CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program enables any local government — town, city, municipality or county — to develop and sustain a strong preservation ethic that influences zoning and permit decisions critical to preserving local historic resources. In Texas, the CLG program is part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Community Heritage Development Division. It helps to promote local preservation efforts through a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS), the THC and local governments by providing technical and financial assistance.

What We Do

The CLG program is a national initiative created in 1980 to ensure the broadest possible participation of local governments in historic preservation. By forging partnership at a local, state and federal level through specific preservation activities, local governments can receive federal assistance. Texas municipalities that achieve CLG status from the NPS are eligible to receive valuable technical assistance, training and matching grants tied to developing and maintaining a local comprehensive preservation planning program.

Projects eligible for grant funding may include architectural, historical, archeological surveys; oral histories; nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; staff work for historic preservation commissions; design guidelines and preservation plans; educational and public outreach materials such as publications, videos, exhibits and brochures; training for commission members and staff; and rehabilitation or restoration of National Register listed properties.

City Hall Building in San Angelo, TX., an active CLG community since 1994.

CLG Eligibility Requirements

To become a CLG, the THC and NPS must certify that the local government has agreed to the following:

- Enforce appropriate state or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties.
- Establish an adequate and qualified historic preservation review commission under state or local legislation.
- Provide adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program.
- Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of local historic properties.

CLG communities maintain a system for the survey and inventory of local historic properties.

Grant funds are distributed through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), administered by NPS and allocated to each state. As the Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the THC reserves at least 10 percent of the State's annual HPF allocation to fund CLG historic preservation grant projects. However, no government is automatically entitled to receive CLG monies. While CLG grants generally represent a relatively small amount of funds, they have often been used as seed money to attract funding from other sources. The CLG program institutionalizes historic preservation and gives it legitimacy as a function of local government.

How to Apply

Applications for cities or counties interested in becoming a CLG are available from the THC. A local government may request certification from the THC at any time during the year. Applications for CLG matching grants, available only to CLGs, are usually due in the spring of each year.

How to Reach Us

The CLG Program office is located in Austin at 1304 Colorado St. in the Christianson-Leberman building. To receive additional information on the CLG program, or to request application forms, please contact us at:
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