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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We are officially in our new space, settling in and brought 40+ years of history with us. Boxes are everywhere! *Through the end of this week, the best way to reach staff will be via email.*

There is a plaque in the

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note our new address:

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305

Washington, DC 20002

The phone and fax numbers have not changed.



2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2011

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

You're invited to join local elected officials, Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations from around the country at the 2011 National Conference of Regions - *Renewing the Regional Commitment*. Click [HERE](#) to access the current draft agenda; click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

lobby of our new building dedicating it to Walter Scheiber. We are proud to be in a space honoring a pioneer of regionalism - Mr. Scheiber was NARC's first president and first director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), one of the building owners. He set the stage for all of us and is interwoven into the history we brought to our new space, incorporate in our programs and through our continued success as regions.

We want to send a warm thank you to the Honorable Patti Kay-Clapper, former Pitkin County, CO Commissioner, who finished both her term as a NARC Board member and Co-Chair of NARC's Homeland Security Committee this past week. Commissioner Clapper has been a friend of NARC and regionalism for many years; her dedication, support and enthusiasm has been invaluable to our entire staff and membership. We wish her only the best.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress returns this week to begin the 112th Congress.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program (NSDI CAP) Grants - *Deadline: January 7, 2011*

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has announced the release of the 2010 NSDI CAP grant applications. This grant opportunity supports organizations across the country develop and implement projects to support several phases of the NSDI. Categories for projects include: Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance, FGDC-endorsed Standards Implementation Training and Outreach, Fifty States Initiative-Strategic and Business Plan Development, Fifty States Initiative-Business Plan Development and Implementation, Return on Investment Methodology and Business Case Development for Multi-agency NSDI Projects and FGDC Standards Development Assistance. More information on the program is available [HERE](#) and additional information on the grant application process is available at www.grants.gov.

EPA Announces Funding for Assessment of Greenhouse Gases and Climate Impacts - *Deadline: January 7, 2011*

EPA has available \$2 million to advance comprehensive, integrated modeling and assessment of multiple greenhouse gases and air pollutants. Applications are due on January 7, 2011. Eligible entities include States, local governments, territories, Indian tribes, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public or private non-profit institutions. For-profit organizations are not eligible. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Wallace Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development (HUFED) Center – *Deadline for LOI: January 14, 2011*

The HUFED Center supports greater access to healthy affordable food in communities across the country by providing grants and technical assistance for enterprise development and focus on getting more healthy food into communities. Implementation grants are available for nonprofit organizations to complete feasibility studies, as well as small and large enterprise projects. Additional information on the grants is available [here](#) and a [special outreach webinar for interested applicants](#) is scheduled for January 5, 2011.

We welcome the Honorable Edwin Humphrey, Clermont County, IL Commissioner and Board Member of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, as Co-Chair of NARC's Homeland Security Committee. Mr. David Robertson, Executive Director of MWCOG, serves as the other Co-Chair of the Committee. We look forward to Commissioner Humphrey's participation and thank him for his willingness to serve.

We also welcome the 112th Congress, which take their offices and oaths this week, and look forward to working with all the members on issues critical to local governments working regionally. On the immediate agenda are health care reform roll back, EPA regulatory review and budget and appropriations. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's snapshot of the Congressional changes; as Committee Assignments are finalized, we will provide you with these updates.

U.S. EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training – *Deadline: January 14, 2011*

The U.S. EPA is accepting funding proposals to deliver environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment, and cleanup associated activities. These grants are to recruit, train, and place, unemployed and under-employed, predominantly low-income and minority, residents affected by hazardous and solid waste sites and facilities with the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in the environmental field and in the assessment and cleanup work. EPA has available \$4 million to award approximately 13 cooperative agreements. Eligible entities: local governments, government entity created through state legislature, Regional Council or group of local governments, redevelopment agency, Indian tribe, land clearance authority, and non-profit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for the application guidelines. Click [HERE](#) for more information on brownfields funding opportunities.

U.S. EPA Accepting Applications for SmartWay Program – *Deadline: February 10, 2011*

The U.S. EPA's SmartWay Program and National Clean Diesel Campaign are announcing the availability of funding assistance to create finance programs, such as low-cost leases or revolving loan programs, to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions throughout the United States. The SmartWay Finance Program is soliciting proposals for projects that reduce diesel emissions through the creation of national, tribal, regional, state or local finance program(s). Finance programs include, but are not limited to, those that provide the loan recipient a specific financial incentive (i.e., longer terms or lower rates) to purchase or lease eligible retrofitted vehicles or equipment. The proposed finance program should maximize the total project funds available for financing eligible diesel emission reduction solutions and be sustainable to maintain the program. Eligible entities include regional, state, local, or tribal agencies or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality, and certain non-profit organizations and institutions.

