



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **FREE HOME BUYER EDUCATION WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN SANTA MARIA ON CONSECUTIVE SATURDAYS, MAY 16 & MAY 23**

Santa Maria, CA—The NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center (HOC) in Santa Maria invites the public to attend free Home Buyer Education Workshops. The first workshop will be held in English on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Santa Maria Library located at 421 S. McClelland Street in Santa Maria. The second workshop will be held on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Spanish, also at the Santa Maria Library from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The workshops provide individuals with a valuable opportunity to learn about buying a home. The eight-hour class discusses the entire process of home buying, including how to take advantage of the \$8,000 Home Buyer Tax Credit, the steps in the home sale transaction, what to ask a real estate agent or loan specialist, items to avoid when looking to purchase, and much more. CEDC provides the community with the opportunity to learn in a neutral setting where individuals can feel comfortable asking questions and knowing they are getting responsible, unbiased answers about the biggest purchase most people will ever make.

“Because of the unfortunate onslaught of foreclosures, people are recognizing the need to be better informed about purchasing a home and are eager to understand the process of buying a home before jumping into this big financial decision,” says Bertha Garcia, Director of CEDC’s two NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Centers in Ventura and Santa Maria. “Now more than ever, with the number of homeowners facing problems, people need to fully understand the home-buying process before they take the leap. It’s why we’ve been offering free homeownership classes in Ventura since 2001, and why we continue to provide education, counseling, and when the need arises, responsible loans that don’t get people into trouble.”

CEDC’s NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center is a HUD-approved counseling agency and provides services to the community including home buyer education, counseling, financial advocacy and mortgage services. CEDC has operated its NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center in Santa Maria since December 2007.

The community is encouraged to call to reserve space for the homebuyer workshop by calling: 805/614-0267, as space is limited.

CEDC is a private non-profit community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built more than 1,000 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental housing, manages 440 affordable rental units, and has helped more than 450 families into homeownership through education, counseling, and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 220 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC’s 28<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

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