



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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*****MEDIA ALERT*****

CITY OF CHICO RELEASES PRE-APPROVED, NO-COST ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT PLANS

(Chico, CA – July 27, 2020 –) With grant funds secured from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (SB 2 “Building Homes and Jobs Act”), the City of Chico had a series of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) plans designed and plan checked. These plans are now available pre-approved to the public for use free of charge.

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 and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs) 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.

“On the heels of the Camp Fire, when Chico was already experiencing an acute shortage of affordable housing, Chico City Council directed City staff to expand housing opportunities and apply for housing grants,” said Bruce Ambo, City of Chico Principal Planner. “Having these pre-approved ADU plans available to our residents saves significant time and money for homeowners at a critical time when affordable housing opportunities are in short supply. In addition, they can also provide an income stream to the homeowners.”

There are a total of 13 different ADU plan variations in different architectural designs and plan sizes including 496, 599 and 749 square feet. Floor plans are also available that incorporate accessible universal design features with wider doorway widths and larger bathrooms for increased ADA accessibility. These ADU plans come pre-approved by the Building Division, meaning a stream-lined permit process and significant savings for the interested ADU owner.

To learn more, or to download FAQs, an ADU Homeowner's Guide, a catalog of available plans, and additional documents regarding ADUs, the public may go to the City's ADU webpage at <https://chico.ca.us/adujadu-information>.

For media inquiries, please contact Bruce Ambo, Principal Planner, at (530) 879-6801 or Lynda Gizzi, Public Information Officer, at (530) 896-7204.

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