

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM



WHAT IS A CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

A Certified Local Government (CLG) is a town or city that has decided to provide a local preservation program to:

- Enact a special historic preservation ordinance
- Enforce the ordinance through a local preservation commission
- Meet minimum standards for certified local governments as determined by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

What are the benefits of becoming a CLG?

A financial benefit to cities participating in the CLG program is a special pool of competitive grant funds from federal allocations to the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC). At least 10% of the federal allocation goes to the CLG program every year. Another important benefit to communities passing a preservation ordinance as part of a CLG program is more local control over development in locally designated historic districts. This allows communities to stabilize historic districts and preserve community character. Locally designated historic districts consistently show increased property values and economic investment. These areas also create opportunities for heritage tourism programs.

What are the responsibilities of a CLG?

Local preservation commissions recommend designation of local historic landmarks and districts to city council. They review and approve substantial rehabilitation projects within locally designated districts or on locally designated landmarks. They review and make comments on all districts and individual nominations to the National Register of Historic Places in their town. People who serve on local commissions and architectural review boards make a serious time commitment to serve their communities by protecting historic resources. Cities in the CLG program make a commitment to survey and inventory historic properties and determine strategies to protect their special character.

What are the criteria for gaining CLG status?

Only cities and towns with a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance can adopt a preservation ordinance, one of the cornerstones of the CLG program. The ordinance, surveys and composition of the local commission also have criteria set out by agreement between the city and the AHC.

Where can I get more information?

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Participating Cities in 2016: Abbeville, Anniston, Arab, Auburn, Birmingham, Blountsville, Centreville, Chickasaw, Decatur, Demopolis, Dothan, Eufaula, Fayette, Foley, Guntersville, Huntsville, Magnolia Springs, Mobile, Monroeville, Montevallo, Northport, Opelika, Phenix City, Selma, Sheffield, Sylacauga, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, Valley