



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

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Fact Sheet

December 4, 2012

Building 209 Therapeutic and Supportive Housing VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, West Los Angeles Medical Center Campus

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plans to renovate Building 209, located on the West Los Angeles Medical Center (WLA) campus of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA). The renovated facility will serve as a therapeutic and supportive residence for chronically homeless Veterans, providing a variety of onsite therapies and supportive services to help these Veterans transition to more independent living. During the course of this renovation, VA will perform seismic corrections, historic rehabilitation, safety improvements, and architectural renovation. Based on the current design, Building 209 will include 55 apartments, of which 45 apartments will accommodate one resident each and 10 of the apartments will accommodate two Veterans each.

On July 16, 2010, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki identified \$20 million in construction project savings to support the seismic retrofit and interior renovations of Building 209 for therapeutic and supportive housing for chronically homeless Veterans. In September 2010, Building 209 was added to GLA's "Seismic Correction of Eleven Buildings" major construction project. VA selected the architectural (A/E) firm of Leo A. Daly to design the improvements and began project design in October 2010. Final authorization for the project was approved through PL 112-37 on October 5, 2011.

Building 209 will be developed as a therapeutic residence designed primarily for chronically homeless Veterans whose combination of chronic mental health or other medical needs necessitate residential treatment and make it difficult to place them in other residential settings. The facility will focus primarily on those whose recovery plan, established by VA health professionals who treat each individual Veteran, recommends long-term therapy and support in a residential setting. The therapy and support services to be provided to residents of Building 209 are designed to help these Veterans learn social and independent living skills as well as obtain and maintain appropriate employment, until they are ready and able to transition to more independent living situations. Design features of the renovation include, in addition to the residential units described above, a large multipurpose room that can be used for a variety of educational programs and gatherings, a dedicated women's wing, administrative offices, a training kitchen, and specialized "bariatric unit" to address the medical issues associated with obesity, as well as multiple spaces that can be used for group therapy, training sessions, and social gatherings.

Constructed in 1945, Building 209 is identified as a historic property under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NHPA Section 110 Standards 6 and 7 require that VA manage and maintain historic properties to preserve their historic, architectural, archeological, and cultural values. The building modifications described above were designed to prevent adverse effects to cultural resources in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties for Rehabilitation*. VA prepared and released a Draft and Final Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) of the project after consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), the Los Angeles Conservancy and Native American Commission.

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