



# Tennessee's Certified Local Government Program

Through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, Local, State, and Federal governments work together to help save the irreplaceable character of historic places. Through the certification process, communities make a local commitment to historic preservation. This commitment is vital to America's ability to preserve, protect, and increase awareness of our unique cultural heritage in the built environment across the country. The National Park Service and the Tennessee Historical Commission, a state agency, administer the program.

All local governments with active Historic Zoning Commissions are eligible to become CLGs.

## **What does the CLG Program in Tennessee do for my community?**

The CLG Program in Tennessee assists local communities who have established or wish to establish local historic preservation programs. Additionally, CLGs have priority access to the Historic Preservation Fund, and these grants can be used to prioritize preservation within the CLG's communities.

## **What are the benefits of becoming a CLG?**

- Strengthen public trust and guide development within districts while establishing sources of revenue within the community, such as tourism
- Opportunities for technical assistance and educational opportunities from the Tennessee Historical Commission
- Survey assistance from THC staff
- Application priority for federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants administered by THC
- Opportunity to review nominations for the National Register of Historic Places before consideration by the State Review Board

## **What are the requirements to become a CLG?**

To become a CLG, local governments must make a commitment to historic preservation through the establishment of a historic zoning ordinance/overlay at the time of the application. The ordinance must establish a historic commission with jurisdiction within its boundaries.

- Enact a historic preservation ordinance
- Establish a commission to oversee and enforce the ordinance
- Craft detailed design guidelines

## **Is there a population requirement to become a CLG?**

No. Communities, both large and small, can become a Certified Local Government.

## **Does it cost anything to become a CLG?**

No, it cost nothing!

## What is the National Register? How do CLGs interact with NR nominations?

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's list of cultural resources considered worthy of preservation. As a CLG, you can review National Register nominations within your jurisdiction. For more information, visit <https://www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/federal-programs/national-register.html>.

## What is the Historic Preservation Fund?

Federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants are matching grants and will reimburse up to 60% of the costs of approved costs for projects with a public benefit. The remaining 40% must be provided by the grantee as matching funds. These grants can be used for preservation plans, architectural surveys, National Register nominations, and restoration of buildings listed in the National Register.

## How can my community become a CLG?

If your community wants to become a CLG, please get in touch with the Certified Local Government Coordinators at the Tennessee Historical Commission. There are no deadlines, and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The application process takes between three to four months from start to certification.



### Contacts

#### Area West of Blue Line

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#### Area East of Blue Line

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*For More Information:*

Tennessee Historical Commission Website:

<https://www.tn.gov/historicalcommission.html>

CLG Program in Tennessee:

<https://www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/federal-programs/local-government-assistance/>

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