U.S. HUD to Award \$25 Million through New Rural Innovation Fund – *Anticipated Deadline: February 8, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **announced** that \$25,750,000 will be available for grants made through the Rural Innovation Fund (RIF). RIF replaces HUD's former Rural Housing and Economic Development Program, and will award grants on a competitive basis to state housing finance agencies, community development

There is also an interesting article in *The Economist* "As Boomers Wrinkle," which describes the challenges of our aging population. Click [HERE](#) to access the article. The reason I call attention to this is the fantastic webinars we co-hosted with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) on rural and urban aging programs with presentations by the [Green River Area Development District](#) and the [Denver Regional Council of Governments](#). We are elevating the regional approach to aging in response to articles such as this one and looking for new opportunities this year for our regions in this and other important programs.

Happy New Year!
Fred

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corporations, state community and/or economic development agencies, local rural non-profit organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and consortia of these eligible groups. Successful grant applications will propose new and innovative solutions to poor housing conditions and concentrated poverty in rural and tribal areas. HUD is particularly interested in proposals that incorporate an "entrepreneurial approach" to addressing these problems. Eligible housing and economic development activities include: Commissioning architectural and engineering plans; Construction of innovative new housing units; Demolition and/or rehabilitation of existing housing units to increase sustainability and/or energy efficiency; Land acquisition; Homeownership counseling Revolving loan programs and microlending programs to establish or grow local businesses and create jobs; and, Direct financial assistance in the form of grants, loans and funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for affordable housing, entrepreneurship and economic development leading to job opportunities.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Greenroads™: NARC Webinar

January 11, 2011, 12 - 2 pm ET, Webinar: The Greenroads rating system is a collection of sustainable roadway design and construction best practices. Each metric describes a particular sustainable practice and assigns a point value according to its impact on roadway sustainability. Project owners can use this system to define what project attributes contribute to roadway sustainability, provide a sustainability accounting tool for roadway projects, communicate sustainable project attributes to stakeholders, manage and improve roadway sustainability and grant "certification" based on achieving a minimum number of points. Click [HERE](#) To register.

10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

February 3-5, 2011, Charlotte, NC: Today, more than ever, we are faced with environmental and economic challenges that will define our generation, shape our future, and test our resilience as cities, regions, states and a nation. Join leaders from across the U.S. as we tackle these challenges head-on and demonstrate smart growth solutions that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, create a green economy, assure a healthy population, and expand transportation and housing options for all Americans. There will be something for everybody, from veteran experts to smart-growth novices, with nearly 90 sessions and workshops. Plan to join us, and others, from across the U.S. for the smart growth event of the year! Visit www.NewPartners.org to get more details.

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Transportation Director

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2011 Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference

February 8-10, 2011, Washington, DC: NARC and its *Pathways Out of Poverty* project team will present a workshop on February 8th on the importance of partnerships in regional workforce and economic development programs, entitled "Partnerships and Pathways: Keys to Success in Regional Green Jobs Training and Placement." The 2011 Conference is the leading forum for sharing ideas and strategies for building a green economy that creates good jobs, reduces global warming and other environmental problems, and secures America's economic and environmental future. Click [here](#) for a full conference agenda and registration information.

2011 National Conference of Regions

February 13-15, 2011, Washington, DC: NARC will host its 2011 National Conference of Regions, which will focus on Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. Click [HERE](#) to register for the conference.

2011 Green Infrastructure Conference

February 23-25, 2011, Shepherdstown, WV: The Conservation Fund and its partners will host speakers from across the country to discuss key elements for success and vital lessons-learned. Featured topics include green infrastructure and public health, social equity, transportation, economic development, climate change and more. For more information please click [here](#).

2011 National Brownfields Conference

April 3-5, 2011, Philadelphia, PA: What began as a response to an overwhelming brownfields concern has become one of the largest environmental conferences in the United States. A partnership between the U.S. EPA and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has developed the National Brownfields Conference into the premier international forum focused on redeveloping America's brownfield properties and promoting environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Registration is free; visit www.brownfields2011.org for more details.

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