**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** **[Insert Issue Date]**

**CONTACT:** **[Insert Local Government Contact] and/or**
 **[optional]**

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# ICMA Recognizes [Insert Name of Community, State] for

# Program Excellence

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—**[Insert name of community, state]** has been recognized by ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, as a recipient of the organization’s **[Insert name of award]**. The award recognizes **[Insert appropriate description from Appendix A attached]**.

**[Insert name of community and name/title of administrator/manager]** will be honored in various platforms including ICMA’s 2020 UNITE: A Digital Event, September 23-26, 2020.

**[Insert brief description of community, population, and its history, if desired.]**

**[Insert quote from recipient administrator/manager]**

The ICMA Local Government Excellence Awards highlight creative contributions to professional local government management while demonstrating the difference that this type of management makes to the quality of life in our communities. ICMA’s Program Excellence Awards are presented to local governments and their chief administrators in recognition of their innovative and successful programs. Nominations are evaluated by an independent, 17-person panel of ICMA members.

**[Optional: Insert quote from elected official or other individual.]**

“We congratulate the recipients of our 2020 Program Excellence Awards and the administrators and managers who lead them,” says ICMA Executive Director Marc A. Ott. “The communities, men, and women recognized this year set the standard for innovation, effectiveness, and creativity. We thank them for their commitment to improving the lives of the constituents they serve every day.”

In addition to online and conference recognition, the 2020 ICMA Local Government Excellence Award recipients will be highlighted in a commemorative booklet that will be posted on icma.org and published in the September 2020 issue of *PM* magazine.

For more information about ICMA’s Local Government Excellence Awards Program, contact Joyce Lee Brown at jlee@icma.org or 202-962-3625.

**About ICMA**

ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, advances professional local government worldwide. Our mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional management to build livable communities that improve people’s lives. ICMA provides member support; publications; data and information; peer and results-oriented assistance; and training and professional development to nearly 13,000 city, town, and county experts and other individuals and organizations throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA's members affect millions of individuals living in thousands of communities, from small villages and towns to large metropolitan areas. Learn more at [icma.org](http://www.icma.org).

**Appendix A: ICMA Program Excellence Awards**

* **Community Diversity & Inclusion Award** recognizes communities for organizational achievements building or celebrating diversity and inclusiveness. The program may be nominated for either work done within the local government organization or the community at-large. This award came to fruition following a recommendation from ICMA's Task Force on Inclusiveness and with approval of the ICMA Executive Board.
* **Community Health and Safety Award** recognizes innovative local government programs or processes that improve the community’s safety, health, and/or wellness, or enhance the quality of life for the disadvantaged. The award is sponsored in part in memory of Carolyn Keane, first wife of ICMA’s fourth executive director, Mark Keane, and Bill and Alice Hansell, parents of ICMA’s fifth executive director, William H. Hansell.
* Community Partnership Award recognizes innovative programs or processes between and/or among a local government and other governmental entities, private sector businesses, individuals, or nonprofit agencies to improve the quality of life for residents or provide more efficient and effective services.
* **Community Sustainability Award** recognizes innovative local government programs or processes that creatively balance a community's social, economic, environmental, and cultural needs.
* Strategic Leadership and Governance Award recognizes the innovative and successful local government programs or processes that have significantly affected a local government organization's culture or strategic direction.