

# Fair to aid aspiring residence owners

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A Saturday workshop will offer a variety of resources and tools to help aspiring Ventura County homeowners learn about the home buying process.

The Coastal Housing Partnership's Home Buying Fair will feature several exhibitors that will be available to answer a range of questions related to the housing market. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ventura Beach Marriott at 2055 Harbor Blvd.

Informational housing events such as Saturday's workshop can help potential homeowners navigate Ventura County's expensive housing market, according to Corby Gage, executive director of Coastal Housing Partnership. She noted that events such as these are an ideal opportunity for potential homeowners to get their questions answered by a multitude of informed professionals.

"People love homebuying education but it's hard to find where to go to get answers," Gage said. "We've brought all the resources, education and professionals to one place and have made it easy to talk to those folks. It's an easy way to find out

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## Workshop

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more about the homebuying process and get the resources, tools and information to become an informed homebuyer."

Saturday's event will serve as the second Home Buying Fair in Ventura County. The first was held in 2016 due to high demand from county residents, Gage added.

Beyond hosting informational events, Coastal

Housing Partnership helps potential homeowners navigate the home buying process by providing educational and financial assistance. Local employers can sign up with the organization, whose resources can then be accessed by an employer's workforce.

The Coastal Housing Partnership, a Santa Barbara-based nonprofit housing advocacy organization that also serves Ventura County, has had a positive impact on residents such as Anthony Romero, a captain at the Ventura Coun-

ty Fire Department. Romero began working in Ventura County in 1998 and spent approximately 17 years commuting or renting in the city of Ventura. After working with Coastal Housing Partnership, Romero was finally able to purchase a Ventura home in 2015. Having a stable home in Ventura County has helped further connect his family to the community, Romero said.

"When I was first hired with Ventura County Fire Department, I was commuting around 130 miles round-

trip for about two years and I did consider working in the Los Angeles or Long Beach fire departments because it seemed impossible to live and work in Ventura County," Romero said. "I knew nothing about loans and very little about mortgaging or the financial process of home ownership but

Coastal (Housing Partnership) was able to provide financial help and education on the buying market, which made it a very easy and comfortable process. You want your cops and fireman living and working in your community because it gives you a sense of investment."

*For more information*

*about Saturday's Coastal Housing Partnership event, visit the organization's website: <http://www.coastalhousing.org>.*