

## Millions Available To Help Families Find Affordable Housing

By Sara Sandrik

07/24/2007 - More than \$290 million is now available to help California families find affordable housing and improve local communities.

State officials came to an affordable housing complex in Madera to award money that will provide housing opportunities to more than 13,000 Californians, including thousands in the central valley.

Javier Bautista and his family moved into the Crossings at Madera last November. He says he wanted to get his children away from the dangers that surrounded their previous home downtown.

"It's safe and nothing will happen to them, because over there not safe because we have some people drink and do drugs" says Bautista.

The affordable housing complex is funded through proposition 46, which voters passed in 2002. Families who work in the fields, like Bautista's wife, receive priority for renting these units.

Tuesday, state housing officials traveled to Madera to award the last of the prop. 46 funding and the first of the \$2.85 billion bond voters passed last year as prop 1c.

Lynn Jacobs, Department of Housing & Comm. Development Director, says "the money we've dispersed today is going to provide housing for low income families, seniors, veterans, and the disabled throughout the state. It's going to provide safe rental housing, emergency shelter housing and down payment assistance for families to become homeowners."

A total of more than \$290 million was distributed among California counties, cities, and local agencies like the Madera rescue mission.

Clifford Mullins, Madera Rescue Mission Executive Director, says "the need is astronomical, this is only going to touch a small portion, but it's a beginning to where we can keep adding beds for people."

State officials say the bond money is awarded based on several factors including the community's need and the cost of particular projects. They also consider special programs like the English as a second language classes offered at this complex.

"We look at all those things to see what makes a great project and we fund the best projects" says Jacobs.



Crossings at Madera