

# Durango Pre-Existing ADU Voluntary Registration Initiative

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Honor Award: General Planning Project



After a lengthy process to write and adopt regulations to govern the new Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the Durango's oldest neighborhoods, City staff created an innovative program to incentivize voluntary registration of pre-existing ADUs and duplexes. The project was completed entirely in house with staff creating an online form and an informational video. Project discussions were initiated in Spring 2014, the program launched August 1, 2014 and it is expected to continue for 12-18 months. To date, over 125 units have registered through the voluntary program.

The intent of the Pre-Existing ADU Voluntary Registration Initiative was to provide incentives to property owners who voluntarily notified the City of their unit's existence while also setting the stage for a more proactive enforcement effort for those who did not voluntarily register. The Durango Community Development Department proposed a phased, incentive-based approach. The first phase was the release of a simple online registration form and a comprehensive mailing to all property owners in designated neighborhoods. Property owners who submitted the online form by a certain date would be eligible for a reduced fee schedule, could be granted variances administratively, and would be eligible to enroll in a multiyear, low-interest payment plan for fees.

For more information, visit the City's ADU web link.

[www.durangogov.org/adus](http://www.durangogov.org/adus)

