



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

FULLY FUND CALIFORNIA DREAM FOR ALL – SUPPORT

C.A.R. is REQUESTING that more funding for homeownership opportunities be included in the state budget. Specifically, C.A.R. is requesting that the Legislature and Governor FULLY FUND the *California Dream For All* down payment assistance Program, which was envisioned by Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, and was a top priority for C.A.R. As REALTORS® know, homeownership remains the best way to create economic and housing security and build strong communities.

Background

Housing costs continue to skyrocket. The state's median home price last year was \$ 822,320. Right now, only 21% of Californians overall and only 12% of Black and Latino households can afford to purchase that median-priced home. These costs are further aggravated by the increase in mortgage rates.

Many working Californians have an income that could support owning a home but they struggle with saving for a down payment. *California Dream For All* addresses this crucial issue, one which is especially frustrating for first-time and first-generation homebuyers who don't come from monied families and do not have generational wealth.

Last year, the Legislature passed a budget that was signed into law by the Governor that included \$500 million for the *California Dream for All Shared Equity Program*, which offers loans to first-time homebuyers for those essential down payments. After the borrower has sold the home, they repay to the state the original down payment loan and part of the home's appreciation.

The *California Dream for All* program ran out of funds LESS THAN TWO WEEKS after the state began accepting applications, demonstrating a huge demand and need for the program.

Additionally, the state Department of Finance withheld the remaining \$200 million of the funding allocated in the state budget.

Why C.A.R. is Requesting that the California Dream for All be FULLY FUNDED:

Homeownership should be an achievable goal for working Californians. Owning a home shouldn't be just for the select few. Too often in California, homeownership is out of reach due to high costs and the lack of entry-level housing. The state can help create more opportunities for homeownership with additional funding.

Creating more homeownership opportunities will help close the wealth gap for communities of color, many of whom are first-generation homeowners. California's overall homeownership rate has declined to just 55%, and only 45% of Latino and 36% of Black families own their home.

The benefits of homeownership should be enjoyed by more working Californians. Overall, being a homeowner correlates to greater civic engagement, better health and if they have children, those children achieve higher levels of education due in part to their ability to use their home's equity toward education.

Status

Pending

Action Item

Ask your Senators to fight to include this funding in the state budget.

Ask your Senators to **SUPPORT**
FULLY FUNDING- CALIFORNIA DREAM FOR ALL