



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Nicole Dailey, Management Analyst
(951) 674-3124 ext. 314
ndailey@Lake-Elsinore.org

Proposed Release Date:

Monday, December 2, 2013

City CHIP's in to Encourage Neighborhood Beautification with New Grant Program

Qualified homeowners can receive up to \$5,000 in grant funding to make eligible exterior repairs and improvements to their home.

LAKE ELSINORE, CA – This week, the [City of Lake Elsinore](#) officially kicked off its new [City Home Improvement Program \(CHIP\)](#), which offers low income residents up to \$5,000 to improve the exterior of their home.

Approved earlier this year by the City Council, CHIP was created as a pilot program to provide housing rehabilitation grants to those who do not have sufficient funds to make necessary home repairs. To qualify, both the homeowner and property must satisfy specific criteria. Interested residents must own and currently occupy the home as their principal residence. In addition, eligible household income cannot exceed the qualifying low income limits for Riverside County as published annually by the State Department of Housing and Community Development.

“The last five years have been hard for our City and many of our homeowners have not had the money to maintain and repair their homes,” said Councilmember Steve Manos. “With this new program, we can help our residents and improve the livability, integrity and appearance of the City’s residential neighborhoods.”

The program was first suggested by Councilmember Manos following the elimination of the Redevelopment Agency to continue the City’s efforts to increase, improve and preserve the community’s supply of affordable housing. As part of the program, the City established an Affordable Housing Subcommittee, which included Council Member Manos and Mayor Pro Tem Natasha Johnson to formalize and launch the program.

Under the CHIP, eligible exterior improvements and repairs may include:

- Roof repair or replacement
- Exterior siding, painting and stucco
- Fencing and/or gates
- Sewer
- Structural improvements including broken windows, the front door and/or garage door
- Exterior access improvements and special features to aid the mobility of the physically disabled and/or the elderly
- Fumigation and treatment of termites and pest control

The grant is free as long as all conditions are met. Upon receiving a CHIP grant, participants are required to continue to occupy their homes as their principal residence, maintain the property in good condition, cannot engage in criminal activity and/or create a public nuisance. As long as these guidelines are followed for at least five years, the City will not require repayment of the grant. However, if any of these guidelines are violated, the homeowner may be responsible for the full repayment of the grant.

"Image is extremely important," said Mayor Pro Tem Natasha Johnson "We are optimistic this program will provide the funding for much needed improvements to homes in our community and motivate others to make similar investments to beautify our City," said Johnson.

This fiscal year, through June 30, 2014, the City budgeted \$50,000 for the program from its Affordable Housing in Lieu Fee Account. The City will fund all CHIP grants on a first-come, first served basis. All applications will be date stamped and processed in that order.

Residents interested in applying for these funds, can review the [program guidelines](#) at www.Lake-Elsinore.org and complete an [application packet](#) or call (951) 674-3124 ext. 314 to request these materials. In order to be eligible for a CHIP Grant, proposed improvements must be approved by the City following a property inspection and work write-up. All improvement work must be completed by qualified, licensed and insured contractors.

To find out more about the City or to stay informed about upcoming events, sign up for [email notifications](#), like the City's [Facebook](#) page or follow the City on [Twitter](#).

City Website: www.Lake-Elsinore.org

Telephone: (951) 674-5170 **Fax:** (951) 471-1251

The [City of Lake Elsinore](#) features Southern California's largest natural freshwater lake. The second oldest city in Riverside County, Lake Elsinore celebrated its [125th Year of Incorporation](#) on April 9, 2013. The City's current population is estimated at 55,430. The City's brand and slogan, "Dream Extreme," exemplify the scenic beauty and active lifestyle of this 125 year old boom town. Visitors and residents enjoy water sports such as skiing, power boating and fishing, a world-class sky diving drop zone and thermals, a regional motocross track, professional baseball, an 18-hole golf course, outlet shops, plus dining and entertainment on Historic Main Street.