



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

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PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS AT HELM OF U.S. BEST PLACES TO LIVE

WASHINGTON, DC—Sixty-six of the 100 Best Small Cities identified by CNN/*Money* magazine in August 2008 operate under the council-manager form of government, a structure that provides for a position of professional management, according to ICMA, which advances professional local government worldwide. The magazine ranked the city of Plymouth, Minn. (pop. 70,100), as number one.

Professional city, town, and county managers and administrators are senior-level local government executives appointed by a community's governing body to oversee the smooth and efficient operation of our communities. Today's professional managers and administrators possess the management "know-how" to build strong communities by directing the continuous improvement of essential services.

"All our research and experience suggests that one of the clearest predictors of success and performance in state and local government is the quality of the individuals who work in those organizations, and that professional leaders and managers matter," Robert J. O'Neill, Jr., executive director of ICMA said recently.

To develop its 2008 "Best Places to Live" installment, *Money* looked at cities and towns with populations of 50,000 to 300,000 that are not considered retirement or bedroom communities. It then eliminated those with low education scores, high crime rates, absurdly high housing costs, steep declines in employment, or income less than 85% or more than 201% of the state median. The study ranked the remaining jurisdictions on "job growth, income

increases, cost of living, housing affordability, school quality, arts and leisure options, safety, medical care, diversity and several ease-of-living criteria.”

The assessments included in *Money's* “Best Places to Live” article support ICMA’s position that residents who live in communities that employ a professional manager or administrator experience a significantly higher quality of life.

About ICMA

ICMA advances professional local government worldwide. Its mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and advancing professional management of local government. ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, provides member support; publications, data, and information; peer and results-oriented assistance; and training and professional development to nearly 9,000 city, town, and county experts and other individuals and organizations throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA's members affect 185 million individuals living in thousands of communities.