

WISCONSIN CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS

Historic Preservation and Wisconsin's historic preservation commissions add value to communities. Historic Preservation improves our quality of life, reinvigorates our neighborhoods, and is what gives our communities each their own distinctive character. It celebrates the places that are important to us, and identifies the places that tell our history.



What is a Certified Local Government (CLG)?

A CLG is any city, village, county, or town that has been certified by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Department of the Interior to meet these basic criteria:

- ▶ Establish by ordinance a qualified historic preservation commission
- ▶ Enforce state or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties
- ▶ Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of local historic resources
- ▶ Provide public participation in the local historic preservation program

Wisconsin Requirements for Certified Local Governments

The CLG must adhere to all of the federal and state requirements or the SHPO may revoke the CLG certification. The Wisconsin SHPO has established these additional requirements:

- 1 The CLG must enact and enforce a historic preservation ordinance that regulates historic property.
- 2 A CLG must provide annual reporting to the SHPO on CLG activities.
- 3 A CLG must send copies of meeting minutes and agendas to the SHPO following each meeting.
- 4 The ordinance must not allow historic property owners to opt-out of local historic designation.
- 5 Designation must not require owner consent.
- 6 The commission must approve work on locally designated properties and recommendations may not be advisory.

What is a Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)?

The governmental entity responsible for overseeing design review in a municipality's locally designated districts. Wisconsin Act 176 requires that all decisions of the HPC have an appeal process for the property owner. These appeals typically go before the city council, town board or county board depending on which jurisdiction is covered by the ordinance.

How are Historic Preservation Commissions funded?

Commissions generally receive a small amount of funding from their local government. Since 1985, CLGs are eligible to apply for competitive Historic Preservation Subgrants from the Wisconsin SHPO. Each year, several communities receive grants up to \$25,000 for a total of approximately \$100,000 awarded to subgrant projects. In the past ten years, the SHPO granted \$984,598 to 37 different CLGs.

What is a Landmark?

A building, structure, object, or site identified under the guidelines of the local historic preservation ordinance as a historic resource of particular significance.

What is a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)?

A document issued by a HPC that allows an applicant to proceed with a proposed alteration, demolition, or new construction in a designated area or site on a designated local landmark, following a determination of the proposal's suitability according to applicable criteria.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED THROUGH THE GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF THE JEFFRIS FAMILY FOUNDATION

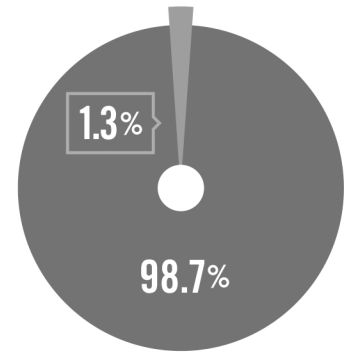
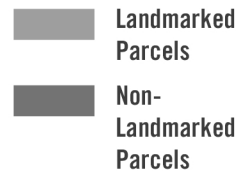
This data is based on a 2018 survey of 70

Wisconsin Certified Local Governments that received responses from 56 communities. Property owners who had recently applied to CLGs for Certificates of Appropriateness also received customer satisfaction surveys to rate their experience working with CLGs.

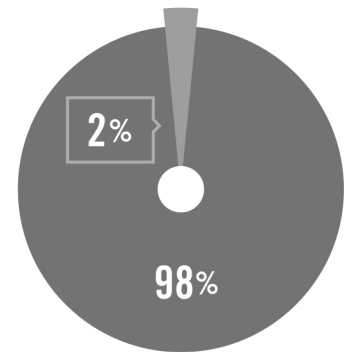


STATEWIDE STATISTICS

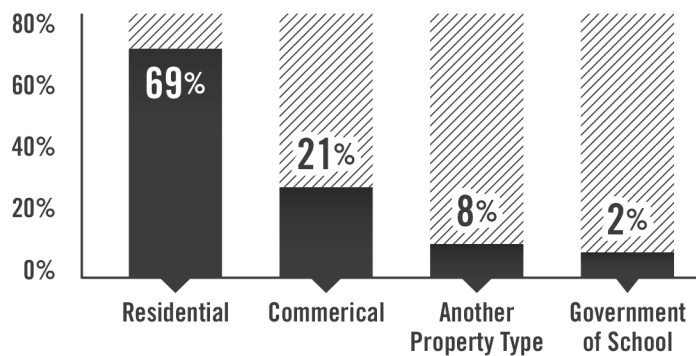
% OF LANDMARKED PARCELS IN CLG COMMUNITIES



COA APPROVAL

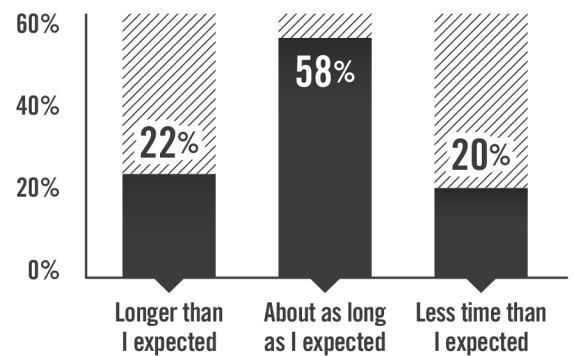


TYPES OF COA PROJECTS



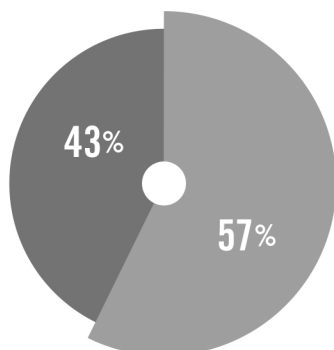
From 2015-2018, on average, 918 COA applications were reviewed statewide per year.

HPC REVIEW TIME OF COAs



Met or exceeded expectations of 78% of applicants

% OF REPORTING COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE A LOCALLY DESIGNATED HISTORIC DISTRICT



The average number of districts per community is 1.6. Only Janesville, Madison, Milwaukee, and Waukesha reported more than three districts.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TRAINING

▷ wihist.org/hpc-training

The Wisconsin SHPO Historic Preservation Commission Training is a comprehensive training for new commissioners as well as a reference site for experienced commissioners covering every aspect of commission operation and historic preservation.

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▷ wihist.org/clg

The Wisconsin SHPO provides training and assistance to CLGs as well as a competitive subgrant program to fund preservation projects in CLG communities.

HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR HISTORIC BUILDING

▷ wihist.org/preserve-your-building

This collection of articles provides owners with best practices for restoring and rehabilitating historic buildings.

For the full report, visit wisconsinhistory.org/clg-report