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## PRESERVATION GRANT GUIDE

Funding can often be the most difficult part of a historic preservation project. As a service to those needing an extra dose of motivation to get their projects off the ground, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) offers this guide with easy-to-find information about applying for agency grants.

For additional assistance, consider attending one of the THC's summertime Grant Writing Workshops. For more information about the workshops, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us) or call 512/463-6092. The THC offers the following grants:

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### Certified Local Government Grants

Certified Local Government (CLG) grants enable communities to develop quality preservation programs. Eligible projects include: training for local preservation commissions, completing or updating surveys of historic resources, producing historical walking or driving tour materials, and preparing preservation plans and National Register of Historic Places nominations. CLG grants require a cash or in-kind service match from the community.

**Who may apply?** Cities or counties officially designated as CLGs are eligible.

**Deadline:** Applications are due in the fall of each year.

**Review process:** An interdisciplinary panel of agency staff reviews the applications and the agency's commissioners approve them.

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**Project example:** With its CLG grant, Abilene developed a comprehensive strategic plan to direct preservation activities. One of the city's historic highlights is the Grace Cultural Center, a renovation project located in the 1909 Grace Hotel.

**Funding information:** CLG grants are funded with money appropriated by the federal government for

preservation efforts through the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). By law, the THC must set aside at least 10 percent of its HPF appropriation for CLG grants each year. Grants typically range from \$2,000 to \$30,000.

**For more information:** Call 512.463.5997 or email [derek.satchell@thc.texas.gov](mailto:derek.satchell@thc.texas.gov)

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### Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

The THC announced in June 1999 that the Texas Legislature and Gov. George W. Bush had established the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. The program provides partial matching grants to Texas counties for the restoration of their historic county courthouses.

**Who may apply?** Texas counties seeking to restore their historic county courthouses are eligible. To participate, counties must submit a master plan for renovating and maintaining the courthouse. For more information about developing a master plan and for deadline information visit [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us) or call the THC's Architecture Division at 512.463.6094.

**Review process:** Once a master plan is submitted, THC staff will review it and it may either be accepted, with suggested changes and resubmitted, or rejected. THC commissioners make final decisions regarding approval of grants.

**Project example:** The THC awarded Red River County a \$3.47 million grant to assist in the restoration of its courthouse. A supplemental grant of \$377,443 helped uncover decorative paintings, hidden for years beneath layers of paint in the courthouse. Discovering these decorative finishes was a significant find, changing the originally targeted building restoration date from 1910 to 1884. In addition, renovated faux cherry and walnut wood graining, coffered beamed ceilings and hand-carved wood finials contributed to the restoration of the courthouse's unique Victorian character.

**Funding information:** The program began in 1999 with a \$50 million appropriation for the grants, which were awarded in two rounds. In 2001, legislators approved another \$50 million allocation to fund Round III grants.

In 2003, the 78th Texas Legislature approved the sale of \$45 million in bonds to continue the program. In 2005, the legislature earmarked \$80 million for courthouses from the federal transportation enhancement program; however, these funds were not approved for use by the Federal Highway Administration. Then, finally, in 2007 the program was appropriated \$62 million in bond funding for a long-awaited Round V grant cycle. The 81st Texas Legislature allocated \$20 million in bond funding for the 2009-2010 grant cycle. The THC requested \$85 million, but due to uncertain economic conditions, less than the full request was approved although the program continued to receive strong support. Most recently, during a very challenging legislative session the 82nd Legislature appropriated \$20 million in bond authority to fund Round VII of the program for fiscal years 2012 – 2013.

In Rounds I through VI, the THC received 138 courthouse master plans and of those 126 were approved. To date, THC staff has assisted in the restoration and preservation of 82 county courthouses.

**For more information:** Call 512.463.6094 or email [sharon.fleming@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:sharon.fleming@thc.state.tx.us).

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## How to Reach Us

Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance. Please contact us at:

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