of some of the successful projects undertaken by the CDBG Division and its partners.

### • Special Recognition of CDBG Projects:

The City of Bell Gardens' **John Anson Ford Park** project has been nominated for the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award. The project was considered significant because it blended multi-layered funding sources, including \$5 million in Section 108 and CDBG funds, in a dynamic public-private collaboration to create a much needed state-of-the-art sports complex for the community.

The **Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center for Homeless Students** was recently presented the Award of Excellence in Homeless Collaboration and Assistance from the National Association for County Community and Economic Development. The center was recognized for its strides in improving the education of severely impoverished students, giving them opportunities they may otherwise lack. The services were made possible by the expansion of the Agency's facility after receiving a \$1 million dollar CDBG grant from the Fourth Supervisorial District.

• **New HUD Outcome Performance Measurement System:** The Grants Planning and Reporting Unit within the CDBG Division has begun implementation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Outcome Performance Measuring System. This new HUD requirement incorporates a performance based measurement system into the annual CDBG reporting network. The CDBG Division provided training on the new system to help familiarize our internal units, as well as our participating agencies on the new data collection and reporting requirements.

• **"In-Progress Monitoring:"** The Program Management Unit of the CDBG Division, is implementing the "In-Progress Monitoring." This new approach to monitoring is designed to allow for the real time assessment of CDBG-funded projects within the Fiscal Year (FY) they are active. While encouraging better communication between the Community Development Commission (CDC) and its partners, the approach should also address program concerns before they become problems, and help to build better partnerships through the effective use of technical support and active dialogue.



## Getting Ready for E-Signatures



By Danielle Garcia

Something new to look forward to in 2007 is the introduction and required use of electronic signatures for all CDC contractual documents. This electronic signature process will save time, paper, and postage while adding to the overall efficiency of processing official CDC documents.

To assist implementation, the CDBG Division recently conducted a customer survey on the use of electronic signatures. The survey was designed to gauge the level of expertise our agencies possess and to identify any impediments which may impact implementation of the new signature process. As follow-up to the survey, we have developed a set of implementation instructions for the new system. The instructions will be transmitted electronically to all of our participating agencies and should help with the transition process.

Look for the signature process to be implemented at the beginning of FY 2007-2008. It is our hope that this new tool will increase efficiency and maximize resources. Be sure to check with your Program Manager for further information.

*Happy Holidays!*

### Important Dates:

#### December 2006

12-25-06

CDC Offices Closed in Observance of the Christmas Holiday

#### January 2007

01-01-07

CDC Offices Closed in Observance of the New Year's Holiday

01-15-07

CDC Offices Closed in Observance of the Martin Luther King Holiday

**For further information, please contact your Program Manager.**