

## Benefits and Requirements of the Certified Local Government Program

### THE BENEFITS OF BEING A CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Becoming a CLG makes a community eligible to apply for subgrants available only to CLG communities. At least 10 percent of the annual Historic Preservation Fund grant made to Michigan under the National Historic Preservation Act must be distributed to the CLGs. Becoming a CLG ensures that historic preservation issues are understood and addressed at the local level and are integrated into the local planning and decision-making process at the earliest possible opportunity.

Becoming a CLG can expand a local unit's participation in the historic preservation program through the National Register nomination process and, with qualified staff, other programs such as review of federal undertakings for impact on historic resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Participation in the CLG Program promotes a positive image for the community by being a demonstration of commitment on the part of local officials to work with the state and federal government to preserve historic resources.

#### **Assistance from the CLG Coordinator**

SHPO's CLG and Outreach coordinator will visit communities when issues arise that require in person meetings and SHPO involvement. While SHPO assists all communities with their preservation efforts, CLGs are the priority. In addition, the **survey and information coordinator** will also assist CLGs in establishing survey goals and methods of survey.

#### **Eligibility to apply for Federal Historic Preservation Fund pass-through grants (CLG Grants)**

SHPO is required to subgrant 10 percent of its federal allocation each year. Only CLGs can apply for these funds.

Types of grant projects: 1) Survey 2) National Register nominations 3) Rehabilitation planning documents 4) Rehabilitation 5) Public education efforts

**NOTE:** In addition to the annual CLG grants, there are sometimes additional federal monies available to CLGs.

### **Priority Consideration for Non-CLG Grant Funding**

When funding other than CLG funding becomes available, SHPO will give priority consideration to CLGs. Applications will be competitively scored. Typically, these grants do not have a matching requirement.

Types of grant projects: 1) Survey 2) National Register nominations 3) Study committee reports

### **SHPO architect visits**

CLGs may request a meeting on site with a SHPO architect or historical architect. SHPO will look at a vacant building to discuss condition, ideas for redevelopment, potential problems, and advice about applying for a CLG grant for a feasibility study. Architects will write a post-site visit report and send to the CLG. SHPO architects will visit up to ten communities per year.

### **SHPO archaeologist visits**

A SHPO archaeologist will meet with community members if there are community concerns or interest in a site. Are there rumors? Is the site threatened? The archaeologist will talk with the community about whether rumors might have merit, how to determine validity, and what would need to be done to designate a site locally in order to protect it.

A SHPO archaeologist can provide a primer on how to publicly interpret prehistory and archaeological heritage through exhibits, signage, and events, and how to find tribal partners and other experts to get projects done right.

SHPO Archaeologists will visit up to two communities per year.

## **OBLIGATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for certification, a local unit of government must have adopted a local historic preservation ordinance that complies with Michigan's Local Historic Districts Act, PA 169 of 1970, as amended, and meets the guidelines set forth in the **CLG Certification Manual**. **X**

Once certified the CLG must continue to maintain the qualifications that led to its certification. In short, a CLG

- is required to enforce local and state historic preservation laws in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in order to protect historic resources within its jurisdiction;
- is required to maintain a qualified historic district commission;

- is required to maintain an ongoing system for the survey and inventory of historic resources and continue to conduct survey to document important historic resources in its jurisdiction;
- must develop four-year historic preservation goals for the community;
- is required to provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program;
- may participate in the process of nominating historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places; and
- will be monitored every four years to ensure that all responsibilities are being met.



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