Certified Local Government Program

UTAH STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Being a CLG demonstrates your community’s commitment to saving what is important from the past for future generations. By joining the CLG program, an eligible city or county gains access to an enhanced partnership with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service, including training, technical support, and grant assistance.

**Funding:** States receive annual appropriations from the Federal Historic Preservation Fund. States are required to give at least 10% of their funding to CLGs as subgrants. These grants can fund a wide variety of projects. They are typically in the $3,000-$10,000 range and require a 1:1 match. (See eligible activities below.)

**Technical Assistance:** As a CLG, communities have direct access to SHPO staff for assistance with their commission, building assessments, surveys and nominations, and general preservation questions. City or county staff and historic preservation commissions also gain access to training opportunities, including scholarships to the Utah Preservation Conference.

**Sustainability:** Historic preservation has proven economic, environmental, and social benefits. Studies show that historic districts maintain higher property values, have more stable populations, more walkability, and greater sense of community.

**Eligible activities:** CLG funding may be applied to many kinds of projects that address the goals of identifying, evaluating, nominating, and protecting a community’s cultural resources. Eligible activities include:
- Conducting architectural and archaeological surveys
- National Register nominations of individual buildings, historic districts, sites, or even objects
- Public education activities relative to historic preservation: walking tour booklets, websites, presentations, workshops, etc.
- Preservation planning including updating ordinances, preparing design guidelines, administering local preservation programs, etc.
- Architectural and engineering studies and plans for rehabilitating historic properties
- "Brick-and-mortar" rehabilitation work on National Register buildings
- Training workshops and conferences for staff and commission members

See Utah Division of State History’s Certified Local Government Program:
[https://history.utah.gov/preservation/certified-local-governments-clgs/](https://history.utah.gov/preservation/certified-local-governments-clgs/)
Who Ya Gonna Call??  SHPO
Utah’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has programs which may be useful to CLGs and other communities as they work to preserve their historic resources and unique character. Below is an overview of the major SHPO programs.

National Register & Survey — The benefits of listing properties on the National Register of Historic Places include recognition, access to rehabilitation tax credits, and being able to use your CLG grants to rehabilitate those listed structures. The National Register is the official federal list of properties that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, or engineering. This is an honorific designation intended to recognize important buildings, structures, and sites and encourage their preservation. There are no protections or restrictions associated with National Register listing.

- Cory Jensen  coryjensen@utah.gov  801.245.7242

Rehabilitation tax credits — If you are looking for incentives to assist with the rehabilitation of National Register-listed buildings in your community, state and federal tax credits may help. These tax credit programs can save building owners 20% of the cost of rehabilitating their buildings. There is a state income tax credit for residential buildings and a federal income tax credit for “income-producing” buildings (commercial or residential rental). Requirements include submitting a short application form and performing only work that meets appropriate standards.

- Amber Anderson  amberanderson@utah.gov  801.245.7277

Environmental Review (Section 106 and UCA 404) — If a state or federal agency has a project in your community, you can have a voice in what alternatives are considered. If an “adverse effect” cannot be avoided, you can have input into what is done to mitigate the adverse effect. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires every federal agency to “take into account” how its projects and expenditures will affect historic properties, which includes historic and prehistoric sites. Projects include construction, rehabilitation, demolition, licenses, permits, loan guarantees, transfer of federal property, etc. State and local governments and others using federal funds are also required to comply with Section 106. There is a similar state law for state projects.

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Certified Local Government (CLG) — This program encourages and supports historic preservation activities at the local level by providing 50/50 matching grants for preservation activities and by providing staff expertise. We are committed to providing each CLG with a grant every other year to continue on-going projects and programs.

- Alena Franco  afranco@utah.gov  801.245.7233

Architectural Assistance — The SHPO can not act as project architect or engineer, but we can provide professional advice to help local governments with their historic preservation activities. Our recommendations conform to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and will encourage long-term maintenance and preservation of significant historic properties. We also maintain preservation-related technical information and links at our website to inform local governments.

- Steve Cornell  sdcornell@utah.gov  801.245.7273

Markers — While CLG grant funds cannot be used to purchase markers, individual owners of buildings that are listed on the National Register, either individually or within a historic district, may order an official marker to place on their building. Owners are responsible for paying for the markers.

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