



PRESERVATION GRANT GUIDE

Funding can often be the most difficult part of a historic preservation project. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) manages three annual grant programs. As a service to those needing an extra dose of motivation to get their projects off the ground, the THC offers easy-to-find information about applying for agency grants. For additional assistance, the Friends of the THC offers [development workshops](#).

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Certified Local Government (CLG) grants enable communities to develop quality preservation programs. By law, the THC must set aside at least 10 percent of its federal appropriation for CLG grants each year. Approximately \$200,000 is available to the program each year. Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

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 all grants.

PROJECT EXAMPLE: With its CLG grant, Abilene developed a comprehensive strategic plan to direct preservation activities.



1939 Falls County Courthouse.

TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS

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

WHO MAY APPLY? Texas counties, municipalities, and CHCs seeking to restore their historic (over 50 years old) county courthouses are eligible.

To participate, the applicant must have an approved courthouse preservation master plan.

For more information about developing a preservation master plan and grant application scoring and timelines, visit thc.texas.gov/thcpp.

WHEN MAY I APPLY: For each funding round, a call for applications is usually announced in the spring following the legislative session. County judges are notified of the timeline for submittal of applications and awards by letter.

REVIEW PROCESS: An interdisciplinary panel of agency staff review the applications and scores them on the basis of 23 pre-selected criteria, and the agency's commissioners review and approve select grants.

PROJECT EXAMPLE: Marion County received a \$4,682,610 grant award to fully restore the exterior and interior public spaces of the courthouse to its original appearance and configuration, bring the building into compliance with life safety code and accessibility standards, and update the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. This project included improving site drainage and repairing and repointing severely deteriorated masonry and cast stone.

FUNDING INFORMATION: Most recently, the 88th Legislature appropriated \$45 million to fund Round XIII of the program for the 2024-25 biennium.

Grants require a minimum 15% local match and cannot exceed \$10 million per county.

TEXAS PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

In 1989, the Texas Legislature established the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) held by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company.

The TPTF investment earnings are administered as matching grants to qualified applicants for the acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation or planning, and heritage educational activities leading to the preservation of historic architectural and archeological properties and exhibits.

Competitive grants are awarded on a one-to-one match basis and are later reimbursed for eligible expenses incurred.

DEADLINE: Grant cycles are typically held yearly and deadlines are announced at thc.texas.gov/tptf.

FUNDING INFORMATION: Grants typically range from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

WHO MAY APPLY? Any public or private entity that owns, manages, leases, maintains, or plans to purchase a building, structure, landscape, or archeological site that has a required historical designation or is eligible for such designation.

APPLICATION PROCESS: First, all applicants are required to submit brief application forms for the THC to review prior to each year's deadline.

The THC will select the highest-priority projects from the initial applications and invite those applicants to move forward to the second step. Successful applicants will continue the process by submitting detailed project proposals and budgets.

REVIEW PROCESS: A TPTF Advisory Board reviews the applications and project proposals and recommends them to the full commission for final decision.

PROJECT EXAMPLE: The THC awarded Humanities Texas a \$25,144 matching grant that assisted with planning work for the Byrne-Reed House in Austin.

Even though the THC grant represented a small percentage of the \$2 million project, it served a critical role in assisting the organization with schematic design, design development, and a portion of the construction documents.

HOW TO REACH US

Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance.

Certified Local Government Program:

512-463-7812

kelly.little@thc.texas.gov

Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program:

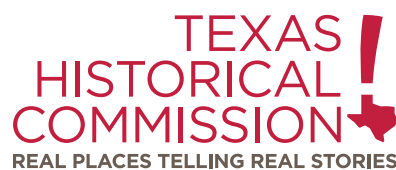
512-463-6094

architecture@thc.texas.gov

Texas Preservation Trust Fund:

512-463-6094

architecture@thc.texas.gov



thc.texas.gov