

city of yes

for Housing Opportunity

Accessory Dwelling Units

City of Yes for Housing Opportunity is a plan to tackle our housing shortage by making it possible to build a little more housing in every neighborhood. Together, we can make our city more affordable without dramatic changes in any one community.

An important part of this plan is legalizing “accessory dwelling units,” or ADUs, so families can convert unused space into small homes.

How it works

For seniors fighting to stay in the neighborhood on a fixed income, or young people stretching to afford a first home, adding a small unit can be life changing. But under current rules, NYC homeowners can't choose to use their properties in this way. **City of Yes for Housing Opportunity would allow “accessory dwelling units,” or ADUs - which include backyard cottages, garage conversions, and basement apartments.**

Many other cities have already legalized accessory dwelling units because they **support homeowners, and provide more space for multigenerational families without significantly changing the look and feel of a neighborhood.**



The rules

Accessory Dwelling Units would be limited to 800 square feet and subject to zoning and building codes to ensure that they're safe and fit in with the existing neighborhood. Some ADUs—like basement apartments—would require other changes to state law to be fully legalized. Homeowners could enlarge an existing home to meet their families' needs, as an alternative to adding an ADU.

What comes next

City of Yes for Housing Opportunity will enter public review in spring of 2024, receiving input from community boards and borough presidents before going to the City Planning Commission for a vote. If passed, it is anticipated to come for a vote before the City Council by the end of the calendar year.

Learn more, get involved



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