

PRESS RELEASE: ADU webinars give homeowners tools to build housing & invest in community at a critical moment for Napa and Sonoma counties

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Napa, California

With nearly 800 homes destroyed or damaged, and more than 1,000 commercial and other structures burned (at time of publication) across Napa and Sonoma counties due to the Glass Fire, compounding the hundreds of homes lost in the LNU Complex fire just recently extinguished, the already existing need for housing in our communities has only deepened.

As we begin to rebuild together as a community coming out of these most recent tragedies, the nonprofit Napa Sonoma ADU Center is here to support homeowners better understand the ins and outs of accessory dwelling units (or ADUs, also known as granny flats, second units, or backyard cottages) to help build housing units for family members, teachers, nurses, firefighters, and others in need of homes.

The Napa Sonoma ADU Center recently launched its free ADU Fall Webinar Series for homeowners, housing professionals, and others interested in accessory dwelling units.

The next webinar, “**ADUs 101 for Napa & Sonoma County Homeowners**” will take place on **Wednesday, October 28 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm**. All homeowners in both Napa and Sonoma Counties -- as well as housing professionals and others -- are invited to register to attend at: <https://napasonomaadu.org/aduevents> to learn the nuts and bolts of building an accessory dwelling unit including hearing lessons learned and key tips from local experts and homeowners who have successfully built ADUs.

Spanish language translation will be provided via Zoom. *Se proporcionará interpretación al español a través de Zoom.*

The Napa Sonoma ADU Center is a fiscally-sponsored project of Napa Valley Community Foundation with support from Community Foundation Sonoma County that provides concrete tools and support to homeowners to catalyze their ADU builds -- and collaborates with local planning and building departments to help streamline their ADU planning, permitting, and approval processes.

Julia DeNatale, Vice President of Community Impact for Napa Valley Community Foundation shares, “We work side-by-side with local donors and nonprofits to tackle the most important challenges our Valley faces. Even as we respond to disasters by distributing millions of dollars for COVID-19 and wildfire relief, we are working to meet our present and future housing needs.”

The webinar series kickstarted in September with a collaboration between the Napa Sonoma ADU Center and the City of Santa Rosa’s Chief Building Official and a Senior Planner, who joined to walk viewers through the planning, permitting, and building process in Santa Rosa and answer homeowners’ questions live. That webinar is available on-demand on the nonprofit’s website along with other recent webinars, including

webinars designed to help homeowners in the cities of Napa and Calistoga build ADUs:
<https://napasonomaadu.org/blog?category=Webinar>

Homeowners can register easily for the full ADU Fall Webinar Series at the Events page:
<https://napasonomaadu.org/aduevents>

Coming November 12, the Napa Sonoma ADU Center will host another webinar, this time in partnership with the County of Sonoma's Permit Sonoma for homeowners in unincorporated Sonoma County.

Renée Schomp, Director of the nonprofit Napa Sonoma ADU Center, shares that "At the Napa Sonoma ADU Center, we believe that by building an ADU, you're investing in the future of your community. We are excited to bring this engaging webinar series to Napa and Sonoma County homeowners to help folks better understand the planning and building process in their community."

Homeowners often cite opportunities to keep their family together and build wealth as their primary reasons for building an ADU on their property. Some homeowners see ADUs as a source of rental income in the near term, and a downsizing opportunity in the future that would allow them to rent out the primary dwelling for retirement income. And the COVID-19 health crisis has further underlined the desire for local homeowners to create housing, either as a safe haven for elderly parents or as an independent living space for adult children.

The Napa Sonoma ADU Center is excited to bring this engaging free ADU Fall Webinar Series to homeowners and housing professionals alike at a time when building more housing in our community is needed most.

The [Napa Sonoma ADU Center](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating homeowners in Napa and Sonoma Counties about how to plan, permit, and build Accessory Dwelling Units -- and how to rent out your ADU, if you choose to do so. The Napa Sonoma ADU Center is a fiscally-sponsored project of Napa Valley Community Foundation with support from Community Foundation Sonoma County.

You can catch the recordings of the nonprofit's past ADU webinars [on demand here](#).

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