

# *Housing Element Information Booth*

## **What is a Housing Element?**

The Housing Element is one of the seven State-mandated Elements, or chapters, of the General Plan. The Housing Element establishes City policies and programs regarding:

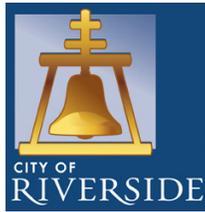
- Maintenance of existing housing stock.
- Preserving existing affordable housing units.
- Creation of new housing to meet the needs of all members of the community.
- Providing resources to help people meet their housing needs.



The City of Riverside is updating its General Plan Housing Element and wants to hear your ideas. Stop by the informational booth to learn about the Housing Element Update, talk to the project team about challenges that should be addressed, and tell us what's important to you!

**Kaiser Permanente Riverside Certified Farmers' Market**  
**Kaiser Permanente Hospital**  
**10800 Magnolia Ave. in Riverside**  
**Friday July 19, 2013**  
**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

*For more information about the Housing Element, contact Doug Darnell, Senior Planner at [ddarnell@riversideca.gov](mailto:ddarnell@riversideca.gov) or 951.826.5219.*



## What is a Housing Element?

- One of the seven State-required Elements, or chapters, of the General Plan.
- Assesses housing needs within the City.
- Plans for housing that is affordable to the range of household income levels in the City.
- Requires review and acceptance (certification) by the State of California.

## Why update the Housing Element?

- Ensures future City policies reflect the community's housing needs, challenges, and opportunities.
- Many State funding programs require a "certified" Housing Element.
- Essential for providing City decision-makers guidance for addressing the long-term community housing needs.

## What is in a Housing Element?

- Needs Assessment.
- Resources and Constraints Analysis.
- Review of Past Performance.
- Policy Program.

## How will this Housing Element be different than previous updates?

The 2014-2021 Housing Element update will incorporate recent changes in State law affecting a variety of housing policies. This Housing Element update also provides an opportunity for the City to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of existing housing policies and programs. The Housing Element will recognize major factors such as the current economy and housing funding and financing resources.

## What is considered affordable housing?

Having quality, affordable housing choices for all members of the community is crucial to the well-being of Riverside's residents and to the local economy. For the purposes of the Housing Element, affordable housing refers to housing that a family can afford, without paying more than 30 percent of their income in rent or to their mortgage. For example, a family of four earning \$63,300 could afford to spend \$1,582 per month on housing without overpaying.

## What does the Housing Element plan for besides new housing units?

Along with planning for new housing, the Housing Element establishes policies to maintain and enhance the existing housing within the community. The Housing Element addresses needs related to overcrowding and overpayment. The Housing Element will also look at opportunities to promote maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock.

