

Sanger Awarded \$692,00 Housing Grant

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By KSEE News
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(Press Release) The Sanger Redevelopment Agency has typically set aside more than \$200,000 each year to help low income residents with down payment and home rehabilitation services. However, when the State Legislature dismantled all California Redevelopment Agencies on February 1st, it wiped out housing funds that were intended to help low-income residents become home owners. First time home buyers have played an important role in stabilizing neighborhoods, by taking advantage of historically low housing prices and the glut of low-priced foreclosures created by the housing collapse.

Sanger, like every other California city, has been scrambling to find funds to help its economically disadvantaged residents. Sanger decided to petition the State Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) for help.

According to Sanger City Manager, Brian Haddix, the City collaborated with its grant consultant, Acquisition Partners, to apply for CalHome funds. One of the CalHome programs provides money to experienced housing agencies, like Sanger, to assist low income first time home buyers, as well as low income home owners that need help making repairs to their homes. "Sanger's current award is only for down payment assistance", Haddix said, "but the City intends to apply in the next grant cycle for funds to re-launch the City's Home Improvement Loan Program."

According to Joshua Mitchell, Sanger's Mayor, "This grant will keep Sanger housing in high demand. Every month for the past two years, more people have bought homes in Sanger than in any city outside the Fresno metro area. There is a lot of demand for Sanger houses and this grant will give us another tool to help some of our low income families to get into their first home."

Sanger has multiple new home projects underway and in the planning stage. Ground was recently broken on a new 187-lot subdivision at Church and Reagan Avenues, and plans for an 81-unit apartment community are currently being reviewed.