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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nineteen cities and towns in Contra Costa County win prestigious Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in Intergovernmental Collaboration**

**Sacramento** — The League of California Cities announced today that the 19 cities and towns in Contra Costa County received the esteemed 2022 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in Intergovernmental Collaboration for the development of the A3 Community Crisis Response initiative, which seeks to transform the region's behavioral health care and emergency response system.

In response to urgent calls from the community for more compassionate and comprehensive behavioral health services, every city and town in Contra Costa County came together in 2020 to reimagine the way behavioral health services are delivered. Through an intergovernmental effort with the county, mental health and homeless advocates, and community members, the team worked to develop a new model in which a person in crisis has someone to talk to, someone to respond, and a place to go to receive behavioral health services. The result of the collaboration is A3 Community Crisis Response — where anyone can get professional help at anytime, anywhere in the county.

Forty-five different organizations, nineteen cities and towns, and dozens of community members worked collaboratively to create the A3 model. As 988 becomes a statewide and national suicide and mental health crisis call number, Contra Costa County believes that cities and counties throughout the state can use the Contra Costa A3 model to deliver behavioral health services in a manner that is timely, culturally, and clinically appropriate for anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Established in 1982 by the League of California Cities, the [Helen Putnam Award for Excellence](#) is given annually and recognizes outstanding achievements by California's 482 cities. The purpose of the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence program is to promote innovative solutions by city governments. The 2022 winners, recognized for their outstanding programs, were chosen from 155 submissions.

There are 12 award categories, including Intergovernmental Collaboration; Community Services and Economic Development; Economic Development Through the Arts; Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement; Health and Wellness Programs; Housing Programs and Innovations; Internal Administration; League Partners Award for Excellence in City-Business Relations; Planning and Environmental Quality; Public Safety; Public Works, Infrastructure, and Transportation; and the Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government.



*Established in 1898, the League of California Cities is a nonprofit statewide association that advocates for cities with the state and federal governments and provides education and training services to elected and appointed city officials.*

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