



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

H36(2256)
Via Email

June 30, 2020

Mark Wolfe
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

Thank you for forwarding the necessary documentation concerning Brown County's application to participate in the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program. I have reviewed your submission and am pleased to concur in your recommendation that Brown County, Texas be certified under the provision of Section 101(c) of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. Chapter 3025).

The date of certification will be recorded as the date of this letter and we are providing a copy of this letter to Mr. Robert W. Contreras, Grants Manager and Government Relations for Brown County, Texas.

We welcome Brown County, Texas as a local partner in the Federal Preservation Program and look forward to working with them to preserve what makes their community special and significant. They have been added to our database and can find their listing there as well as more information on the CLG program by going to: www.nps.gov/clg

NPS also encourages you to explore our CLG Gateway Application which helps connect CLGs to National Parks and other partnership opportunities. Access the application and other tools at www.nps.gov/stlpg under the "HPF In Action" tab. and a fact sheet on the application is included in this email.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me by phone at 202-354-2062, or by email at megan_brown@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Megan J. Brown
Chief, State, Tribal, Local, Plans and Grants Division

July 13, 2020
(Exhibit #5)

cc: Robert W. Contreras, Grants Manager and Government Relations, Brown County, Texas
bob.contreras@browncountytx.org

Lorelei Willett, Certified Local Government Program Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission
Lorelei.willett@thc.tx.gov

Megan J. Brown, Chief, State, Tribal, & Local, Plans & Grants
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Certified Local Government FAQ

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- [What are the responsibilities of the CLG?](#)
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- [What doesn't qualify for CLG grant funding?](#)
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Q: What are the first steps to becoming a CLG?

A: For counties, start by talking with the Chair of your County Historical Commission. Invite the Chair to learn more about the CLG Program through the website or by contacting the CLG Program Coordinator.

For cities with existing local preservation ordinances, find out who administers the preservation ordinance (typically, the Planning Director or Historic Preservation Officer) and start the conversation with those individuals about becoming a Certified Local Government. If your city does not have a preservation ordinance, work with elected officials, city staff, and the public to gain support for the adoption of a preservation ordinance. Work with CLG Program staff to make sure that the drafted ordinance meets the CLG Program requirements.

Q: What are the responsibilities of the CLG?

A: Local governments are responsible for establishing and supporting a local preservation program. See the [CLG Requirements](#) webpage for more information.

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HISTORIC SITES ATLAS

The Atlas features nearly 300,000 site records, including markers, historic places, courthouses, cemeteries, museums, and sawmills across the state.

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districts.

Remember, a historic district is established to benefit the public. The public is always welcome at meetings and should be encouraged to attend and participate. Review these [10 steps](#) recommended by the National Trust for Historic Preservation when establishing a historic district.

Q: How often must a preservation commission meet?

A: The THC requires the preservation commission of a CLG community to meet at least six times a year. Meeting dates and times are set by the local government and must be conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Q: What must be included in a CLG-approved historic preservation ordinance?

A: City CLGs must have an adopted preservation ordinance that meets the CLG Program's standards. Contact the Program Coordinator for preservation ordinance requirements.

Q: What is demolition by neglect?

A: Demolition by Neglect is the lack of or improper maintenance of any structure or property with historic overlay zoning, which results in deterioration of the structure and threatens the preservation of the structure.

Q: Can a CLG community lose its CLG status?

A: Yes. A CLG may request decertification in writing at any time. The THC also reserves the right to decertify a CLG that does not meet the requirements in the CLG Certification Agreement.

Q: How are County CLGs typically structured?

A: County CLGs are typically part of the County Historical Commission as a standing committee. The CLG Committee is defined in the County Historical Commission's bylaws.

Q: What are the training requirements for Historic Preservation Officers and Preservation Commission members?

A: Preservation commissioners and Historic Preservation Officers are required to attend one preservation-related training a year.

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Matching Grants

Participating communities in good standing with the CLG Program are eligible to receive funding through the CLG grant program. This matching grant is available each year for projects that provide a lasting impact on preservation in the community. Typical projects include historic resources surveys, National Register nominations, development of preservation plans or design guidelines, education and outreach projects, and rehabilitation work on properties listed in the National Register.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, provides that at least 10 percent of the THC's annual Historic Preservation Fund allocation be distributed as subgrants exclusively among CLGs. All Texas CLGs in good standing with the CLG Program are eligible to apply for CLG funds but not all will receive funding.

Available CLG funds shall be granted on an annual basis through a competitive process as outlined in the CLG Grants Manual and Application. The THC may choose to score specific types of projects higher based upon agency goals and objectives.

CLG Grants can be utilized to fund a variety of projects; however, projects which further the goals of identification, evaluation, nomination, and protection of the community's historic resources and are complementary to the statewide comprehensive preservation plan are prioritized for funding. Allowable and unallowable grant activities are outlined in the

CLG grant application, and CLG Program staff are available to discuss grant projects to ensure compliance in advance of the application deadline.

CLG grants require a one-to-one (dollar for dollar) match equal to a 50-50 ratio for the total cost of the project. The local match may be any combination of cash and verifiable in-kind services. CLG monies are federal monies and may not be matched with any other federal grants or funding with the exception of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The THC may select to waive the matching requirements under special circumstances or to support agency initiatives.

CLG Network

The CLG Program connects preservation professionals and volunteers to one another. Individuals are able to share ideas, ask questions, and develop solutions using the CLG listserv. Throughout the year, Historic Preservation Officers, preservation commissioners, and committee members are invited to regional trainings where they can meet in person and discuss common challenges and brainstorm solutions.

STATEWIDE PRESERVATION PLAN:

Every 10 years the Texas Historical Commission, in collaboration with its partners, develops a Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for Texas. The plan is an opportunity to lay a pathway for Texans to preserve, protect, and leverage our historic and cultural fabric for the betterment of our communities statewide.

CLG CASE STUDY: Longview



Fredonia Street, Longview

The City of Longview became a CLG in 2014. One year later, the city received a FY15 CLG grant for \$20,000 to update the city's Historic Resource Survey. There had not been an update since the survey was first completed in 1986! A consultant was hired to complete a survey of the downtown core as well as a survey plan identifying and prioritizing later survey efforts. The project took about six months to complete, and included an intensive level survey of approximately 400 properties. The city now has color photographs, and the update corrected incorrect information in the 1986 survey. The survey has allowed the local preservation program to function more efficiently and be more proactive about design review, designation, and preventing demolition.