



City of Rohnert Park PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Rohnert Park Earns Prohousing Designation from the California Department of Housing and Community Development

Rohnert Park, CA (Aug. 4, 2023) – On Aug. 4, 2023, the City of Rohnert Park earned the State Prohousing Designation. This special distinction is awarded to jurisdictions who have enacted prohousing local policies that go beyond state law. Being a “prohousing jurisdiction” provides the city with a competitive advantage on some large state affordable housing and infrastructure grant programs. Rohnert Park is now one of 30 jurisdictions throughout California that have achieved the State’s prohousing designation status.

“Increasing the housing supply is key to solving complex issues like homelessness. We are constantly exploring ways to meet the various housing needs of our community members in Rohnert Park,” said Mayor Samantha Rodriguez. “The Prohousing Designation is a reflection of our efforts and demonstrates our alignment with statewide efforts. I am grateful for this distinction as it will only enhance our ongoing developments.”

The city submitted an application to the Prohousing Designation Program in March 2023. The Prohousing Designation Program is run by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The program supports cities and counties in their housing development efforts.

Applicants must earn a minimum of 30 points in order to qualify as a “prohousing” jurisdiction. Rohnert Park exceeded the minimum number to qualify, earning 42 points total on its application.

With Prohousing Designation, the city can receive priority processing on certain State grant funding applications. These funding opportunities help advance the city’s efforts to provide affordable housing. The city could also qualify for funds to advance its downtown development.

In recent years, several new housing developments have been under construction in Rohnert Park. In the past 8 years, the city has added over 1,900 new housing units, of which 300 are affordable units. Many of these units were part of the University District and Willowglen developments.

In January 2023, the Rohnert Park City Council adopted its Housing Element 2023-2031, an eight-year document that aims to plan for the city's diverse housing needs. The Housing Element includes a plan to add over 1,580 new units between 2023 and 2031. It also includes programs and policies to promote development of housing at all levels and reduce displacement. Several of these new housing units are planned for the SOMO Village and Downtown developments.

Visit the [HCD website](#) for more information on the Prohousing Designation Program.

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