

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Cedar Rapids, IA, Recognized as a Top 100 Best Place to Live in 2026 by Livability.com**

*Livability.com's 2026 Best Places List Prioritizes Affordability and Customization to Help Residents Find Their "Everything" City*

Congratulations! Livability.com has unveiled its highly anticipated [2026 Top 100 Best Places to Live list](#), and Cedar Rapids has earned a spot among the nation's most vibrant and livable small to mid-sized cities.

Now in its 13th year, [Livability's annual ranking](#) is unique in its focus on cities with populations between 75,000 and 500,000 – the "sweet spot" size that offers big opportunities while remaining small enough to feel like home. In a time of shifting economic tides, [Cedar Rapids'](#) inclusion underscores its commitment to maintaining a community where residents can truly thrive.



"Our 'Top 100' is an annual data-driven collection of what we consider to be the best small to mid-size cities," says Amanda Ellis, Livability.com Editor-in-Chief. "As Americans face consistently evolving work dynamics and a desire for the best quality of life possible amidst inflation and uncertainty, our list celebrates places where people can more realistically build families, launch businesses and lead meaningful lives."

### **Why Cedar Rapids, IA, Stands Out**

To build this list, Livability partnered with the data experts at [Applied Geographic Solutions \(AGS\)](#) to analyze nearly 100 data points across eight essential categories:

- **Economy & Housing:** We prioritize affordability by comparing average rents and home prices to local incomes.
- **Amenities & Environment:** We measure the "fun factor" alongside air quality and green space.
- **Safety, Health & Education:** We evaluate the vital infrastructure that keeps your family safe and supported.
- **Transportation:** We look for places where you spend less time in traffic and more time living.

Because Americans face a higher cost of living than ever before, this year's proprietary algorithm gave extra weight to the Housing and Cost of Living category. To ensure the 2026 list remains attainable and affordable, Livability only includes cities with a median home value under \$500,000.

Cedar Rapids stands out for its **exceptional performance in the transportation, education and housing & cost of living categories**, proving it is a place where people can actually afford to live, work and play.

## Community Toolkit: Celebrate the News

This recognition is a testament to the hard work of your city's leaders, residents and businesses. Here are a couple of ways to celebrate the good news:

- **Check Out Your Profile:** View Cedar Rapids' full data profile and what makes it a great place to live: <https://livability.com/ia/cedar-rapids/?top-100=2026>
- **Download Your Assets:** Access the Top 100 badge, example social media copy and more in our community toolkit: <https://livability.com/top-100-toolkit/>.
- **Join the Conversation:** Share the news using the hashtag **#livbestplaces26**.

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**About [Livability.com](https://livability.com):**

*Livability.com highlights the best small to mid-sized cities and what makes them great places to live, work and visit. Through exclusive research and original content, we examine affordability, cultural amenities, talent attraction and more, celebrating the accomplishments of cities through various rankings, our annual [Top 100 Best Places to Live](#) and articles exploring the who, what, why and how behind the “where.” Livability is a division of Journal Communications, Inc., based in Franklin, TN.*