



Certified Local Government Program

What is it?

The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program recognizes local governments that have established effective historic preservation programs that meet criteria established by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the State of Illinois. In 1980, Congress expanded the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 so that local governments could participate in national preservation activities through the CLG program.

Benefits

Municipal and county governments benefit from CLG by: ► becoming eligible to receive matching grant funds set aside specifically for preservation-related projects; ► participating in state and federal historic preservation protection and incentive programs; ► receiving direct technical assistance from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (IL SHPO); ► joining a national network of communities and experts that provide valuable perspectives on local and statewide plans and programs; and ► playing an advisory role in the nomination process for the National Register of Historic Places.

Requirements

To qualify as a CLG, a local government must: ► enact a historic preservation ordinance and enforce state and local preservation laws; ► maintain an adequate and qualified historic preservation review commission; ► maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties; and ► provide for public participation in the local historic preservation program.

Process

The chief elected official of the local government can, at any time, request certification from the IL SHPO by submitting: ► written assurance that the local government intends to fulfill the CLG requirements; ► a copy of the local historic preservation ordinance to be reviewed and approved by the IL SHPO; ► a list of locally designated landmarks and historic districts; ► résumés for all historic preservation commissioners, showing their demonstrated interest, knowledge, or expertise in historic preservation; and ► a copy of the community's historic preservation plan, if available, or a statement describing the local preservation program, including survey, designation, and protection activities. ► If the IL SHPO determines that the local government meets these requirements, the IL SHPO prepares an agreement listing the CLG's responsibilities. This agreement, signed by the chief elected official and the IL SHPO, is forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. If the Secretary does not take exception within 15 working days of receipt, the local government is certified as a CLG. A CLG must submit an annual report to the IL SHPO detailing its historic preservation activities. The IL SHPO periodically monitors the CLG to ensure that it is fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in the agreement.

Grants

Each year the IL SHPO receives an appropriation from the Federal Historic Preservation Fund to assist in administering federal preservation programs. The IL SHPO must pass at least 10% of that funding to CLGs for use in a variety of preservation-related projects, including surveys, National Register nominations, preservation education, and preservation plans. CLG grantees must match 30% of the cost of the grant-funded project with cash or in-kind contributions and are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the IL SHPO prior to applying.

National Register

When a property within a CLG is proposed for listing on the National Register, the IL SHPO forwards the nomination to the chief elected official and the preservation commission. The CLG has 60 days to review the nomination, solicit public comment, and provide any comments to the IL SHPO, or it can waive its comment period.

Questions?

IL SHPO—Local Government Services Coordinator
 Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 One Old State Capitol Plaza
 Springfield, Illinois 62701
 (217) 785-5031
<http://www2.illinois.gov/ihpa/Preserve/Pages/community.aspx>