

# STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING  
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501  
PHONE (505) 827-6320



## CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

### *Introduction*

Preserving important historic properties became a national policy through passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. NHPA instructed the Federal government to assist local governments in expanding their historic preservation programs and activities. NHPA however, provided no opportunity for local governments to be formally involved in the national preservation program.

The 1980 amendments to NHPA provided a specific role for local governments to be involved in the national program by establishing the CLG program.

### *What is the CLG Program?*

The CLG program encourages the preservation of cultural resources by promoting a partnership among local governments, the State of New Mexico (Historic Preservation Division (HPD)), and the National Park Service (NPS), which is responsible for the National Historic Preservation Program.

### *What is a CLG?*

A CLG is a local government whose preservation program has been certified pursuant to Section 101(c) of the NHPA.

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

- **Funding.** As a CLG local communities are eligible to apply for CLG grants. Funds for the CLG grant program come from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD).
- **NR nominations.** CLGs have the opportunity to participate in the nomination of properties located within its jurisdiction that are proposed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Technical Assistance.** Technical assistance training for local preservation commission members and staff from HPD.

**To be eligible** for certification, a community must be a general purpose political subdivision of the state such as a city, village, county or town.

In addition, the community must:

- enforce appropriate state or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties (this is usually accomplished by enacting a preservation ordinance);
- establish an adequate and qualified historic preservation review commission by state or local legislation;
- maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties;
- provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program including the process of recommending properties to the National Register of Historic Places; and
- satisfactorily perform the responsibilities delegated to it under the act.

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**CLG Application**

An application to become a CLG shall include:

- Letter from the chief elected official requesting certification/Request for CLG Status;
- A list of members of the preservation commission and their resumes;
- Copy of the local historic preservation legislation (ordinance, etc.);
- Copy of the local historic preservation plan or element of the general plan (if applicable);
- Resumes and professional qualifications forms for staff and/or consultant;
- List and map of all locally listed historic properties.
- Certification Agreement
- CLG Certification Application Checklist

HPD shall respond to the chief elected official within 60 calendar days of receipt of an application. HPD will then forward its decision to the National Park Service who has 15 days to respond to the application.

**CERTIFIED LOCAL  
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PROGRAM**  
*continued*

*How does a local government become a CLG?*

The chief elected official of the local government must submit an application to the Historic Preservation Division requesting certification.



Rawlins Building, Las Vegas  
A 2015 CLG Grant funded a study of the building

*When are CLG certification applications accepted?*

Local governments applying for CLG status can submit applications year round. To be eligible for grants via the CLG program, local governments must be certified by the annual grant announcement.

*Monitoring and Decertification*

The Historic Preservation Division will conduct periodic review and monitoring of CLGs to assure that each CLG is meeting applicable standards and fulfilling the duties outlined in its Certification Agreement. CLG procedures shall be in conformance with federal and state standards. CLGs are responsible for submitting an annual report of its activities to HPD. The annual report shall be accompanied by a report on any grant expenditures as well as minutes of commission meetings.

*Want to learn more about the CLG Program?*

- Review the CLG Program Manual (formerly the New Mexico State Procedures for the CLG Program)
- Visit the National Park Service's CLG Program page  
<https://www.nps.gov/clg/>
- Contact HPD Staff, Karla K. McWilliams at 505-827-4451 or [karla.mcwilliams@dca.nm.gov](mailto:karla.mcwilliams@dca.nm.gov)