

## Overview

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program was enacted as part of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980. The program links three levels of government-federal, state and local-into a preservation partnership for the identification, evaluation and protection of historic properties. Designation as a certified local government, either as a municipality or a county, makes historic preservation a public policy through passage of a historic preservation ordinance. The ordinance establishes a historic preservation board to develop and oversee the functions of its historic preservation program.

Since its inception in 1986, Florida's Certified Local Government program has assisted in the survey, designation and preservation of thousands of historic and cultural resources and helped to increase public awareness of historic preservation. Participation in the program is also an important consideration in the local planning process, as governments in Florida are required to address historic preservation in comprehensive planning decisions. By identifying historic resources in a local government's comprehensive plan, proposed development projects will be reviewed for consistency with preservation goals and strategies.

Florida's Certified Local Governments are eligible to apply for special matching grants from the Bureau of Historic Preservation to assist their preservation programs. Funding is available for projects such as:

- Surveys to identify and evaluate significant historic properties;
- Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places;
- Preservation education materials such as booklets, brochures, slide or video programs; and
- Local historic preservation plans.

## Benefits of the CLG Program

Across Florida, communities are taking action to preserve their unique historic character. The Florida Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, a local, state and federal partnership, can be a source of support and guidance in your historic preservation efforts. Since its inception in 1986, Florida's CLG Program has assisted in the survey, designation and preservation of thousands of historic and archaeological resources. Awareness of the importance of historic preservation has also been enhanced statewide through the program.

The Florida CLG Program recognizes the greatest legal power to preserve lies with the local government. An effective local historic preservation program begins with the enactment of an historic preservation ordinance and the creation of a qualified historic preservation board. Here, in Florida the CLG Program can help ensure that your preservation program will be the strongest possible preservation tool for your community.

Designation as a Certified Local Government brings a number of benefits. In addition to affirming your community's commitment to historic preservation, CLGs may:

- Receive technical assistance and training, both on-site and at regional meetings, for staff and the members of their historic preservation boards;
- Have a formal comment role in the National Register nomination process for properties within their jurisdiction;
- Compete for special historic preservation matching grant funds set aside only for Certified Local Governments. Funding is available for projects such as surveys to identify and evaluate significant historic properties, preparation for National Register nominations and development of preservation education materials such as booklets and brochures; and
- Conduct project reviews for Florida's local option property tax exemption program (project reviews in communities that are not CLGs must be conducted by the Division of Historical Resources). The exemption is available for qualified improvements to historic properties listed in the National Register and/or designated by a CLG.

## CLG Requirements

- Provide the State Historic Preservation Officer with thirty days prior notice of all meetings.
- Submit minutes of each meeting to the State Historic Preservation Officer within thirty days.
- Submit records of attendance of the Review Commission to the State Historic Preservation Officer within thirty days after each meeting.
- Submit public attendance figures for each meeting to the State Historic Preservation Officer within thirty days of action.
- Notify the State Historic Preservation Officer immediately of all new historic designations or alterations to existing designations.
- Notify the State Historic Preservation Officer of changes in Review Commission membership within thirty days.
- Submit amendments to local ordinance to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment at least thirty days prior to adoption.
- Submit an annual report by November 1 covering previous October 1 through September 30.