

The City of Novato's Below-Market Rate Homeownership Program

Affordable Homes for Low and Moderate Income Homebuyers

It's still possible to own part of the American dream. The Meadow Park and Villa Entrada developments are the result of an innovative public-private partnership to create permanent, high-quality Below Market Rate (BMR) homes in the City of Novato.

Interested in applying? Visit us online at www.hellohousing.org/stewardship/cityofnovato/homes/ to view homes currently for sale and to find a list of application steps, local realtors and lender contacts.

To be notified when homes are listed for sale, sign up for for Hello Housing's mailing list at www.hellohousing.org/stay_connected/.



Meadow Park

- 340 below-market rate homes located at Hamilton Field
- Priced to be affordable to low and moderate income households (Income limits and prices vary based on home for sale and applicant household size)
- Prices approximately \$180,000 - \$475,000
- Two to four bedrooms
- Two to three bathrooms
- Appliances included
- Private patios
- Drought-resistant landscaping
- Easy access to Highway 101

Villa Entrada

- 65 below-market rate homes
- The primary applicant must be at least 55 years of age
- Priced to be affordable to moderate income households (Income limits vary based on applicant household size)
- Prices approximately \$275,000 - \$400,000
- One and two bedrooms
- One bathroom
- Appliances included
- Covered patios
- Covered parking spots

Key Program Requirements

- These homes must be your primary place of residence.
- You must agree to certain restrictions that limit how much you can sell the home for in the future, which is how these homes will remain affordable for future generations. These restrictions are recorded on the property.
- Other FAQs about the BMR program are listed on the reverse.

The City of Novato's Below Market Rate Homeownership Program does not discriminate against any persons on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or age, per Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 109.



This home is made affordable through the City of Novato's Below-Market Rate Homeownership Program.

What is a Below Market Rate Home?

A Below Market Rate Home (often called a BMR) is a home that has certain deed restrictions recorded on the property which ensure the home remains affordable for future generations. BMRs are often a result of public investment in affordable housing developments or a result of "inclusionary housing policy" which ensures affordable homes are built as a result of market-rate development.

What restrictions am I signing up for?

The most important restriction to understand is that your future selling price is restricted to the price you pay for your home plus any percentage increase in the Area Median Income in Marin County, plus the depreciated value of any approved improvements made during your tenure as the owner of the home.

Can I rent out my home after I buy it?

No. The creation of affordable housing requires significant public investment. These resources come with certain conditions that must be met once the homes are built. These homes were developed to be occupied by homeowners. In contrast, there are affordable developments in Novato that can only operate as rental housing.

Can I renovate my home after I buy it?

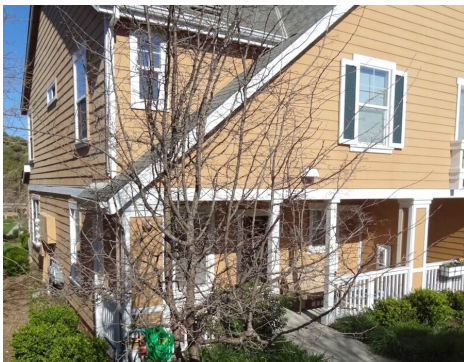
Yes. Any improvements you make to your home must meet all local and state building code requirements and be approved by your Home Owner's Association (HOA). If you would like the opportunity to recoup some portion of the costs of your renovation when you sell your home, you must get written approval of your proposed improvements from Hello Housing on behalf of the City of Novato prior to performing the work. Hello Housing will provide you with a depreciation schedule for approved improvements. This means that as time passes since your renovation is complete, the dollar value you can add to your resale price declines. You must provide copies of all receipts to Hello Housing. Hello Housing recommends you make your decisions about improvements based on your enjoyment of the home, not based on increasing the resale value.

Can I refinance later and get cash out?

While you can refinance later to benefit from better loan terms, the program does not allow cash out until resale which should be taken into careful consideration when determining your down payment amount. Also, because BMR programs are unique, only certain lenders can lend on these homes. For a list of lenders familiar with the program, please check Hello Housing's website at www.hellohousing.org/stewardship/cityofnovato.

More questions?

Hello Housing is the Program Administrator for the City of Novato's BMR Program. The staff at Hello Housing can answer your questions about program eligibility as well as the ongoing requirements of BMR homebuyers.



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