



NEWS RELEASE
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CITY ANNOUNCES NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING TOOL
Free pre-approved accessory dwelling unit site plan preparation services now available.

CHICO, CA — (January 12, 2024) The City of Chico continues to provide tools to encourage the construction of affordable housing. To stimulate accessory dwelling unit (ADU) development for local homeowners, the City obtained grant funds to offer free ADU site plan preparation services in addition to the previously available pre-approved ADU building plans.

An accessory dwelling unit, also known as a “mother-in-law suite” or “granny flat,” is an attached or detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons on the same parcel as the main dwelling unit. This includes permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation. ADUs are an innovative, affordable, and effective way to provide new housing opportunities in existing built-out neighborhoods for the benefit of both renters and homeowners.

Accessory Dwelling Units provide housing opportunities within existing neighborhoods that are more affordable due to their smaller size and use of existing infrastructure. These additional units help diversify the market for renters while providing supplemental income for homeowners, thus increasing affordability throughout the City.

Homeowners interested in developing ADU were previously able to obtain free ADU building plans as a result of a grant the City secured from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in a SB2 (Building Homes and Jobs Act) in 2020. Now, thanks to an additional Local Early Assistance Planning grant (LEAP) from HCD the City will also be offering site plan development services until November 2024 (close out of LEAP grant program). These services include consultant coordination with applicant homeowners on the position of the new ADU on their site, preparation of a site plan, review and clearance of City reviews related to Building, Development Engineering, Fire, Drainage and Erosion Control and Planning.

“Providing free ADU site plan preparation services and free ADU building plans saves significant time and money for homeowners”, said Principal Planner Bruce Ambo. “In addition to meeting a community housing need, ADUs can also become an extra stream of income for homeowners and an important source of affordable market rate housing.”

The application and development review processes have been streamlined to encourage participation in this valuable program. For application materials and detailed information on the free ADU site

preparation program and on free ADU building plans see: <https://chico.ca.us/Departments/Community-Development/Planning-Division/ADUJADU-Information/index.html>.

For additional information on ADU resources, contact the Planning Division at 530-879-6800 or zoning@chicoca.gov.

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us.

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