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## **As California Leadership Works Towards a Housing Package, Valley Communities Gather to Address the Housing Crisis**

**FRESNO, CA** – The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual San Joaquin Valley Affordable Housing Summit – *Building Together* -- will be held on Thursday, September 7 at the Valdez Hall in Fresno, Calif. from 9am to 4pm. The Summit is hosted by the San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative (Collaborative), with support from the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State and the California Coalition for Rural Housing.

This year's Summit will provide a unique opportunity for stakeholders from across the Valley and throughout the State to come together to strategize to take action against the crisis that has overwhelmed these communities. Participants include elected officials, state program directors, city and county agencies, community-based organizations, financial institutions, developers, and advocates.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit will focus on the increasing importance of partnerships as San Joaquin Valley communities succeed together in overcoming resource scarcity, threatened programs, and inadequate policies. Highlights of this year's summit include roundtable discussions with local elected officials and state program directors and policy updates from the Capitol and on the ground. With more workshop offerings than ever before, topics include: financing, homeownership, regional perspectives on homelessness, sustainable development, employment and poverty, community development, resident services, gentrification and displacement, NIMBY-ism, community planning processes, and community engagement.

Guest speakers and performers include David Mendoza -- an expert voice from the ground level -- with lessons learned and a message of hope as we strive to build equitable, thriving, and authentic communities – and Salvin Chahal -- who is the next evolution in the tradition of storytelling through poetry.

Registration closes Friday, September 1.

For updates and more information on the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Affordable Housing Summit visit the [Eventbrite](#) or the Collaborative's Twitter page, [@SJVHC](#).

For further details on Summit sponsorship and limited scholarships, contact Alicia Sebastian at [alicia@calruralhousing.org](mailto:alicia@calruralhousing.org).

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*The San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative is a regional 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that formed out of the [California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Housing Workgroup](#) to address housing issues that affect low- to moderate-income households and communities in the San Joaquin Valley. Since 2009, the Collaborative has served as a forum to discuss regional housing challenges and strategies and is an invaluable tool for the region to organize as one voice when communicating with state and federal policymakers and regulatory agencies. The Collaborative operates as a joint partnership with staff from the [California Coalition for Rural Housing](#) and [Office of Community and Economic Development](#) at Fresno State.*