

OFFICE OF
PLANNING, ZONING AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
108 Sherman Street
Telephone (605) 578-2082
Fax (605) 722-0786



Kevin Kuchenbecker
Planning, Zoning and
Historic Preservation Officer
Telephone (605) 578-2082
kevin@cityofdeadwood.com

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 23, 2026
To: Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission
From: Kevin Kuchenbecker, Historic Preservation Officer
Re: Certified Local Government Program

As the Deadwood Historic Preservation Officer, I am requesting the Historic Preservation Commission and the City Commission consider the benefits for Deadwood to participate in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program on an ongoing basis. The CLG program helps legitimize historic preservation in Deadwood on a state and national level as a critical function of local government. The CLG program also leads to increased cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS). The program may be a source of potential funds to add to our challenging budget. Furthermore, Deadwood's participation will result in a strengthened statewide preservation network.

There are five requirements that must be met to become a Certified Local Government:

1. Enforce state or local legislation for the protection of historic properties (Deadwood meets this requirement through the enforcement of our existing preservation ordinance)
2. Have established an adequate and qualified preservation commission by state or local legislation (The Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission meets this requirement)
3. Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties (The 1993 Architectural Survey meets this requirement and the 2008 Architectural Survey will provide a valuable update)
4. Provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation programs (Deadwood meets this requirement through our annual Historic Preservation Symposium, Preservation Thursday programs and numerous other projects)
5. Satisfactorily perform other responsibilities delegated by the SHPO by a mutual written agreement (Deadwood has agreements with the SHPO on an annual basis)

Attached is a copy of the procedures and application check list the State Historic Preservation Office uses for the Certified Local Government Program. As you will see, the agreement is not very extensive and Deadwood already meets all the requirements.

Deadwood was previously certified as a CLG through the SHPO and NPS; however, a decision was made locally at the direction of previous staff to withdraw our CLG status. An attempt was made again in 2008 but was denied at the City level.

This office's goal is to improve communications and advocacy with partners throughout the state and on national levels to enrich Deadwood's Historic Preservation efforts. It is essential for Deadwood to continue to be a leader in the field of preservation and to be recognized for our efforts. I respectfully request your full consideration of reapplying for CLG status.

The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed this request at their July 22, 2026 meeting and recommend to the City Commission to allow city staff to submit an application to become a CLG once again.

Recommended Motion:

Move to allow staff to submit an application to SHPO to become a Certified Local Government.