



FACT SHEET #5: CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (CLG)

The National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (NHPA), provides for partnerships among federal, tribal, state, and local governments to identify, evaluate, and protect the buildings, structures, districts, sites, and objects significant in the Nation's history. Under the 1980 amendments to the NHPA, a local government becomes a formal partner when it achieves Certified Local Government (CLG) status.

To become a CLG, the local government must enforce a historic preservation ordinance and meet other requirements of the State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) state procedures approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS). Participation in the CLG program increases public awareness of a community's archeological and historic resources, improves their management, and integrates preservation concerns into the local planning process. Additionally, CLGs play a direct role in the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), receive matching funds from the SHPO's annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from NPS, and may assume other SHPO duties.



Clockwise from top left: Downtown Norman Historic District, Norman, Cleveland County; Public Library of Enid and Garfield County, Enid, Garfield County; Ardmore Historic Commercial District, Ardmore, Carter County; and Downtown Ponca City Historic District, Ponca City, Kay County

The Oklahoma SHPO's state procedures are detailed in *Certified Local Governments Program for Oklahoma* (www.okhistory.org/shpo/clg). The state procedures set forth the process for the certification of local governments in Oklahoma, for distribution of the HPF to CLGs, and for the overall administration of the program. The eligibility criteria for local governments and the minimum requirements for local ordinances are listed on page two of this fact sheet.

Eligibility Criteria

To participate in the Oklahoma SHPO's CLG program, a local government must adopt a local ordinance which creates a Historic Preservation Review Commission (local commission) and sets forth its function, responsibilities, and membership. Any city, municipality, or other political subdivision of the State of Oklahoma with the authority to establish zoning districts and meeting all of the six criteria listed below qualifies for CLG status.

The local government must:

1. Adopt a local ordinance for the designation and protection of historic properties that meets the minimum requirements of the state procedures.
2. Enforce its local ordinance for the designation and protection of historic properties.
3. Establish an adequate and qualified local commission in accordance with its local ordinance and the state procedures.
4. Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties consistent with that of the SHPO.
5. Provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program including the process of recommending properties for nomination to the NRHP.
6. Satisfactorily perform the responsibilities delegated to it by the SHPO under the certification agreement.

Minimum Requirements for Local Ordinances

To qualify as a CLG in Oklahoma, a local government's ordinance for the designation and protection of historic properties must include, at a minimum, the following:

1. A statement of purpose.
2. Definitions.
3. Membership requirements for the local commission and duties of that body.
4. Procedures for identification, evaluation, designation, and protection of buildings, structures, districts, sites, and objects significant to the community's history, architecture, archaeology, culture, and engineering. These procedures must meet the statutory definitions of "designation" and "protection" of local districts and landmarks as specified in Section 101c of the NHPA [54 U.S.C. 302501, Definitions].
5. Criteria for evaluation of local districts and landmarks.
6. Provision for public review of designations.
7. Provision for mandatory review of alterations, demolitions, new construction, or other actions that may affect individual landmarks or properties in designated historic districts. These decisions must be binding, and a system of appeals must be provided.
8. Specific guidelines for the review of projects that impact designated properties, consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation* must be adopted.
9. Set specific time frames for project review.
10. Establish penalties for non-compliance.

Further Information

For further information about Oklahoma's CLG program, including the list of participating municipalities, contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249 or visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/clg. General information about NPS and the CLG program is found at www.nps.gov/subjects/clg/index.htm. Other helpful information for local governments and their historic preservation commissions is available from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions at www.napcommissions.org.