



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY RELEASES INTERACTIVE ADU TOOLKIT

To help address the ongoing housing crisis, the County of Santa Cruz has released an interactive toolkit making it easier for homeowners to design, permit and construct accessory dwelling units (ADUs), which can be a more affordable housing option for Santa Cruz County families.

Available at www.sccoplanning.com/ADU, the toolkit includes an overview of recently revised regulations designed to make it easier to build ADUs, a cost and cash flow estimator, guides and FAQs about design, construction and financing, and more. It also includes a GIS tool allowing property owners to instantaneously determine if their property can have an ADU and the maximum allowed size.

Financial assistance to build an ADU is available under two new programs. Under direction of the County Board of Supervisors, the County is making up to \$40,000 available as a forgivable loan to applicants who agree to make their ADU affordable to those making up to 80 percent of area median income for a period of 20 years. Through the "My House My Home" program, the County has also partnered with Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay and Senior Network Services to assist low-income seniors interested in building ADUs to create extra income and remain in their homes.

"This is a significant leap forward in addressing the affordable housing crisis," Board Chair Zach Friend said. "The County has expanded the number of parcels eligible to build ADUs while lowering barriers and providing incentives for local homeowners to take advantage of this new program. ADUs provide new options for seniors to stay in their homes, for expanding the affordable housing stock and for increasing housing choices for local families."



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The ADU toolkit is designed to give residents curious about ADUs easy answers to the County's simplified and streamlined construction process. Under the new program, most residential lots in the unincorporated area with an existing single-family home are potentially eligible for an ADU.

The County has also created simplified, downloadable guides on "ADU Basics", an "ADU Design Guide", and an "ADU Financing Guide." Collectively, the guides provide answers to many common questions without requiring a trip to the County's Planning Department.

During the last decade, California has built an average of 80,000 homes a year, far below the 180,000 units needed every year to keep up with the rate required to meet projected needs through 2025. Also known as granny flats, in-law units, backyard cottages, secondary units and more, ADUs are an innovative, affordable and effective option for addressing California's housing shortfall.

LINKS

ADU Toolkit

www.sccoplanning.com/ADU

ADU Basics

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/Portals/2/County/adu/ADU%20Basics.pdf?ver=2018-04-23-153555-467>

ADU Design Guide

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/Portals/2/County/adu/ADU%20Design%20Guide.pdf?ver=2018-04-23-153556-013>

ADU Cost and Financing Guide

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/Portals/2/County/adu/ADU%20Financing%20Guide.pdf?ver=2018-04-23-154847-587>