



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2021

County of Alameda Launches Program to Help Homeowners Build Accessory Dwelling Units



The new pilot program is expected to result in 18 new units of affordable housing throughout the Unincorporated Areas of the County and provide free one-on-one ADU guidance to over 100 homeowners. The application period closes on November 27th, 2021.



Hayward, CA – Today the Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department announced the launch of a new ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) Program, which is now accepting applications through November 27, 2021. The program offers free consulting and project management services to homeowners who want to build an additional housing unit on their single-family property. Developed in partnership with nonprofit organization Hello Housing, which will also serve as the Program Administrator, the ADU Pilot Program is expected to result in the development of 18 new affordable units throughout the Unincorporated Areas of the County.

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The Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved funding for the creation of the ADU pilot program recognizing that the development of ADUs (sometimes called “second units”, or “in-law units”) presents an important opportunity to expand the supply of housing in single-family neighborhoods where homeowners may have additional space on their properties. The primary goal is to increase the supply of housing units affordable to residents throughout the County. Other goals are to increase rental housing options in high-opportunity neighborhoods and relieve overcrowding for multi-generational families. The pilot will initially serve the Unincorporated Areas of the County (Ashland, Cherryland, Castro Valley, Castlewood, Fairview, Happy Valley, Hillcrest Knolls, Sunol and San Lorenzo, as well as the unincorporated areas in the cities of Hayward, East Pleasanton and South Livermore), with the goal of expanding the program to become a County-wide offering.

“We need to continue to explore creative housing solutions to support the stability and vitality of households throughout the County,” said Housing Director Michelle Starratt. “With ADUs, we can increase naturally affordable housing stock by creating new homes in existing neighborhoods. By offering customized guidance, we can make sure that homeowners have the support they need to successfully build a new unit that is safe and legally permitted.”

Program Requirements. The Program provides free consulting and project management services to eligible homeowners who live within the Unincorporated Areas of the County and who have the motivation and means to build an ADU or Junior ADU. Eligible properties are parcels with a single-family home that can accommodate an ADU. The property must be occupied by the owner and the new unit must be rented at an affordable price for a period of three years. Eligible applicants must have access to their own financing to design and build an ADU and must agree to complete fair

housing/landlord training. There is no income requirement for owners or future tenants of units constructed under the Program.

“We’re excited to partner with Alameda County to offer one-on-one support to homeowners,” said Jennifer Duffy, President of Hello Housing. “ADUs bring a unique and timely opportunity to support homeowners who want to be part of the housing solution. ADUs offer a broad range of benefits and solutions, from allowing seniors to age in place, to expanding affordable housing options for tenants. The key is flexibility. Whether the occupant is a grandparent or a local public school teacher, ADUs create flexible, affordable homes that help keep local residents in their communities.”

Application process. Interested homeowners should submit an online application on <https://www.hellobright.org/one-stop-shop-ac> by November 27th, 2021. Property owners who meet baseline eligibility criteria will be entered into a random lottery and undergo a remote screening process in order of lottery number starting in November. Applicants selected to move forward through the remote screening process will be invited to schedule a site visit from Hello Housing. Final participants will be selected and ADU development plans will begin in early 2022.

For more information and full program details:

Para más información o asistencia ♦ 有關更多信息或幫助

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About ADU Program Administrator Hello Housing:

Nonprofit organization Hello Housing advances housing solutions that promote stability, center equity, and cultivate community. The Hello Housing “way of working” is collaborative by design, engaging our public and private partners and the communities we serve to preserve existing and develop new affordable housing in the Bay Area. Hello Housing has unique expertise in all facets of affordable homeownership, a critical component of a vibrant community and healthy economy. In 2020, Hello Housing launched *Bright in Your Own Backyard*, an ADU technical assistance program for homeowners developed in collaboration with Home for All San Mateo County, and in 2021 the *Bright in Your Own Backyard* program expanded to South San Francisco. As both a developer of affordable for-sale homes, and a designer/operator of a variety of homeownership programs, Hello Housing is helping working families call the Bay Area home for generations to come.