

For immediate release  
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### **\$3.45M CalHome Grant Awarded to City for First Time Home Buyer Mortgage Assistance & Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation**

The City of Bell Gardens was notified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) that it successfully submitted its CalHome grant application and has been awarded \$3,450,000 for the First-time Homebuyer Mortgage Assistance and Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Programs. The City received the full amount requested with a score of 91 out of 100. The lowest score given to a successful applicant was 57, while the highest score was 96. The City ranked no. 7 out of 107 applicants.

At the end of 2019, HCD advertised that it would award more than \$61 Million to local public agencies and nonprofit corporations for the 2019 Round 1 CalHome Program. The City's Community Development Department, with the help of its grant consultant, Global Urban Strategies, Inc., received approval from the City Council to apply for the grant on February 10, 2020, and applied shortly after that.

The funds awarded to the City through the CalHome Program will assist individuals with first-time home buyers deferred payment loans for down payment assistance, owner-occupied home rehabilitation loans, and assistance to create Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's). Each potential down payment assistant applicant will have to undergo homebuyer counseling.

Staff will be working on the Program Guidelines and develop the application processes for the two distinct programs within the coming months. Both the First Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program and the Home Improvement Program will only be eligible for properties within the City of Bell Gardens. Upon approval of the City guidelines and application process by HCD, the City will announce the availability of funds and begin taking applications.

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