

## Moore Giving \$1 Million to those who buy home in neighborhoods hit by 2013 Tornado

MOORE, OK, JULY 24, 2017 - A new program in Moore could help potential homebuyers afford the house of their dreams. The city is rolling out its new Down Payment Assistance Program which offers low-to moderate-income citizens financial assistance if they buy a home in a neighborhood impacted by the tornado in 2013.

“This program not only helps potential homebuyers invest in their future, but also invests back into the community,” said Moore City Manager Brooks Mitchell. “There’s nothing like the feeling of owning your own home, and we hope this program will give Oklahomans that opportunity, even if they once thought that dream was out of reach.”

Currently, there are approximately 100 empty lots remaining in the 18 neighborhoods that were damaged by the tornado in May 2013. City officials hope the program will stimulate development and renew interest in neighborhoods like Plaza Towers, Kings Manor, and Hunter’s Glen.

“These neighborhoods are thriving areas of the city with plenty of newly constructed, affordable housing,” Mitchell said. “New homes in Moore are built with the highest construction standards in Oklahoma because we care about the safety of our citizens.”

Potential homebuyers who make between 50 and 80 percent of the area’s median income can apply for financial assistance up to \$40,000 to help with closing costs or a down payment on a qualifying home. For a family of four, that’s a maximum of 53,850 a year.

Qualifying homes must meet certain criteria. The price of the home cannot exceed \$138,000 for an existing home or \$180,000 for new construction; it must have a storm shelter, and must be the primary residence for the homebuyer.

The city will disperse the one million dollars in federal disaster relief funding on a first-come first-served basis, with those displaced or impacted by the 2013 tornadoes receiving priority. The program is being managed through Neighborhood Housing Services of Oklahoma.

“We want potential residents to know that Moore is not just the suburb that was hit by a tornado three years ago,” Mitchell explained, “Moore is a city with a strong sense of community, an exceptional school district, a great quality of life, and a growing economy. It’s an exceptional place to live and to raise a family. And we hope this program will encourage more people to call Moore their home.”

*Moore City Manager Brooks Mitchell and Neighborhood Housing Services Executive Director Roland Chupik will be available for media interviews on **Wednesday July 26, 2017 from 10am-12pm** at the Station at Central Park conference room, 700 S Broadway Avenue, Moore. Contact Melissa Smuzynski to arrange interviews. B-roll opportunities include qualifying neighborhoods, empty lots, and homes.*

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