

KSEE 24

A look at affordable housing efforts in Southwest Fresno

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FRESNO, Calif. (KSEE/KGPE) – Development is underway in Southwest Fresno with nearly 50 new affordable homes either in the pipeline or ready for move-in.

Two projects are underway on Florence Avenue. One is Heritage Estates, which consists of 33 mixed-income homes. And the other project, developed by Self-Help Enterprises, has just completed 17 affordable homes.

“There’s a huge demand, we have a lot of vacant land, which means we have a lot of opportunity for housing,” said Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer.

Dyer says, like everywhere in the US, the need for housing is at an all-time high, and right now they’re playing catch-up.

“Two-thirds of American wealth is based on home ownership, real estate. And so, whenever people can have that stabilized mortgage payment and their income can rise, they can increase their savings account, they can increase equity in their home,” he explained.

Out of the 17 homes built by Self-Help Enterprises, 11 families have already moved in or are waiting to receive their keys, while six homes are still on the market.

“The homes that you see here today are valued at about \$325,000,” said Fresno City Councilman Miguel Arias.

He says thanks to taxpayers, the mortgages are around \$200,000.

“Which makes this an affordable option for them to live in and to raise their families in,” Arias explained.

The Barajas family is still waiting for their keys but says this is a dream come true.

“This is really the American dream. We’re working hard for it,” Jorge Barajas said.

And just across the street, phase one of the Heritage Estates is nearing completion. The Fresno Housing Authority, which is the developer of the project, is creating 33 mixed-income homes.

“The home prices start at \$370 for a three-bedroom home up to \$394 for a four-bedroom home.”

Tyrone Roderick Williams, CEO of the Fresno Housing Authority, tells me that qualifying homebuyers could receive more than \$200,000 in mortgage assistance.

“So anyone who ever thought about buying a home, the opportunity exists in Fresno at Heritage Estate,” he shared.

The first phase of the Heritage Estate homes will be completed in August, with the rest finished by the end of the year. 15 homes are still available.

For more information about the homes or qualifications, you can [click here](#).