



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN KENNER NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

**Kenner, LA.** – Kenner’s First Time Homebuyers Assistance Program (FTHB), designed to help residents with low and moderate incomes purchase a home in the city, is now accepting applications.

Kenner residents can receive a grant of up to \$35,000 to assist in purchasing a home in the city with a maximum value of \$180,000, according to the program rules. The program is administered by Kenner’s Department of Community Development.

“Many residents believe that buying a home is beyond their means,” said Community Development Director Arleeta Terrell. “The process to qualify as a home buyer is extremely intimidating for many people. This program teaches potential homeowners what they need to know and provides the money to make home ownership possible.”

The way the program is structured, if a family lives in their homes long enough, the requirement that the grant money be repaid is waived, Terrell said.

Mandatory education courses are a part of the program so that prospective homeowners learn about home financing and how to determine their own financial fitness.

The money is given out in the form of grants, not loans. The grants create a “soft” second mortgage that does not have to be paid back if the conditions of the grant agreement are met. For example, the occupancy rule of the program says that if the home is occupied a certain period of time, the mortgage does not have to be repaid. For a grant of less than \$15,000, the occupancy period is 5 years. For a larger grant, up to the \$35,000 maximum, the occupancy period is 10 years.

Guidelines for the FTHB program are available both online at [www.kenner.la.us](http://www.kenner.la.us) and at the Kenner Community Development office, 624 Williams Blvd., in Rivertown.

The program guidelines spell out the income limits for the program. For a family of two, the maximum yearly income is \$38,400. That increases to \$48,000 for a family of four. The guidelines also explain that all homes must be existing structures or newly built single-family residences within Kenner’s city limits. In addition, the homes must be a single unit dwelling, meet all local codes and be acceptable to both the primary lender and the insurer of the property.

In order to qualify for the FTHB program, applicants must attend homebuyer education training, with the goal of all potential homebuyers developing the skills to select and finance a home. The program guidelines include a list of approved training providers.

Anyone interested in the FTHB program should complete the following steps:

- Attend a first-time homebuyer and financial fitness training class and present a Completion Certificate as part of the materials for the FTHB program.
- Choose a lender and schedule an appointment for loan approval.
- Have the necessary credit-worthiness to qualify for a mortgage.
- Pick a real estate agent to help you locate a home.
- Negotiate a purchase agreement.
- Provide a copy of your signed purchase agreement to the lender.
- Complete the Kenner Homeownership Assistant Program application package, which requires a number of documents that are listed in the FTHB program guidelines.

For more information, call Joan Baptiste at (504) 468-7588 or email her at [cd@kenner.la.us](mailto:cd@kenner.la.us).

“Wouldn’t it be wonderful if you could stop paying rent and instead own your own home?” Terrell asked. “This program can make that possible for many people.”

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